

# Hillsborough County Conservation Planning

## Project:

Hillsborough County Conservation Lands Master Plan

## Client:

Conservation and Environmental Land Management (CELM) Department

## Principal Ecologist:

Dr. Jay Exum served as the principal ecologist and created the outline for management planning for nearly 80,000 acres of conservation land owned by the county.

Highlands County CELM needed a comprehensive management strategy for the 80,000 acres of land that the county had acquired through an ambitious acquisition program over the last 20 years. Limited staff and budget require a focused approach to achieve stated goals and objectives for restoration and management.

## Challenges:

- The 80,000 acres of conservation lands consisted of dozens of Conservation Parks and Preserves bought during even more individual acquisitions.
- Creating a comprehensive master plan required redefining goals and objectives and prioritizing actions in the short and long term.
- The plan was approved (and lauded for its substance) by the Board of County Commissioners in March 2017.

## Primary Accomplishments:

- We defined Destination Sites for which targeted, resource-based recreation would be prioritized.
- We created a visitor capacity model to define Desired Future Conditions, Indicators of Success and monitoring protocol to assure a balance between conservation and approved recreation activities.



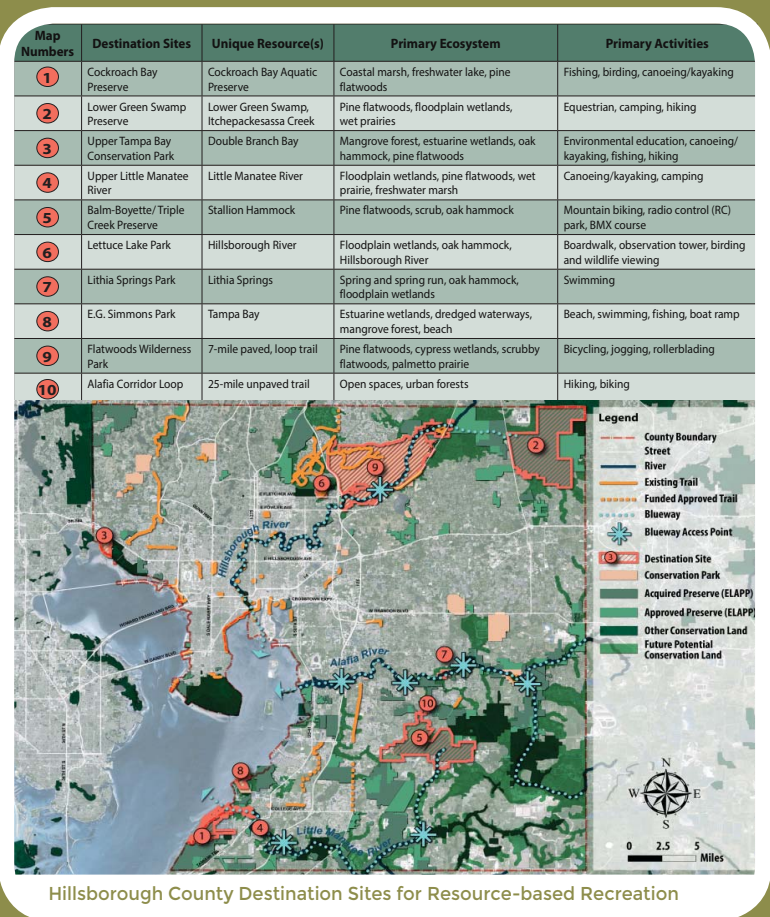
Alderman's Ford Conservation Park



Edward Medard Conservation Park



Lettuce Lake Conservation Park



Hillsborough County FL

# Assignment

Teamed with Barth Associates, Exum Associates prepared a plan to accomplish short-term needs and long-term objectives for County Conservation Parks, Preserves and Trails.



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