



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

The Nature Conservancy in Florida 2021 Florida Legislative Results Report

The 2021 Florida Legislative Session has adjourned. Overall, approximately one billion dollars has been dedicated to the environment and conservation in Florida leading to positive impacts to the work of The Nature Conservancy in Florida.

Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature prioritized the stewardship of the environment and conservation with historic budget allocations to programs that are critical to a sustainable future for our state and our health and wellbeing.

By establishing the Resilient Florida program and providing \$600 million in project funding, Florida will now have tools and resources to reduce the impacts of sea level rise and flooding to people, communities, and critical assets such as shorelines and conservation lands.

Funding the State's land protection program, Florida Forever, at \$400 million is remarkable and The Nature Conservancy stands ready to assist the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in conserving our rare and sensitive lands.

With over one billion dollars allocated for water quality improvements, Everglades, Florida springs, septic to sewer conversions, and the implementation of Senate Bill 64 which will help meet the water supply demands of our residents and visitors, Florida continues to focus on best managing our water resources.

In Florida, nature isn't out there—it's right here. Together, we are responsible for conserving our environment for Floridians and nature. It is imperative we follow these commitments with action and begin the implementation necessary to secure the protection of Florida's natural resources that we all depend upon.

Temperince Morgan
Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy, Florida

Policy

Senate Bill 64 – [Reclaimed Water](#)

SBHB 100 – [Highway Projects](#)

SB 1954 – [Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resiliency](#) (Resilient Florida Program)

Appropriations in the approved 2022 Florida Budget

Florida Forever - \$400 million for rare and sensitive lands/Florida Wildlife Corridor acquisition

Water Quality Enhancements – \$1.1 billion

Resilient Florida Initiative – \$530 million

Panhandle Estuaries - \$2.5 million for Northwest Florida Estuary Program – Pensacola and Perdido Bays

Innovative Technologies – \$10 million for supporting evaluation and implementation of innovative technologies and short-term solutions to combat or clean up harmful algal blooms and nutrient enrichment of Florida’s fresh waterbodies, including lakes, rivers, estuaries and canals.

Everglades Restoration – \$342 million

Northern Everglades and Estuaries – \$71 million

Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project – \$50 million

Alternative Water Supply – \$40 million

St. Johns/Suwannee/Apalachicola Rivers watersheds and Springs Coast watershed water quality improvements – \$75 million

Land Management to Water Management Districts – \$10.2 million

FDACS Land Management – \$8.9 million

Florida Forest Service Budget – \$132 million