



NASSAU COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
96135 Nassau Place, Suite 1
Yulee, Florida 32097

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County Manager

JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Ex-Officio Clerk

DENISE C. MAY
County Attorney

December 12, 2022

North Florida Land Trust
843 W Monroe St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners strongly supports the acquisition of Little Tiger Island by the North Florida Land Trust, the State of Florida and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as part of critical efforts to conserve important lands in Northeast Florida. The acquisition of this 981-acre habitat of salt marsh and maritime forest is an outstanding success in the hard work being done to protect vulnerable habitats.

Little Tiger Island is the final piece of the puzzle to the connection of a network of national and state preserves and parks that stretch from St. Andrews Sound in Georgia to the St. Johns River in Florida – greatly magnifying its impact. By protecting Little Tiger Island, we are safeguarding habitats for state and federally listed and candidate species including the gopher tortoise, West Indian manatee, wood stork, Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, piping plover and red knot.

As we look to be a more resilient community, it is important to recognize that the preservation of Little Tiger Island will help protect Nassau County against flooding, erosion and storm surge. As these threats are continuously changing, this is an investment in the protection of our coastal community.

Nassau County is committed to the preservation of environmentally significant lands, and our citizens and community would greatly benefit from this acquisition.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gray
Chairman

(904) 530-6010 or (866)-474-1446

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Little Tiger Island & Middle Island

Acres: 41 Upland Acres in Nassau County

Contract price: \$1,965,000

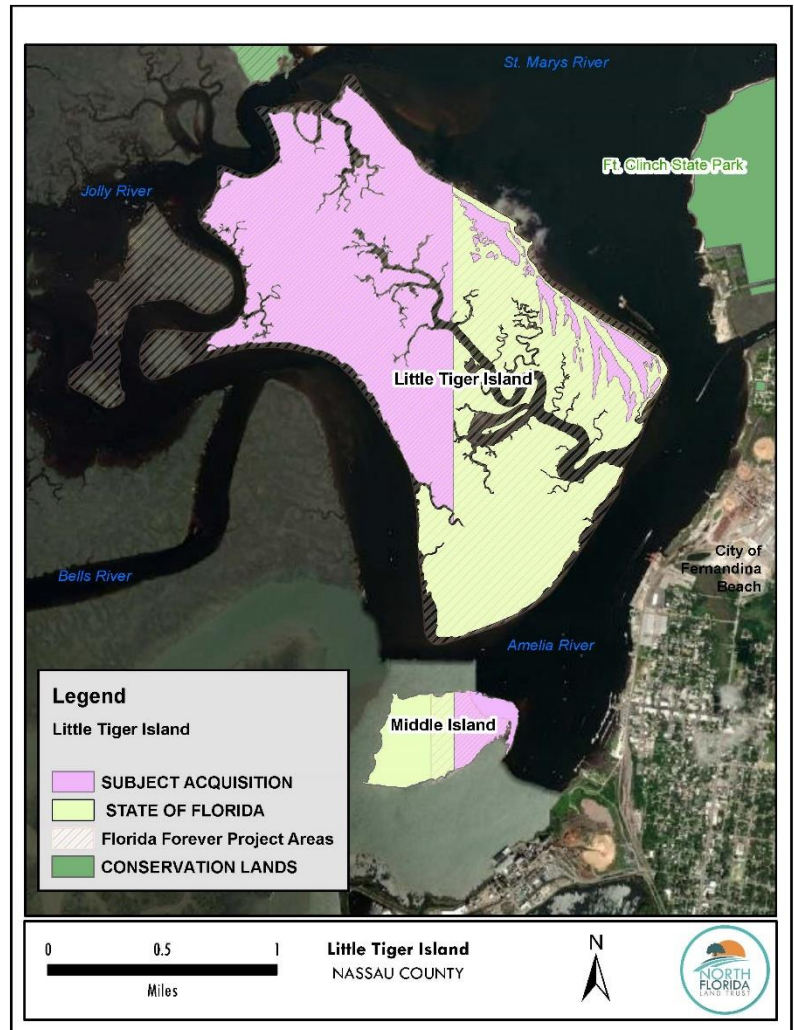
Florida Forever Project: Tiger Island/Little Tiger Island Florida Forever Project

Little Tiger Island is a marsh and hammock island in the St. Marys River Sound, across the Intracoastal Waterway from the City of Fernandina Beach and Amelia Island. It is surrounded by conservation land, with Cumberland Island (National Park Service) to the North, Big Tiger Island to the West and Ft. Clinch to the East (both parts of Ft. Clinch State Park).

The site is significant to a number of coastal and migratory birds and is listed as critical habitat for the recovery of Piping Plovers, which only have a couple thousand nesting pairs left in the wild.

A critical feature of this project is its location near Kings Bay Naval Installation. Submarines from the Installation traverse directly in front of the Island during military training missions. The future land use of the property allows for 200 units clustered on the uplands. Such development in would negatively impact such a sensitive installation.

The Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and the North Florida Land Trust have secured a matching grant of \$1 million from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program to match this important acquisition.



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