



Surface to Springs

Regional Conservation Partnership Program
Alachua Conservation Trust



Project Overview

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is partnering with Alachua Conservation Trust through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to implement the "Surface to Springs" project. The project helps Florida landowners in the project area apply conservation practices that improve these areas for people and wildlife.

Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) together with NRCS and 12 partners will implement land management and conservation easement activities to protect and conserve Florida's unique freshwater spring ecosystems. Project partners plan to use innovative, sophisticated targeting and modeling approaches to prioritize lands for project activities and to estimate the Conservation and economic outcomes. Project partners aim to permanently protect 9,000 acres of private lands and improve and enhance wildlife habitat and water quality and quantity on 2,000 acres of land.

Goal

Surface to Springs will focus on implementing entity held easements and land management activities to benefit water resources, quality and quantity for springs and drinking water.

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Primary conservation benefits include long term protection of land, source water depletion, aquatic habitat, wildlife and imperiled species habitat and watershed protection.

Objectives

Surface to Springs has two major impacts for Florida's springs and ground water.

- Catalyze existing partner groundwork to set a regional precedent for protecting rural producer lands in this sensitive area with entity held conservation easements
- Reduce nutrient inputs and water use through management activities on producer lands



Conservation Practices

- Row crop transition to pasture, hay and timber
- Well decommissioning
- Prescribed Grazing
- Nutrient Management
- Cover Crop
- Longleaf Pine Tree Planting
- Prescribed Fire
- Brush Management

Other practices may be added at the discretion of NRCS and the lead partner based on targeted resource concerns and land uses.

The **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.

By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation.

Through the RCPP Program, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to plan and implement conservation practices on agricultural land and non-industrial private forest land.





Partners

- Suwannee River Water Management District
- Alachua County
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Surface
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Alachua Conservation Trust
- Florida Forest Service
- FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- National Wildlife Federation
- University of Florida- Ecohydrology Lab for Wetlands
- Florida Forestry Association
- Florida Farm Bureau
- Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute
- Suwannee River Partnership

NRCS and associated conservation partners will deliver this program collaboratively.

Applications may be obtained and filed at the following Florida NRCS county offices:

Lafayette, Suwannee Counties

Live Oak Service Center
1525 Ohio Ave S
Live Oak, FL 32064-4513
386-362-2622 ext 3

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Alachua, Bradford, Union Counties

Gainesville Service Center
5709 NW 13th St,
Gainesville, FL 32653-2130
352-376-7414 Ext. 3

Columbia County

Lake City Service Center
2304 SW Main Blvd
Lake City, FL 32025
386-752-8447

Gilchrist, Levy Counties

Trenton Service Center
1727 East Wade St
Trenton, FL 32693
352-658-4059

Alachua Conservation Trust may also be contacted for information related to the project at:

Alachua Conservation Trust

7204 SE County Road 234
Gainesville, FL 32641
352-373-1078

