

# ECHO and Volusia Forever

## ECHO

Did you know the City of Orange City has received four ECHO (Environmental, Cultural, Historical, and Outdoor Recreation) grants for our parks?

1. Valentine Park – Facilities Construction Renovation (2008)
2. Mill Lake Park – phase one (2012)
3. Mill Lake Park – phase two (2013)
4. Colin's Dream at Coleman Park – Orange City's skate park (2018)

ECHO was approved by voters in 2000 and is on the ballot for reauthorization in 2020. Since 2001, ECHO has provided grants for 241 projects in every region of Volusia County. The average homeowner pays less than \$25 a year for the ECHO fund. ECHO has raised more the **\$95 million**, while grant recipients have provided more than **\$150 million** in matches. Attendance records show ECHO funded projects are visited by more than 600,000 people every year.

List of all ECHO properties can be found [here](#).

## Volusia Forever

Volusia Forever is a citizen-led measure that protects special places by buying and taking care of lands in Volusia County. In 2000, Volusia County voters overwhelmingly approved Volusia

Forever. It is on the ballot for reauthorization in 2020.

Volusia Forever has purchased and improved more than **38,000 acres** of environmentally sensitive land, outdoor recreation lands, and lands that protect water resources, including our drinking water supplies. All Volusia Forever lands are open to the public for recreation like hiking, biking, paddling, horseback riding or other family activities. Many of the land purchases are within the Volusia Conservation Corridor, which runs through the center of the county and provides habitat for black bear, deer, migrating birds and many rare species of plants and animals. More than 70 miles of trails provide a unique visitor experience. There are still lands to be acquired in order to complete the **Volusia Conservation Corridor**, Spruce Creek Preserve, and the Indian River Lagoon Blueway. These are all Florida Forever Projects that would qualify for matching funds from the state.

Over the past two decades, Volusia Forever has raised more than **\$95 million**. Partnering agencies have provided an additional **\$43 million**. The average homeowner pays about **\$25 a year** for this conservation initiative, which is on the November ballot for reauthorization.

View all Volusia Forever properties [here](#).