

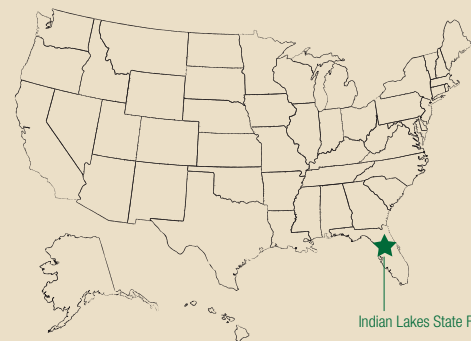


## Indian Lakes State Forest

MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA, is the setting for a 4,400-acre property that was recently protected through the Florida Forever Program. Multiple partners came together in 2007 to purchase and protect the land from development. This spectacular and vital Indian Lake State Forest is located just a few miles from Ocala, Florida.

Reforesting the acquired pastureland to protect water quality of Silver Springs is imperative. Planting trees is one of the best ways to protect and enhance the local groundwater recharge areas. These newly planted trees will act as a natural filter to protect and maintain the water quality of the groundwater feeding Silver Springs. The establishment of pine forest will also provide wildlife habitat for both game and nongame species including the Florida black bear, white-tailed deer, turkey and many other species.

More than 300 acres of longleaf pine were planted throughout the winter of 2014/2015. The containerized longleaf pine trees were lifted and shipped from the Florida Forest Service's Andrews Nursery to the planting sites. The project was a big success thanks to Arbor Day Foundation members and donors!



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