



## Graceland – FAQs

### 1. Why is Conservation Foundation trying to protect Graceland?

*We want to protect Graceland from imminent development, forever. This area should remain rural, for the benefit of wildlife and people to enjoy. Graceland embodies the rural character of the neighborhood, provides habitat for wildlife and extends the open space past the Celery Fields. Graceland is currently part of 1,300 acres of contiguous land for wildlife, and public engagement for those who live, work and play in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. We need to ensure that it stays that way forever.*

### 2. What are the benefits to me, my neighborhood and the community?

*You benefit from protecting Graceland because it provides habitat for wildlife in its forested wetlands and creates recreational opportunities such as therapeutic horseback riding and youth events. This 23.4-acre parcel of land is uniquely situated to be included, forever, in our community's conservation efforts to permanently conserve 1,300 acres of contiguous land. This ensures that it always contributes to the quality of life of the community and our region's environmental and economic sustainability.*

### 3. Will the equestrian program stay on Graceland?

*Conservation Foundation's objective is for Graceland to become part of the community's planned vision for a Rural Heritage Conservation Area. Graceland will be the eastern anchor for conserving 1,300 acres that serve as an attractor for visitors and as an amenity for those who live, work and play in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Because this is a community conservation project, the community will have a voice in deciding what programming Graceland could offer.*

### 4. Who will own Graceland? How will it be used and managed?

*Conservation Foundation anticipates that the property will be owned by a collaborative non-profit or a conservation-minded buyer who will operate the community-serving facilities, and manage the environmental benefits of the land in adherence to the terms of Conservation Foundation's perpetual conservation easement. This legally-binding set of deed restrictions will ensure that the property is never used or developed in a way that does not serve the community. This easement will permanently protect Graceland's conservation values that are in alignment with the community's vision for a rural heritage conservation area focused on public engagement and wildlife enhancement.*

[www.conservationfoundation.com/graceland](http://www.conservationfoundation.com/graceland)

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**5. What happens to the land if Conservation Foundation doesn't buy the land?**

*This property is for sale and Conservation Foundation entered into an agreement to purchase the property by January 31, 2020. If Conservation Foundation is unable to raise the funds with the community's support, the land will go back on the market, available to buyers with different intentions.*

**6. What happens to my donation if Conservation Foundation doesn't raise enough money?**

*Conservation Foundation follows ethical practices and honors the Donor Bill of Rights. As such, we will use your donation for two separate non-refundable deposits totaling \$210,000 to meet the terms of our purchase agreement with the current Graceland landowner. If we are not able to secure the total amount of required funds, you have the option to allow your donation to go towards other Conservation Foundation projects that save land and unique places in perpetuity, or you have the option to request a refund from us for the portion of your donation not expended on the non-refundable installments.*

**7. Who is Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast?**

*Conservation Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. Our accreditation is a mark of distinction showing that we meet the highest standards for land conservation, and we operate our organization legally, ethically and in the public interest, with a sound program of land transactions and land stewardship. We save land forever by collaborating with individuals, organizations and communities, by holding conservation agreements and owning nature preserves, and by educating the public for responsible land stewardship. We work in the counties of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier. Visit <https://conservationfoundation.com/> for more information on Conservation Foundation, including our governing boards, staff, financial statements, and projects, among others.*

**8. Why should I trust Conservation Foundation?**

*Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast is a nationally accredited land conservancy. This accreditation is a "seal of approval" and it means we meet national standards of excellence, uphold the public's trust, have financial stability to ensure perpetuity, and ensure conservation efforts that are permanent. We have a proven track record of permanently protecting more than 11,400 acres in 16 years. We work in five counties: Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier.*

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