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## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Nature Conservancy in Florida is New Owner of Gamble Place** *160 acres on Spruce Creek will be managed for historical and ecological value*

Port Orange, FL – The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Florida accepted the donation of Gamble Place, a 160-acre property with historical structures, longleaf pine forest, and floodplain forest along Spruce Creek in Volusia County, from the Museum of Arts and Sciences (MOAS) on November 1, 2024.

Gamble Place was donated to TNC in 1983 by heirs of Mr. James N. Gamble (of Procter & Gamble) who originally enjoyed the land as a winter retreat in the early 1900s. In 1999, TNC turned over ownership of Gamble Place to MOAS and retained a conservation easement on the property, which prevents the property from being developed and protects the natural resources found on the property. MOAS has owned and managed Gamble Place for the past 25 years as an environmental and cultural education resource.

“The Museum has been honored to be the caretakers of the Gamble Place property. However, after completing our newest strategic plan, and most recently, a new Master Plan vision for the next 20+ years, the Board of Trustees and I agreed that it was time to transfer ownership of the property to ensure the conservation of its natural resources.” shared Tabitha Schmidt, Chief Executive Officer of MOAS.

“We are so grateful for The Nature Conservancy coming to the table and taking ownership of this precious piece of history. They will be excellent stewards in its conservation and preservation for future generations.”

With TNC taking full ownership of Gamble Place once again, we will continue to honor a piece of valuable Old Florida history and preserve the sensitive natural ecosystems and features. Gamble Place is private property, and it will continue to be closed to the public. Management activities will focus on protection of native plants and wildlife.

“TNC commends MOAS for their part in taking care of Gamble Place over the last 25 years. Our goal is to continue to protect this important historical property and its natural resources,” says Greg Knecht, TNC in Florida Executive Director. “TNC’s ownership and management will focus on safeguarding Gamble Place’s conservation future.”

Gamble Place features a historic home (ca. 1907), cottage and citrus packing house, which were listed in 1994 as a Historic District on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. James Gamble, an avid outdoorsman and a partner of Procter & Gamble, purchased the large property in 1898 as a hunting and fishing retreat. Gamble Place is now home to wildlife such as gopher tortoises, who need the property’s longleaf pine forest to thrive.

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#### **About The Nature Conservancy**

–The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world’s toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We are tackling climate change, conserving lands, waters, and oceans at an unprecedented scale, providing food and water

sustainably, and helping make cities more sustainable. Working in 76 countries and territories: 37 by direct conservation impact and 39 through partners, we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners. To learn more, visit [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) or follow [@nature\\_press](https://twitter.com/nature_press) on Twitter. In Florida since 1961, with support from our members, we have helped protect more than 1.2 million acres of vulnerable lands and waters across the state. We own and manage more than 52,000 acres in 25 Conservancy preserves in Florida. [nature.org/florida](http://nature.org/florida), [facebook.com/NatureConservancyFL](https://facebook.com/NatureConservancyFL), [twitter.com/nature\\_florida](https://twitter.com/nature_florida), [instagram.com/natureflorida/](https://instagram.com/natureflorida/)