The Pineland collections result from a series of public-oriented excavation projects that took place at southwest Florida’s Pineland Site Complex from 1988 to 1995. Those projects focused on the A.D. 50 to 1710 cultural and environmental histories of the complex. The collections consist of an estimated 126,500 artifacts, 4,158 human-skeletal specimens, 10,785 bags of human-environmental specimens and samples, and 18 linear shelf feet of associated records and documents.

Over the past two decades, the collections were heavily used for both research and exhibit purposes, causing damage and deterioration. It was not until 2005 that all components again existed under the same roof. The resulting disorganized state of the collections threatened their long-term integrity and accessibility for future research and educational purposes.

A three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded in 2007 to the Florida Museum of Natural History supported comprehensive curation of the collections. Our methods and results follow national standards; these may be applicable to other projects. The project has greatly improved the long-term stability and accessibility of Pineland’s collections.