

## The Villages retirement community snags 8,300+ acres

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The Villages — which spans three Florida counties and is one of the largest U.S. retirement communities — is getting bigger.

The Villages on April 1 acquired approximately 8,300 acres in Sumter County for an estimate sales price of more than \$30 million with the final price to be recorded in public record, according to brokers involved in the deal. The sellers were a trust called Stokes Robert G & Mitchell San, according to the Sumter County property appraiser's website.

It's the biggest piece of an 18,000-acre expansion that nearly doubles the 20,000-acre community. CBRE Group Inc.'s (NYSE: CBRE) senior land broker [Robbie McEwan](#) and Principal [Clint Wallace](#) of Sage Land Group represented the sellers. The Villages worked directly to buy the land.

"It's the last piece of the puzzle," McEwan said.

The Villages declined to comment. A Sumter County representative said a deed wasn't recorded. The property had been formally marketed since early 2017, McEwan said.

The deal is one of the largest recorded in Central Florida so far this year, said [Daryl Carter](#) a long-time land man with Orlando-based Maury L. Carter & Associates Inc. It also solidifies The Villages as one of the largest landowners in Central Florida; the retirement community is even bigger than Burbank, California-based Walt Disney Co.'s (NYSE: DIS) Walt Disney World.

More than 125,000 people live in The Villages, which is mostly in Sumter County. The community has three town squares and more than 50 golf courses, according to The Villages website.

In 2018, The Villages [was the top-selling master-planned community in the U.S.](#)

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The Villages has acquired thousands of acres as the top-selling master-planned community in the U.S. continues to grow.