



# **Alachua County Parks and Open Space**

**2023 WSPP Update**

**Jason Maurer**

**Parks and Open Space  
Director**



# Wild Spaces Public Places



## Improvements



Squirrel Ridge Park

# Wild Spaces Public Places



## Improvements



Chestnut Park



Grove Park

# Wild Spaces Public Places



## Improvements



Lake Alto



Copeland Park





# Wild Spaces Public Places

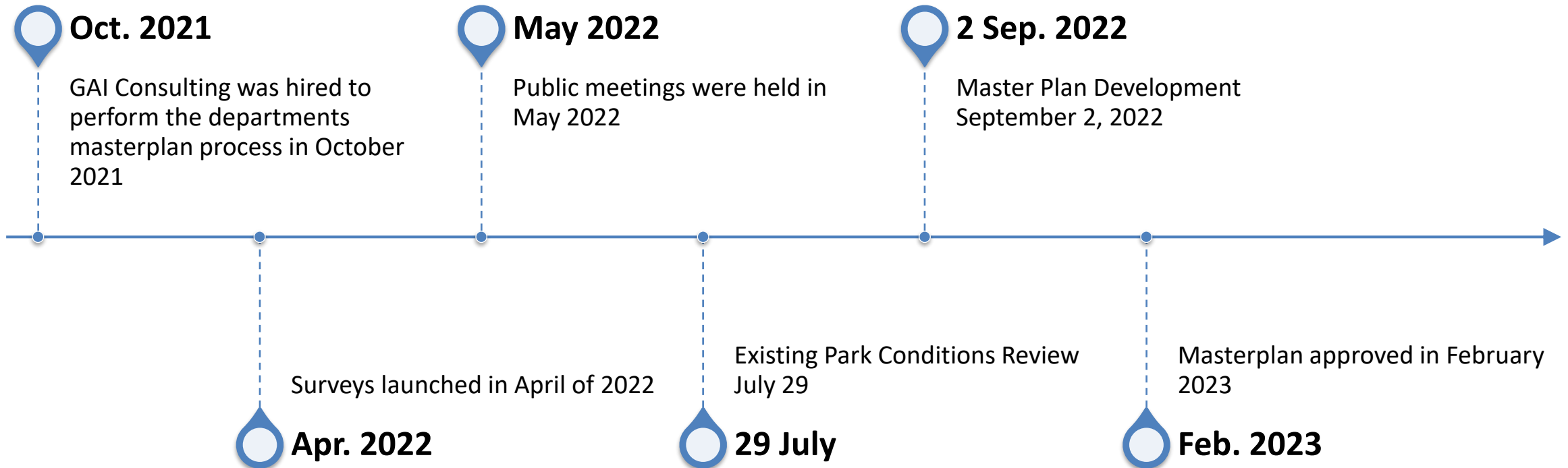


## WSPP Funding Split

80% Conservation Lands  
and 20% active parks.

The 10-year funding  
amount for active parks is  
anticipated to be  
\$37,663,126

# Parks Masterplan Process





# Parks Masterplan Guiding Principles



## PROVIDE FOR TODAY AND PLAN FOR TOMORROW

Parks provide for the needs of current users and respond to future trends.

- To achieve equity, Parks throughout the county are of a consistent quality and meet basic standards.
- Amenities offered respond to the needs of surrounding park users achieved through a community engagement process.
- Amenities planned for future parks respond to trends and forecasting.



## PROXIMITY AND ACCESS

All residents have access to opportunities for play and recreation:

- Each resident lives within a close range of either a neighborhood park (1-mile urban or 2-miles rural) or a community park (3-miles urban or 6-miles rural).
- A robust network of trails and pathways connect users with park amenities.
- Parks provide amenities to facilitate multi-modal access.



## INCLUSIVITY AND SAFETY

Parks are safe and welcoming to multicultural users of all ages and abilities:

- Each park provides facilities usable by people of all ages and abilities.
- Each park promotes safe and inclusive spaces for all users.



## NATURAL ALACHUA

Alachua County residents have access to nature-based recreation:

- Residents have access to nature trails and water-based activities.
- Parks leverage natural assets for environmental education and interpretation



## COMMUNICATION

Park users are aware of park and programming offerings:

- Residents can easily find and share information about available amenities and upcoming events.
- Partnership between departments and agencies allow for efficient and expanded park programming opportunities.



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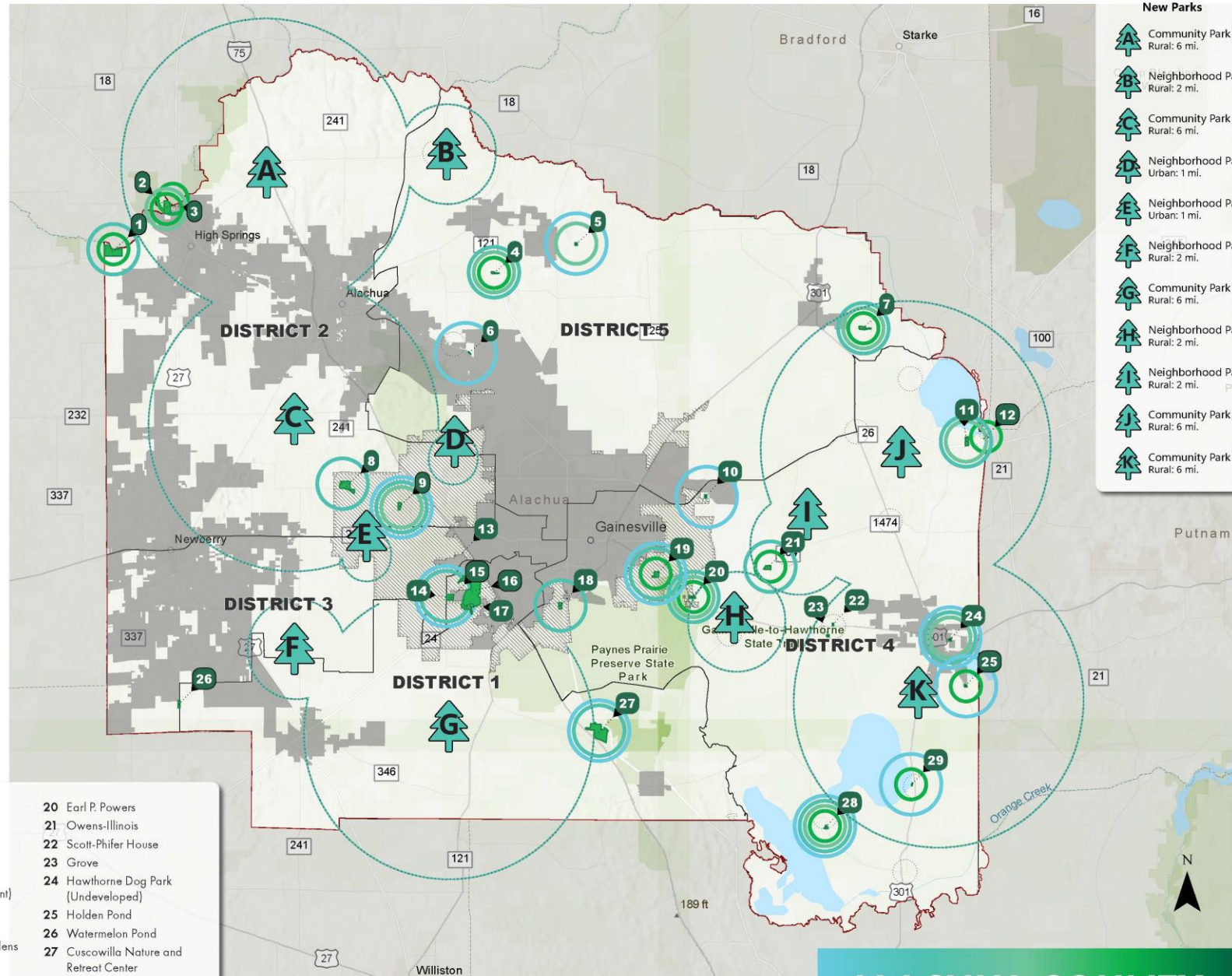
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**Park Legend**

- |                                    |   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Poe Springs                      | 12 Melrose Boat Ramp  | 20 Earl P. Powers   |
| 2 McCall (Undeveloped)             | 13 Mark S. Hopkins Park   | 21 Owens-Illinois   |
| 3 High Springs Boat Ramp           | 14 Veterans Memorial Park (2 Lighted Soccer Fields)             | 22 Scott-Phifer House                                     |
| 4 Cellon Oak                       | 15 Veterans Memorial Park (Gainesville Use Agreement)           | 23 Grove  |
| 5 Monteocha                        | 16 Kanapaha Lake (Undeveloped)                                  | 24 Hawthorne Dog Park (Undeveloped)                       |
| 6 DeSoto Park                      | 17 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens                                   | 25 Holden Pond  |
| 7 Lake Alto                        | 18 Squirrel Ridge (Dog Park)                                    | 26 Watermelon Pond  |
| 8 Rotary Park at Jonesville        | 19 Cynthia Moore Chestnut Park and Clark Butler Nature Preserve | 27 Cuscowilla Nature and Retreat Center                   |
| 9 Jane B Walker Park (Undeveloped) |   | 28 Kate Barnes Boat Ramp at Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Park |
| 10 Copeland                        |   | 29 Lochloosa  |
| 11 Santa Fe Lake                   |   |   |



- New Parks**
- Community Park Rural: 6 mi.
  - Neighborhood Park Rural: 2 mi.
  - Community Park Rural: 6 mi.
  - Neighborhood Park Urban: 1 mi.
  - Neighborhood Park Urban: 1 mi.
  - Neighborhood Park Rural: 2 mi.
  - Community Park Rural: 6 mi.
  - Neighborhood Park Rural: 2 mi.
  - Neighborhood Park Rural: 2 mi.
  - Community Park Rural: 6 mi.
  - Community Park Rural: 6 mi.



**ALACHUA COUNTY  
PARKS & OPEN SPACE VISION**



## WSPP Priorities

Renovating existing parks  
per adopted masterplan  
priorities

Acquire/improve new parks  
in unincorporated Alachua  
County per adopted  
masterplan priorities  
including pocket parks in  
underserved communities

Partner with other  
government agencies  
(where appropriate) to  
provide active park  
amenities

# Wild Spaces Public Spaces



## Questions