



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00465

Agenda Date: 6/11/2024

Agenda Item Name:

Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve 10-Year Management Plan

Presenter:

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Description:

Request Board approval of the Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve 10-Year Management Plan (Exhibit 1).

Recommended Action:

Approve the Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve 10-Year Management Plan

Prior Board Motions:

September 22, 2020 – BoCC authorized staff to pursue an agreement to manage the Lake Santa Fe – Murphey Property with the State of Florida, Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.

October 26, 2021 – BoCC Approved a Resolution to adopt the 50-year lease of the Lake Santa Fe – Murphey Tract from the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands; and budget amendment providing funding for land stewardship.

Fiscal Note:

Project 6214104 Land Management: PRS Lake Alto (the preserve complex includes Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve) already exists for the maintenance of this preserve, funded from Wild Spaces Public Places (WSPP) funds. The Department has been setting aside over \$1 million per year for land management on preserves acquired with WSPP funds since FY21 and has the additional budget to cover the expenses for management of this tract.

A total estimated \$67,000 in initial improvement costs related to public opening from Wild Spaces Public Places (WSPP) funding.

WSPP Fund 021.41.4160.537.xx.xx Project #6214104 Land Management - PRS Lake Alto – Infrastructure - \$67,000.

Conservation Lands General Fund: 001.41.4160.537.xx.xx An additional estimated \$3,000 in annual maintenance costs is anticipated.

Breakdown of Initial Improvement (WSPP) Costs:

\$15,000	Parking Lot
\$5,000	Fencing

\$20,000	New Driveway
\$4,000	Kiosk and interpretive/wayfinding signs
\$20,000	Old dock and solid waste removal
\$3,000	Trail and road stabilization projects

Strategic Guide:

Environment

Background:

Little Lake Santa Fe Preserve is comprised of one 69.42-acre parcel located outside Waldo in northeastern Alachua County. This property was purchased on March 4, 2021 by the State of Florida, Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. Alachua County then entered into a 50-year lease with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of State Lands to acquire management of the property on behalf of the state, as a conservation land. The preserve has over 800 feet of lake frontage on Little Lake Santa Fe and 23 acres of the Santa Fe River system Outstanding Florida Waters area overlaps with the site. Lands within the Preserve were acquired in coordination with the State to improve and manage environmentally significant lands, and to protect water resources, wildlife habitats, and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

The Alachua County Forever Mission Statement is: To acquire, improve and manage environmentally significant lands to protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource based recreation. For the County’s nature preserves, to improve and manage means land stewardship; to restore and enhance the natural resources to preserve their ecological function for future generations. It also means to provide and maintain functional and safe infrastructure for public access, where suitable. The County manages preserves under the Commission-adopted principal of “No Net Loss of Conservation Value” established as Commission policy in 2002 as part of the guiding principles for the Alachua County Forever Program.

Land Conservation Program staff is responsible for the development of these management plans for ACF preserves (Exhibit 2, Exhibit 3). The management planning process was originally developed by the Land Conservation Stewardship Team (LCST) in 2003 and is based upon generally-used best practices. It was updated in 2014 to comply with the Resolution 22-066 to incorporate the Land Conservation Board (LCB) into the review process. This plan update was reviewed by the LCB on July 28, 2022. All plans are also made available for public input and review as a part of the plan development process. DEP also reviewed and approved the draft of this management plan on April 17, 2023.