



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-01021

Agenda Date: 11/12/2024

Agenda Item Name:

Approve and execute grant agreement with FL Department of Environmental Protection for Turkey Creek Preserve observation platform construction costs.

Presenter:

Andi Christman, Land Conservation Program Manager, 352-262-5157

Description:

Request the approval of a grant contract with Florida Department of Environmental Protection -Florida Recreation Assistance Development Program (FRDAP) - for costs associated with the construction of boardwalk and observation platform at Turkey Creek Preserve.

Recommended Action:

Approve, and authorize the Chair to sign the Grant Contract Agreement P5078 (Exhibit 1) between Alachua County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); and

Authorize the County Manager to execute all related documents and amendments as needed to receive the grant.

Prior Board Motions:

On January 24, 2012, the Board executed the Grant Contract between Alachua County and the Florida Communities Trust and authorized the Chair's signature; and authorized the County Manager to execute all related documents and amendments as needed to receive the \$1.5 million acquisition reimbursement grant. The Board also approved the Turkey Creek Hammock Preserve Management Plan.

Fiscal Note:

Construction of the Turkey Creek Preserve observation platform and boardwalk will be funded as follows:

- 1) Alachua County's 25% of the project costs will be funded from: Fund 167.55.5580.537.63.98 – up to \$28,073, and Fund 261.41.5587.537.63.98.
- 2) Through this grant, Florida DEP – FRDAP will fund the remaining 75% of the project costs.

This project is part of the County's Capital Improvement Plan.

Strategic Guide:

Environment

Background:

Turkey Creek Preserve was acquired by Alachua County through the Alachua County Forever Program on December 15, 2009, with \$3.9 million of funds from the 2008 Wild Spaces and Public Places surtax. On January 24, 2012, Alachua County received a Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant providing a reimbursement of \$1.5 million, or 38.88% of the land acquisition costs for the Turkey Creek Preserve property. In the grant application, Alachua County committed to providing recreational improvements on the preserve, including this observation platform and boardwalk.

The proposed project includes the construction of a boardwalk and observation platform overlooking a marsh at Turkey Creek Preserve. The project will extend an existing multi-use recreational trail (Exhibit 2) to the marsh and provide additional scenic and nature viewing opportunities that are not available currently. Educational signage and benches are also anticipated to be installed to support the new structure. This project is identified as a planned improvement in the preserve through the Preserve Stewardship Plan. This grant funding will support construction of this recreational amenity, and fulfillment of that portion of the FCT grant agreement. This grant is a 75:25 match ratio grant, with FDEP providing 75% of the cost up to a maximum of \$112,000 and the County providing a 25% match of up to \$37,500 in cash or third party in-kind services.