

City of  
**Gainesville**



# Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs

**Betsy Waite, P.E. | Wild Spaces & Public Places Director**

# Agenda



**Establishment of Priorities**



**PRCA Needs Assessment Highlights**



**Current WSPP Workplan**



**Proposed 2024-2026 WSPP Workplan**



**Making a Local Impact**



# Our team



**Angie Gould**  
Marketing and  
Communications



**Betsy Waite**  
Director



**Peter McNiece**  
Project Manager



**Yolanda Hocker**  
Logistics  
Coordinator



**Jody Romani**  
Construction  
Inspector

# Establishment of Priorities

## Step one:

- Review of outstanding projects
  - o PRCA and WSPP staff review outstanding projects from the Vision 2020 Master Plan and previously approved WSPP Workplans
- Review of the updated needs assessment
  - o PRCA and WSPP review the needs assessment report to determine what needs have high priority according to the study.
- Review Commissioner requests
  - o PRCA and WSPP staff review Commissioner requests that have been made from the dais and guidance from the City Manager.
- Review Ballot Referendum Language and State Statute 212.055
- Review Advisory Board input
- Review Interlocal Agreement with Alachua County for joint projects that have County-wide impact
- Review Interlocal Agreement with Alachua County through the County's WSPP Municipal Grant Program

## Step two:

- Assemble a list of potential projects

## Step three:

- Using the following criteria prioritize the projects:
  - o Assessment of condition that requires remediation or upgrades.
  - o Identify where parks, facilities or are lacking based on the needs assessment.
  - o Identify where and what amenities are lacking based on the needs assessment.
  - o Assess scope of the projects and staffs' capacity to determine what projects can be done concurrently, and schedule accordingly.

# High-Priority Facility/ Amenity Needs | Summary Findings

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. On-line Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Focus Group Interviews	6. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
<b>HIGH PRIORITY FACILITIES/AMENITIES:</b>						
Walking, jogging, and nature trails	●	●	●	●	●	n/a
Farmers' market	●	●		●		n/a
Bicycle/Walking/Multipurpose trails	●	●	●	●	●	n/a
Kayak and canoe launches	●	●		●		n/a
Small neighborhood parks	●	●	●	●	●	●
Nature center	●		●	●		●

### Additional Needs:

- Stand alone Pickleball Courts

# Top-Priority Actions | Summary Findings

NEEDS ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE:	1. Statistically Valid Survey	2. On-line Survey	3. City Leadership Interviews	4. Public Meeting	5. Focus Group Interviews	6. Level-of-Service Analysis + Benchmarks
<b>TOP PRIORITY ACTIONS</b>						
Increase safety and security measures in parks (e.g., Increase lighting, security cameras, call boxes, park rangers, onsite staff).	●	●	●	●	●	n/a
Develop parks for unorganized and free play/ general community recreation access and that are not permitted for organized sports.	●	●		●		
Develop a significant park with a variety of active and passive outdoor activities in each quadrant of the city (e.g., SW, SE, NE, NW).	●	●	●	●		

## Additional Comments:

- Depot Park is the Gold Standard in the City – need to provide a comparable space in each Quadrant of the City

# Projects Currently in Construction



**Unity Park Restroom**



**Forest Park Improvements**



**Possum Creek Skate Park Lighting**



**A.N.N.E Park Accessibility Improvements**



**Tom Petty Park Softball Field Improvements**



**Hippodrome Cinema and Restroom Improvements**



**Unity Park Restroom**





# Forest Park Improvements



# Possum Creek Skate Park Lighting



# A.N.N.E Park Accessibility Improvements



**Tom Petty Park Softball Field Improvements**



# Hippodrome Cinema and Restroom Improvements

# Current WSPP Workplan - *15* projects in planning, design, permitting or procurement

- ✿ **H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool** – Pool Slide Repair/Refurbishment
- ✿ **Dwight H. Hunter Pool** – Pool Slide Replacement
- ✿ **Park and Field Lighting Overhaul** – 5 Locations (Tom Petty Park, Cora P. Roberson Park, Albert “Ray” Massey Park, Greentree Park and Fred Cone Park)
- ✿ **Morningside Nature Center Improvements** – Replace Farmhouse Roof and Schoolhouse Deck
- ✿ **Lincoln Yard Trail – SE 21st Street (SE 10th Place to SE 8th Avenue)**
- ✿ **Bo Diddley Plaza** – Deck and Stage Enhancements
- ✿ **Duval Park** – Parking Lot, Trail, Adult Fitness Equipment and Playground
- ✿ **NE 31st Avenue Trail (NE 15th Street to NE Waldo Road)**
- ✿ **Sweetwater Recreational Trail (Sweetwater Wetlands Park to Sweetwater Preserve)**
- ✿ **Alfred A. Ring Park Improvements**
- ✿ **Sweetwater Recreational Trail (SE Williston Road to Depot Park)**
- ✿ **Thelma A. Boltin Center Improvements** – Partial/Hybrid Restoration
- ✿ **Boulevard Springs Historic Water Works & Park Improvements**
- ✿ **Festival and Arts Park**
- ✿ **SW 47th Ave. Trail (SW 40th Blvd to SW 27th St)**

# Cultural Arts Center and Sports Complex at 8<sup>th</sup> & Waldo

- 🌿 Cultural Arts Center Feasibility Study – Underway, estimated completion in late October 2023
- 🌿 Sports Complex at 8<sup>th</sup> & Waldo Feasibility Study - Underway, estimated completion in January 2024

# Proposed Projects to begin in 2024-2026

- 🌿 **Thomas Center "A" Improvements** - Elevator renovation and building rehabilitation as outlined in the envelope study. Replace or repair fountain. Add Wi-Fi Infrastructure.
- 🌿 **Hippodrome Improvements** - Address roof leaks and other necessary structural infrastructure improvements
- 🌿 **Wilhelmina Johnson Center Improvements** - Conduct envelope study to better understand building needs
- 🌿 **Ironwood Improvements** - Replace irrigation well and pump
- 🌿 **Morningside Nature Center Improvements** - Complete a master plan for the park. Design, permit and construct a new nature center and other necessary improvements
- 🌿 **Nature Park Improvements & Repairs (Various Parks)** - Boardwalk replacements, parking lot reconstruction and other necessary capital improvements
- 🌿 **Palm Point Nature Park Improvements** - Explore the feasibility/community interest in adding a canoe/kayak launch at Palm Point Nature Park



# Proposed Projects to begin in 2024-2026

 **Multiuse Trails - Continue to make connections for greater bike and trail access throughout the City. Proposed multiuse trails include:**

- 1. *Sweetwater Recreational Trail (SE Williston Road to Depot Park),***
- 2. *Sweetwater Recreational Trail (Sweetwater Wetlands Park to Sweetwater Preserve),***
- 3. *NE 31st Avenue Trail (NE 15th Street to NE Waldo Road),***
- 4. *Lincoln Yard Trail (SE 21st Street Trail - SE 10th Place to SE 8th Avenue),***
- 5. *SW 47th Avenue Trail (SW 40th Blvd to SW 27th St),***
- 6. *SE 8th Avenue Trail (GTEC building to Waldo Road),***
- 7. *SE 15th Street Trail (Boulevard Springs Park to SE 8th Avenue),***
- 8. *Sweetwater Greenway (Sixth Street Trail to E University Ave),***
- 9. *Explore the feasibility/community interest in a pump/skills course***

# Proposed Projects to begin in 2024-2026

- 🌿 **Tom Petty Park Improvements** - Demolish the existing racquetball courts. Construct 8 dedicated lit pickleball courts and other improvements per the community's input.
- 🌿 **Kiwanis Challenge Park Improvements** - Resurface the track
- 🌿 **Greentree Park Improvements** - Develop a dog park
- 🌿 **District 3 Park** - Explore land acquisition opportunities for an active park in district 3 - neighborhood or regional - scale to be determined by available land. Conduct community engagement.
- 🌿 **Woodland Park Improvements** - New court lighting, hardscape, adult fitness equipment, etc. Coordinate with GHA for the development of the future multiuse trail.
- 🌿 **Smokey Bear Park Improvements** - Parking lot improvements
- 🌿 **City Pool Improvements** - Replace pool pumps and other upgrades as infrastructure reaches the end of its useful life.
- 🌿 **T.B. McPherson Recreation Center Renovation** - Wholesale Capital Improvements
- 🌿 **Albert "Ray" Massey Park Recreation Center Renovation** - Wholesale Capital Improvements

# City/County Partnership WSPP Projects



**\$3M County Partnership Funding – Dedicated to the City of Gainesville.**

## **Proposed projects:**

- Thelma A. Boltin Center, \$1,500,000
  - Citizens Field, \$1,000,000
- Sweetwater Wetlands Park, \$500,000



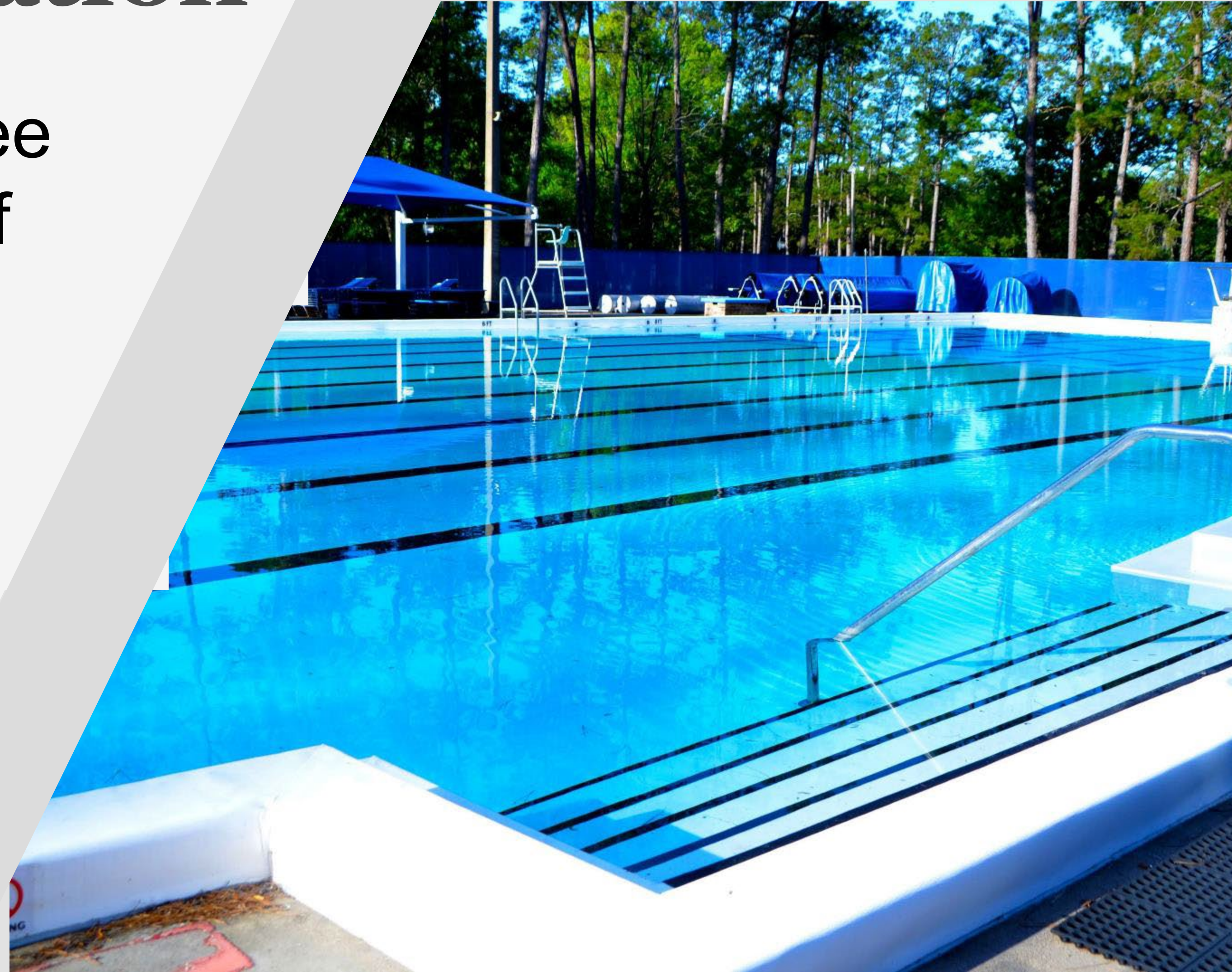
**\$3M County Partnership Funding – Divided between the 9 municipalities (\$333,333 for the City of Gainesville for this round of WSPP).**

## **Proposed Project:**

- NE 31st Avenue Trail (NE 15th Street to NE Waldo Road), \$333,333

# Staff Recommendation

The General Policy Committee hear a presentation from staff on Wild Spaces & Public Places project priorities for 2024-2026 and provide feedback.



# Making a Local Impact

Vendors Utilized in FY 2022



[View the Fiscal Year 2022 Report](#)

**64** vendors **Local**  
Dollars Spent **\$3,931,444.17**

**56** vendors **Small**  
Dollars Spent **\$3,104,064.83**

**15** vendors **Diverse**

# Questions?

