

Who will benefit from the project (cont.):

a. Youth and Families: The gymnasium would offer a safe and accessible space for after-school programs, sports leagues, and family-friendly activities, addressing a significant need for recreational options in our rural area.

b. Seniors: With programs tailored to older adults, such as low-impact exercise classes and community events, the gym would promote healthy aging and social engagement for the senior population.

c. Individuals from Neighboring Rural Communities: Residents from surrounding rural areas in eastern Alachua County where public facilities are limited would have access to an inclusive facility for year-round activities).

Local Significance of Project to your Municipality (cont.):

b. Youth Programs and Engagement: With a gym, Hawthorne could offer sports programs, after-school activities, and camps, giving youth a safe, supervised environment for recreation and personal development. This is particularly vital in small towns like ours where there may be fewer organized activities available.

2. Supporting Community Health and Wellness

A gymnasium offers a space for fitness classes, sports leagues, and wellness programs, encouraging physical activity and improving overall health. This facility would contribute to reducing sedentary lifestyles and combatting related health issues, such as obesity, which is more prevalent in rural areas like Hawthorne.

3. Strengthening Community Connections and Engagement

The gym would double as a community center, offering a large indoor space for town events, holiday celebrations, public meetings, and other gatherings. This helps build a stronger sense of community, fostering local pride and participation.

4. Enhancing Hawthorne's Regional Role

As one of the only indoor recreational facilities in eastern Alachua County, the gymnasium would draw participants from nearby rural communities, expanding Hawthorne's role as a hub for regional recreation.

- Alachua County in that the facility aligns with the County's commitment to improving public health, enhancing recreational resources, and supporting underserved communities, making it a long-term investment in community development.

County-Wide Significance of Project (optional – attach plans/drawings/maps) (cont.):

Indoor recreation facilities in Gainesville are frequently at capacity, and travel to these areas is often impractical and often not available for Hawthorne residents. By establishing a gymnasium in Hawthorne, Alachua County can reduce strain on Gainesville's infrastructure, balancing recreational resources and distributing public facilities more equitably.

The gymnasium aligns with Alachua County's mission to ensure equitable access to recreational and health resources for all residents. By investing in Hawthorne, the County would be demonstrating its commitment to bridging geographic and socioeconomic divides within its communities, fulfilling a promise to serve rural areas as robustly as urban and semi-urban ones in the County.