



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 25-00411

Agenda Date: 6/10/2025

Agenda Item Name:

West End Park Community Engagement and Development Plan Update

Presenter:

Jason Maurer, Parks & Open Space Director, 352-213-4796

Ed Williams, Capital Projects Coordinator, 352-240-4168

Description:

West End Park Community Engagement and Development Plan Update

Recommended Action:

Authorize the following as planned in the current 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):

- a) Phase I - hire a 'design team' to master plan the property with all funded/unfunded community desired facilities/amenities, yet limit construction to funded elements as identified in the adopted Master Plan such as: the purchase and installation of a pre-engineered restroom building, playground, pavilion(s), sports courts (pickleball), and support amenities (e.g., paved walks, tables, benches, and grills). This would also include the arboretum.
- b) Phase II - approve future unfunded community desired facilities/amenities, which will not be constructed until funding sources can be identified/secured including paved walking trails, dog park, and fitness equipment.
- c) Staff to explore public/private partnership opportunities for additional community desired facilities/amenities.

Prior Board Motions:

February 4, 2025 - approve the latest iteration with the input received from the Board. Also, to provide the Board via email an updated spreadsheet after the meeting so the Commissioners can review it and if there are any significant changes the Board can bring the item back.

September 24, 2024 –

1. Approve the use of \$500,000 of Tourist Development Tax reserves for capital improvements that promote Tourism at West End making the legislative factual determination that sporting activities at West End supports the advancement of tourism and serve a public purpose in Alachua County.
2. Approve the corresponding budget amendment.
3. Approve a revision to the Adopted 10-Year Master Plan by changing future park location E (West End) from a Neighborhood Park to a Community Park and future location C from Community Park to Neighborhood Park, thereby allowing the use of \$400,000 in impact fees toward improvements.
4. Approve revising the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) schedule to unencumber the \$6 million in Wild Spaces Public Places earmarked for Diamond Sportsplex and encumber that money for parks

and recreation capital improvements until the Board know what we're going to do.

5. Direct staff to return to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) in the Spring of 2025 with a West End development plan that incorporates citizen input.

6. Direct that a full tree survey be conducted for the West End Property and that the idea of an arboretum be included as a possibility of the planning process. Staff is to reach out to the University of Florida IFAS and the landscape architecture department to see what kind of supports and interest they have in participating in the planning process.

7. Staff to begin work and conversations with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) about public safety upgrades for pedestrian crossings at the intersection of Tioga and West End Park.

Fiscal Note:

FY 25 - \$240,000 for professional services funded from Wild Spaces Public Places (Fund 140).

FY 26 - \$750,000 for capital improvements funded from Wild Spaces Public Places (Fund 140) and \$250,000 for capital improvements funded from Impact Fees for Phases I and II.

FY 27 - \$750,000 for capital improvements funded from Wild Spaces Public Places (Fund 140) and \$250,000 for capital improvements funded from Impact Fees for Phase II.

Strategic Guide:

Infrastructure

Background:

The West End property was acquired on June 14, 2024 for approximately \$4 million with Wild Spaces Public Places (Fund 140) borrowed from Conservation Land's appropriation and budgeted for payback from Park's appropriation at \$500,000 annually for the remainder of this surtax cycle (FY25 - FY32).

Fast-track demolition, clean up, and improvements, utilizing Parks and Public Works staff, began immediately in preparation for the World Masters Athletics (WMAi25) event that included a 2K cross country course, internationally certified throwing facilities for javelin, discuss, and hammer throw; additional parking; and associated utility infrastructure.

Community engagement meetings were held on August 13, 2024 and again on April 29, 2025. Input was gathered during the meetings, through associated social media engagement, and subsequent virtual survey.