



SQUIRREL RIDGE PARK

Final Schematic Plan

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

September 24, 2019



Alachua County Wild Spaces & Public Places



Squirrel Ridge Park Improvements are a Wild Spaces Public Places (WSPP) project

- Half cent sales tax initiative passed by Alachua County voters in 2016
 - *Extend the Alachua County Forever Program to acquire and improve environmentally sensitive lands*
 - *To create, improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities*



Design Process

Current Phase : Master Planning

- Identify improvement opportunities
- Propose new, needed park elements
- Gather public input
- Analyze and provide initial layout
- Prepare the design concept

Next Phase : Construction Documents

- Further develop design
- Detailing and engineering
- Prepare documents for bidding

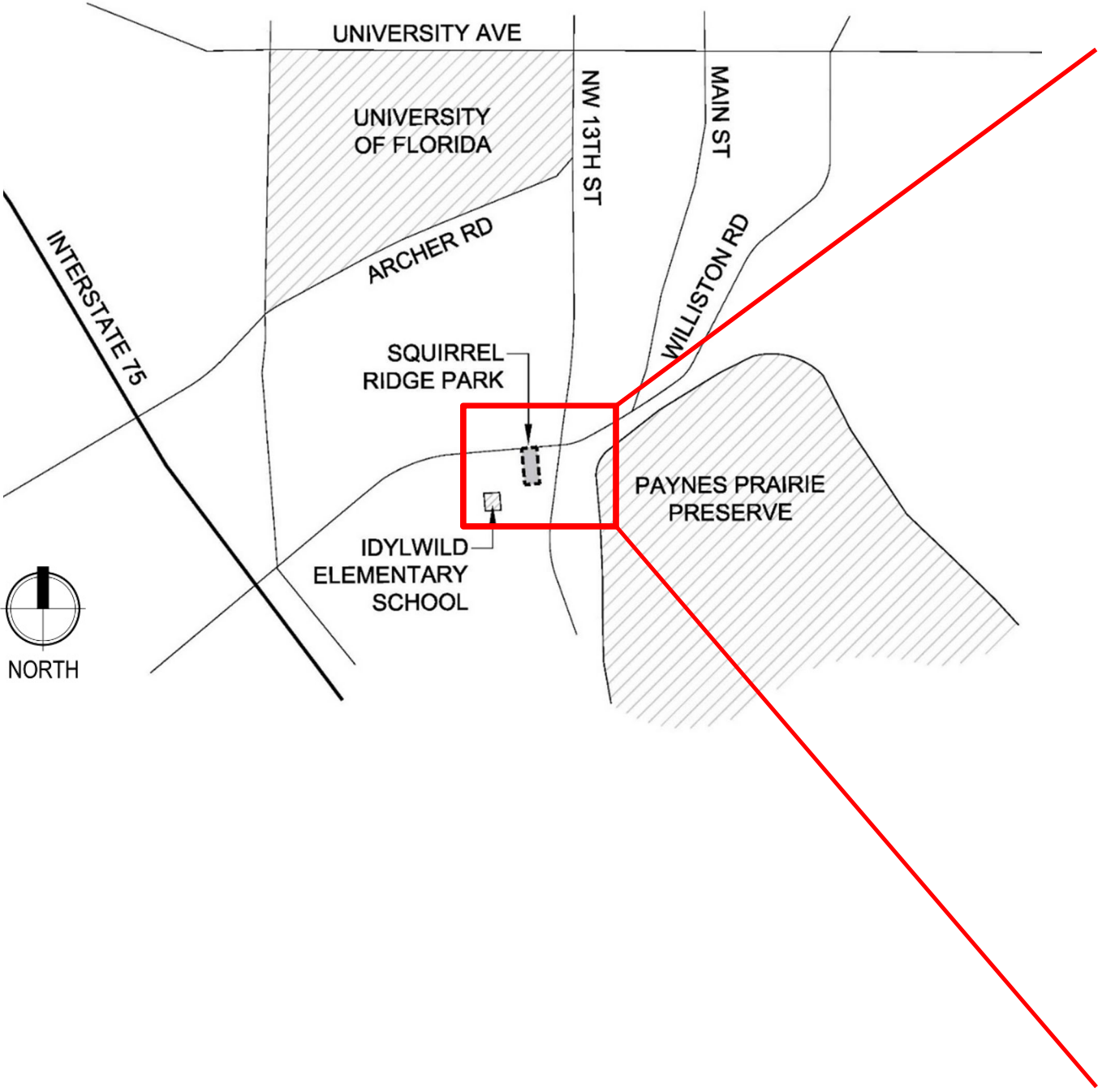
Next Phase : Submittal of Permits

- Alachua County, GRU, and the Water Management District

Start Construction



Squirrel Ridge Park Location



Design Goals

1. **Destination:** Develop a destination park that also serves the neighborhood.
2. **Connections:** Enhance connections to surrounding residential areas and internally between park elements.
3. **Improve:** Support, upgrade, and expand current uses.
4. **New:** Add new enhancements complimentary to existing.
5. **Welcome:** Create a more welcoming park entry.
6. **Security:** Provide a safe park experience.



Existing Conditions



Existing Elements

North:

- Gravel parking
- Multipurpose field
- Historic signage

Central:

- Crime Victims Memorial garden
- Playground
- Yoga pavilion

South:

- Dog park

West:

- Scenic roadway



Public Input



- **June 18, 2019:** R.O.S.C.O. Presentation
- **July 16th, 2019:** Public Open House at Idylwild Elementary
 - Nearly 40 attendees
 - Various stations for review & input
 - Handouts for follow up input



- **August 7th, 2019:** Follow up meeting with dog park users at the park
- Received emails and additional input following above meetings
- Held review meetings with staff and refined the plan before/after each

Public Input – Park Management



Park Maintenance:

- Litter removal
- Weed control in Memorial Garden
- Field Improvements: Removal of pests and sandspurs in field, filling in holes, condition of turf
- More frequent mowing in all areas
- Drainage improvements
- Dog park low areas improvements
- Management of Dog Park items brought by visitors

Rules and Regulations:

- Posting of Dog Park rules
- Emergency contact information
- Emergency access

Public Input – Park Design

Overall Schematic Plan



Squirrel Ridge Park

1. Northern Areas



- Enhance:
 - Parking
 - Multipurpose field
- Add:
 - Improved paved and gravel parking, ADA
 - New paved loop trail
 - Paved walks to Williston Road
 - Unpaved nature trail
 - Entry terrace with historic and new signs
 - Terraced seating at field with picnic pavilion
 - Picnic pavilion with drinking fountain and grill
 - Lighting and site furnishings

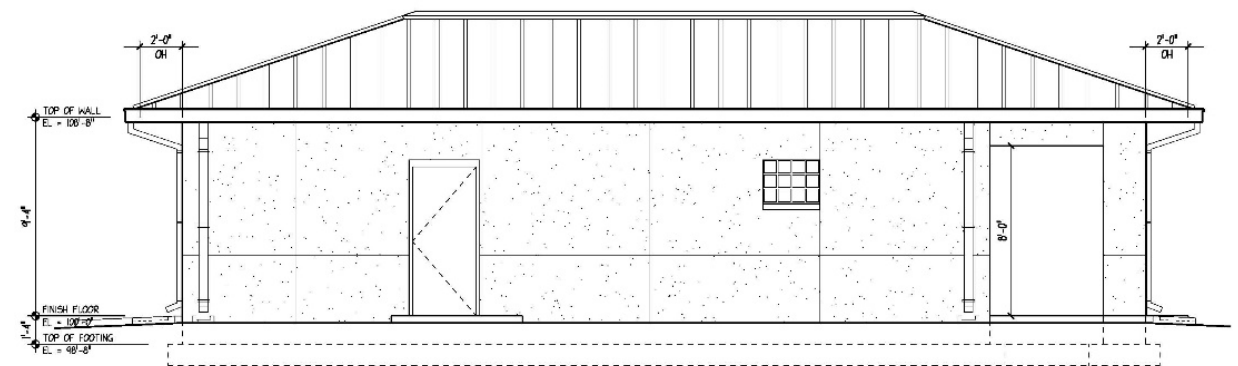


Squirrel Ridge Park

2. Central Areas



- **Enhance:**
 - Yoga pavilion
 - Preserve and expand Victims Memorial areas
 - Playground
 - Connectivity
- **Add:**
 - Loop/walks, ADA
 - Fitness stations
 - Multipurpose court with basketball and pickleball
 - Restroom and office building with small porch for picnic
 - Shaded playground
 - Picnic pavilion with grill and other picnic areas
 - Lighting and site furnishings

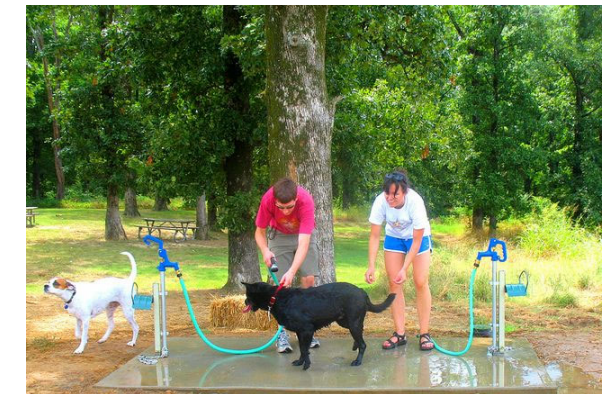


Squirrel Ridge Park

3. Southern Areas



- Enhance:
 - Dog park
 - Wet areas
- Add:
 - Dog run along off-leash dog areas
 - Double gates and walk connections
 - Dog wash station and entry pavilion, rules posting
 - Dog play and training equipment
 - Wet dog play elements
 - Shade pavilions
 - Seating
 - More dog waste stations and toy collection baskets



Recommendations



- Approval of the Squirrel Ridge Park Schematic Plan
- Authorize Staff to procure design and engineering services to complete construction documentation and permitting for Squirrel Ridge Park

Thank you!

PAUL
STRESING
ASSOCIATES
INC.

ARCHITECTURE
SPACE PLANNING
INTERIOR DESIGN

MANLEY DESIGN, LLC
Landscape Architecture · Site Planning

CHW
Professional Consultants

Squirrel Ridge Park

Overall Master Plan

