

PUBLIC COMMENT RE FOUR CREEKS PRESERVE INITIAL PUBLIC OPENING PLANS: SUBMITTED AT 07/18/19 PUBLIC MEETING AND VIA EMAIL to CONSERVATION LANDS PROGRAM

Name	Neighborhood	Comment	Comment Method
Jean LeMire	Mile Run	I speak on behalf of the need for prescribed fire. I worked for AC Fire Rescue and was involved with prescribed fire. Several years ago, there was a wild fire in this area which caused uncontrolled destruction. The fire actually came to the edge of the dead end of NW 37th St. So controlled fire is good. I suggest that posts might be put up and signs to keep parking on the road so ditches are not impacted. The residents of Mile Run single family homes are in process of redoing their fences so they can be build higher to address privacy issues.	Public Meeting
Edward Previc		Are lands acquired under these programs really, really, really protected forever. With increased activity comes increased risk of things like fire, vandalism etc. are existing hydrants adequate. Are hydrants actively maintained. Who will monitor parking at entrances. People will park on north end regardless. Will there be a fence line. If so will gate be closed at dusk or open 24/7. Will there be an on-site monitor. If so, what hours/days.	Public Meeting
Nancy Totten	Sutters Landing	Having cars park along 37th street will be a major traffic and safety problem. Cars leaving and entering existing developments school buses and other traffic will have major problems coming and going. I strongly oppose using 37th street and disrupting our neighborhood. Use 13th Street or 43rd Street where no neighborhoods will be negatively affected. Plus there is a church on 37th street with large attendance. Additional traffic will cause traffic problems on Sunday and other days. They have programs. We also have children riding bikes and walking on 37th.	Public Meeting
Peter Rebmann	Sutters Landing	Having the main entrance on nw 37th street is a terrible idea. There isn't sufficient room for parking and there is a school bus stop just south of the entrance. As a mater of policy, there should not be a main entrance for any park in a residential neighborhood. It should be on a main road or highway.	Public Meeting
Eric Wagner	TCF	Opening by Oct 2019 ought not to require parking. Consider not allowing parking; 37th st foot traffic should be enough initially. I am delighted with the purchase.	Public Meeting
Barbara Murphey & Cindy Otradovec	Sutters Landing	Why can't the other entrance be on 43rd where there are no houses. Our neighborhood is very safe and we all walk that dead end road and do not need more traffic down that road. And then you want to put a parking lot on the end of 37th st? I thought you might make 37th a maintenance entrance. My neighbor and I walk that end and pick trash all the time now. Why would you want to impact our neighborhood and not go on 43rd where there are no houses. I'm very glad this land is being preserved and not housing developments.	Public Meeting
Joan Stoffa	Sutters Landing	Entrance can not be at 37th street this is between the Sutters Landing and Mile Run this area is behind my house, so I do not want this behind my house. I walk my dog and do not want this by my house. I do not want strangers where I walk and possibly be near my house. I would like no parking on 37th street because houses are along this forest. I do not want strangers in the neighborhood. No motorized vehicles along this street I do not want crime to become part of this area. I have many pictures of the wildlife behind my house including deer, wild turkeys, whistling ducks, egrets, herons and quiet. Cars and strangers would not be good. Please make entrance in another area perhaps 43rd street where no houses are.	Public Meeting

Winnie Perez		Why not blaze a trail from 43rd street for an entrance. There is land for parking already and it would eliminate the problems with an entrance on 37th st.	Public Meeting
Samuel Nyquist	Rosemont	I am concerned about parking and traffic	Public Meeting
Florin Curta		My house is on the western side of the very end of 37th st. The road elevation would allow any car passenger to look into my backyard and my house. On both sides of the road, there are ditches that are quite wet throughout the year. The overcrowding of the northern end of 37th street will result in cars stuck in the mud at the bottom of the ditches. Moreover, I am very concerned with the safety as cars will be so close to my house when my residence may have no one inside as members of my family are at work	Public Meeting
Ray Hughes		Your responses tonight indicate that little or no planning or forethought have been conducted/given to unintended adverse consequences to environmental and/or residents. Discussing ACF program takes too much time from the 4 creeks discussion.	Public Meeting
Drew Dutterer	Sutters Landing	My primary concerns are with access, parking and resulting impacts to areas along 37th street. Members of the Sutters Landing Community would like to have input into decisions made as this project moves forward. Parking along nw 37th street has the potential to have a substantial footprint within Sutters Landing and Mile Run. This likely extends to things like noise, erosion, litter, etc. I just hate to see this get rushed because of arbitrary deadlines. I would really like to see more focus on parking and access along nw 43rd street where there is considerable more buffer between impacted areas and existing homes and neighborhoods.	Public Meeting
Rod & Miriam Hemphill		Is there a commitment to create adequate parking on the four creeks property. Is there a certain timeline for establishing parking. Will areas off of 43rd street be surveyed for potential entrance and parking. Would the County Commission allow more time to allow proper planning and permitting before opening to public access.	Public Meeting
Michael Cook		What environmental controls will be taken to control drips and runoff from vehicles on side of 37th st. What additional controls will be utilized to control crime with influx of additional people in this area. What actions will be taken to control garbage and debris and maintain grass and drainage.	Public Meeting
Debbie Segal	Alachua Audubon Soci	will you consider establishing parking at the north entrance at a future date. Consider a soft opening and have limited advertising about the park until a parking lot can be made so there are few cars parking along the road and ditch and potentially tearing up the ditch.	Public Meeting
Gail Dewsbury		Education forums should be held. The pros and cons of management by controlled burns. Some rules should be established for people: no dogs, no bikes on trails, etc. Soft opening is a good idea-you have not had time for the usual process.	Public Meeting
Sharon Pickard		Will any type of facilities-rest room, rain shelters, picnic tables etc.	Public Meeting
Scott Chase	Mile Run	I would love to see a trail head at nw point in order to connect to there preserves in the area. Also I would very much like to see multi use hike/bike.	Public Meeting

Ellen Siegel		Bike trail possible. Wayside exhibits/education. Bathrooms/water coming? Picnicking? Anticipated visitation? Hunting? Connect wildlife corridor? How do you manage differing opinions of county?	Public Meeting
Laura Bialeck	Blues Creek	I am an avid hiker and love that this property has been purchased for a preserve. I spend a good deal of time on our public lands and am often dismayed by the lack of management, lack of enforcement of rules, an poor behavior of others out on the trails. Loose dogs are a huge problem as is trash. I understand the neighbors concerns because they are valid. In the San Felasco city park I live near, I have seen all kinds of crime, loose dogs, and no enforcement presence.	Public Meeting
Jean Outler	TCF	I support the plans you discussed tonight. I have past experience with living adjacent to parks/preserves subject to prescribed burns and highly support that method of managing the eland. I can help educate residents in TCF if needed.	Public Meeting
Dot Morrison		Looking forward to more short trails for hiking. I hike with Florida Trail Association and many of us are older and appreciate shorter trails.	Public Meeting
Paula Guerrein	Deer Run	Thank you for the meeting ant taking family time to present to us. You make a good swap for this land and we appreciate your planning and foresight to purchase this with our voter approved 1/2 cent sales tax. This park (with proper maintenance and security) will be another great space to relax and enjoy nature for families and residents. It prevented large residential development which would have brought gridlock o nw 43rd st and nw 53rd ave. Must have sign to leash your dog.	Public Meeting
Karen Woods	Montclair	What does the city plan to do regarding the delineation/demarcation of the divide between the city's preserve and the homes in Montclair.	Public Meeting
Linda Murawski		Thank you so much	Public Meeting
Rae Wisely	TCF	Will bicycle trails be available. Will it have handicapped access. I would be interested in volunteering at 4 creeks, have served on board of directors at Turkey Creek Forest and as social chair and security.	Public Meeting
Sally Pieper	TCF	There are trees in the 4 creeks preserve that border turkey creek forest subdivision. Some of these trees are in danger of falling on the border fence and possibly roofs of homes in TCF. Will the management of 4 creeks preserve address this issue.	Public Meeting
Jo Ann Stevener	Deer Run	Can the trail have a cut through so that we can walk with small children and elderly neighbors. Maybe about a 1 1/4 mile trail. It doesn't appear that it would interfere with any creeks. What type of maintenance will be done. Any controlled burns. What kinds of management is done on other parks and conservation lands.	Public Meeting
Kitty Leontiades	Blues Creek	We live in Blues Creek; there is no walk in entrance for the neighborhoods west of the preserve. Please add to your plans a walk in entrance along nw 43rd st.	Public Meeting
Fern/Bob Mussellwhite		We are very supportive of the project; looking forward to the trails.	Public Meeting

Robin Brown		We're very happy about this.	Public Meeting
Tom Brown		Thanks very much appreciated.	Public Meeting
Bryan Thomas	Mile Run	I am very excited about this project and wholeheartedly support its development. The primary concern of the residents I've spoken with is that when a permanent parking lot is designed, a substantial buffer is provided between the neighborhood and the parking lot, so that the neighbors backing up to the preserve don't end up looking out into a parking lot, instead of the woods.	Public Meeting
Karen Day	TCF	As a homeowner in TCF whose property borders the preserve I am concerned about many unstable looking trees on the property line that should be removed; of the viable property line trees, there are many large limbs reaching over the fence with potential of damaging our roofs, these limbs greatly need to be cut back. Please refrain from cutting any future trails any where near TCF, the residents are elderly and vulnerable, we do not want to give access to the neighborhood in any way-basically we do not want to compromise the safety of our neighborhood. Please assure there will not be parking on the side of the road at the 441 walk in entrance. Please keep the animals in mind, this was their home first. In TCF we have deer, wild turkey come visit us from this wooded area we just want to assure that their habitat is kept intact. Do not cut future trails and essentially cover the preserve with trails, leave tons of inaccessible areas for the animals. Lastly thank you so much for acquiring this land I really appreciate everything you are doing. During a prescribed burn, where will the animals go. Please don't force them out on a roadway.	Public Meeting
Karl J Ambrose		Please let's factor the animals before we do any controlled burns and make sure we take an animal inventory before we do any controlled burns. Winter burns are not conducive for this area. Normal lightning burn is preferred. Please factor in the animals.	Public Meeting
Andrea Palmer		I believe the property should remain untouched. Wildlife in the area use that property as safe harbor with all the development that is encroaching from NE 43 Street.	Email
Anne Sponholtz		Just one more item regarding the preserve. I do hope you provide two entrances, with one on 43rd and the other on 441. Thank you.	Email

Doug Close	Sutters Landing	I live in Sutters Landing, at the end of Mile Run. I moved here in Dec 1998. My primary attraction to this area of Gainesville was that it was a child and pet-friendly neighborhood, with limited traffic. I have always walked my dogs to the end of Mile Run, and along the woods. It has been owned by a private hunt club for many years. I was very happy to hear from my neighbors who also walk their dogs along this route that the city and county had purchased this property to keep it as a natural preserve. Wildlife, and especially deer, are frequently seen along our walks. What I was not happy to hear that you are considering putting a parking lot at the end of Mile Run. As it is we already have cars flying down to the end of Mile Run, sometimes turning around in the grassy area, tearing up the grassy berms. There is also a bus stop for children at the end of our subdivision. This area of Mile Run/Sutters Landing helps to drain off excess rain, and sometimes it does not hold water well and becomes very wet and soggy. More traffic on this small stretch of the road can endanger both people and animals. At the opposite end of Mile Run off of NW 53rd Avenue is already a well-established park in Possum Creek. Parking at Possum Creek does not impose on any residential property and includes playgrounds, skateboarding, soccer fields, dog parks, and well-maintained trails for both people and their pets. I love wildlife, nature, and wildlife, and enjoy safe walks with my neighbors down at the end of Mile Run. I strongly encourage you to rethink parking at the end of Mile Run, while maintaining the Preserve. I might suggest parking off of NW 43rd Street.	Email
Gail Flynn	Turkey Creek Forest	We will be away and unable to attend this very important meeting regarding the property next to our community, TCF. Perhaps you could consider the bike rental program as used in many parks and cities in our great country. I'm Sure many families would appreciate this added benefit in their local park.	Email
Paula Fussell		Good morning. I support the funding for the preserve. I am a registered voter in Alachua count.	Email
Soren Brockdorf		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I would like a safe route to cross 43rd st from 73rd ave. 2. I would like a trail extended into NW 37th st. 3. I would like at least a water spicket at each location. 4. An outdoor shower and water would really be nice somewhere. <p>I think the city/county need to continue to work to make all the nature trails in the city connected. #1 and #2 would help make that happen.</p>	Email
Stacey Hectus		I will be flying to go on vacation the day of the meeting. Is equestrian access being planned for this preserve or is this more of a wetland for water conservation?	Email

Russell Hall	Blues Creek	Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I attended last evening's public meeting and was prepared to discuss management of the area, but held off when it became clear that most comments focused on NIMBY issues. As a near neighbor (Blues Creek) I was pleased to learn about public acquisition of the property and grateful for the positive effects it will have on the local quality of life. I expect to be a frequent user of the preserve, and will be eager to provide appropriate input and help in the future. I appreciate that the county and city are under some pressure to open the preserve to the public, and that use of existing roads and access points may have been the only realistic option for an early opening. My wife and I hike in the adjacent San Felasco City Park nearly every day, and probably hundreds of people use that facility each week. I think many of them would also use Four Creeks if there were convenient access from 43rd Street. In my view, mid-term plans should include development of a single main entrance on the 43rd Street corridor. Perhaps objections from neighbors to the south would be muted if the 37th Street entrance were presented as a temporary feature with a fixed sunset date. As a professional biologist (retired) I am keenly aware of the necessity of prescribed fire to maintain a semblance of natural flatwoods communities. In fact, from what I can see from the road, the area appears to be way overdue for burning. Perhaps I can be of help in the future if a public education effort is needed to build support for management actions.	Email
Shawn Webber		I live in Alachua County and would like to have multi-use singletrack trails for use by bird watchers, hikers, runners, mountain bikers, and others provided at Four Creeks Preserve. Singletrack trails are low impact to the natural surroundings since they should be designed to follow the terrain features and avoid tree removal by weaving through the forest providing a path only wide enough for 1 person to traverse. When users encounter another user, one simply yields by stepping off the trail or passing. A great example of these types of singletrack trails are provided at Sweetwater Preserve in Gainesville. This urban trail system provides easy access to users on a daily basis and introduces residents to the value of conservation and forest preservation. It is not uncommon to encounter bird watchers, dogs with their humans, trail runners, mountain bikers, and hikers on these trails any day of the week. Singletrack trails differ from fire break trails or "two track trails" since they can be constructed using hand tools or light construction methods with little impact on the natural environment which makes them a perfect fit for Four Creeks Preserve. Gainesville is home to a growing trail user community that is involved with trail building and trail maintenance in our area and throughout the State. In fact, many running and mountain bike events, have a mandatory 8 hour trail maintenance requirement that must be fulfilled prior to entry. If these trails are incorporated into the Four Creeks Preserve plan, many of us would be happy to volunteer time for design, construction, and maintenance of the park. Please consider this request for the Four Creeks Preserve and feel free to contact me if you have questions or require and further information. Thank you	Email