

## Alachua County Joint Project Grant Municipal Projects 2017

*The following information represents projects from the nine municipalities in Alachua County. The projects comply with the voter approved referendum of Wild Spaces, Public Places. The projects total \$5,970,000. The funding request through Alachua County's Joint Project Grant is a total of \$2,985,000.*

---

### City of Alachua

**Project Title:**

Legacy Park Multipurpose Fields and Amphitheater

**Project Description:**

The project is for the construction of two (2) multipurpose fields, outdoor amphitheater and related support facilities at Legacy Park. The City's Legacy Park is a 105-acre site contiguous to the existing Hal Brady Recreation Complex. Legacy Park is a regional facility serving residents throughout Alachua County. The project is consistent with the City's Legacy Park Master Plan. The multipurpose fields will be able to host sporting events such as lacrosse, football, soccer, cheerleading, etc. The outdoor amphitheater will provide a facility for community events such as concerts, theater productions, etc. The City is nearing completion of its 40,000 square foot multipurpose facility, which will complement the proposed project.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

The project will provide needed recreational multipurpose fields and an outdoor amphitheater to serve Alachua County. Both of these facilities directly support the requirements of the referendum as they create and improve park and recreational facilities.

**Project Funding Total:**

\$1,000,000

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$500,000

---

### City of Archer

**Project Title:**

The City of Archer Community Gym

**Project Description:**

The City of Archer would like to build a community gym for all the residents within the Archer area for both citizens and county residents. The gym would serve as a beacon for residents of Alachua County no matter their age, sex, nationality, and race. A place to foster new relationships and strengthen historical ones. Archer has never had a gym and we're one of the

few municipalities in Alachua County who does not have one. This project will help us make a difference in this generation and for generations to come.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

The project builds a recreation gymnasium for the residents of the Southwest part of Alachua County, which is consistent with creating and improving park and recreational facilities.

**Project Funding Total:**

\$500,000

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$250,000

---

## City of Gainesville

**Project Title:**

City of Gainesville Proposed Grant Projects

**Project Description:**

**Project 1.** Construction of the Prairie Tower at Sweetwater Wetlands Park – A two-tiered observation deck at the park’s southeastern corner would allow a panoramic, bird’s-eye view of both Sweetwater Wetlands Park and Paynes Prairie, and provide a destination point and a much-needed source of shade for visitors venturing to the far edge of the park. GRU and City of Gainesville Public Works sought grant funding to install this tower during the first phase of park development, but were unsuccessful. User groups have contacted the City of Gainesville’s Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) department about their interest in having an observation tower added at this location.

**Project 2.** Improvements to Split Rock Preserve – A very important ecological site, Haile Sink, has recently become available for purchase and is land adjacent to Split Rock Preserve. This acquisition will provide a much needed public parking area and an access point for visitors to Split Rock Preserve. It will also allow for public visitation and interpretation of the unique natural feature known as Haile Sink, which is currently privately-owned and not accessible to the public. The property offers a perfect way to educate visitors about water resources, geology, and natural, cultural and archaeological resources.

**Project 3.** Transformation of the Hartman House at the Hogtown Creek Headwaters Nature Park into a Nature Center – Renovation of the historic Hartman House will complete the park’s development and meet the City’s commitment for programming as required by the Florida Communities Trust. The house structure dates to circa 1910 and was the residence of the Hartman family, who operated a dairy farm on the property. The family owned and occupied the house for more than 100 years.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

**Project 1.** Building an observation deck at the Sweetwater Wetlands Park’s southeastern corner will allow visitors to more fully appreciate the 125 acres of man-made wetland habitat as well as

views of beautiful Paynes Prairie. The tower will give hikers a destination at the far end of the park and a place to relax in the shade before trekking back out of the park. This project complies with the criteria to improve environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources, water quality, and wildlife habitat and complies with the criteria to create, improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities.

**Project 2.** Hogtown Creek is a well-known natural feature flowing through the heart of Gainesville. The Hogtown Creek Watershed is one of the largest watersheds in the area, encompassing approximately 20 square miles of urban and suburban Gainesville. The creek flows through residential neighborhoods and commercial districts, and through the forested wetlands of City Nature Parks. Fossils such as shark's teeth, dugong rib bones, and shell molds and casts, are found in the streambed as evidence that Florida was once submerged completely underwater. Hogtown Creek eventually flows through Hogtown Prairie and disappears underground through a natural feature called a "sink" and then into the Floridan Aquifer. Haile Sink is the name of this impressive feature. Purchase of the proposed piece of land for parking will allow more visitors to experience the natural history and ecology of the park, the creek, and the sink. This project complies with the criteria to acquire and improve environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

**Project 3.** Requested funds will go toward necessary repairs to make the Hartman House stable and functional for use as a nature and historical education center. Evaluation and recommendations by the architect state that the following renovations are required: foundation pier repair (masonry), roofing, flooring, windows, interior renovations, exterior renovations, electrical, plumbing, insulation, HVAC, required ADA upgrades and ADA ramp. We propose to use the house for a nature and historical education center while keeping intact its historic character and defining features. This project complies with the criteria to create, improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities.

**Project Funding Total:**

**Project 1.** Total construction cost is estimated \$450,000.

**Project 2.** Total land value is estimated at \$620,000 at the time of this proposal, but appraisals are pending.

**Project 3.** Total renovation cost is estimated at \$250,000.

**All Projects Total:**

\$1,320,000

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$660,000

---

**City of Hawthorne**

**Project Title:**

Hawthorne Athletic Park Addition

**Project Description:**

Purchase of Hawthorne Fitness Center, metal 4228 sqft. frame building with .59 acres and two adjacent lots at .34 acres each to add to the existing Hawthorne Athletic Park. The additional building will be used as a recreation center for youth and adults, the two additional lots are slated for outdoor tennis and basketball courts.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

Improve the Hawthorne Athletic Park by expanding the recreational facilities provided to the citizens of Hawthorne and eastern Alachua County. Hawthorne Athletic Park currently serves both youth and adult organized recreational sports over 1100 youth benefiting from the Hawthorne Youth Sports programs open to any youth within the greater Hawthorne/eastern Alachua County area. By expanding the park with a recreation center and lighted basketball and tennis courts a more round recreational experience would be provided for both the youth and adults. Summer programs could be provided in the recreational center, along with open courts for basketball and tennis.

**Project Funding Total:**

\$600,000

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$300,000

---

## City of High Springs

**Project Title:**

High Springs' Springs Nature Park

**Project Description:**

This will be a "passive park" located on 10 acres around the historic area of the springs our town was named after. The project includes acquisition of approximately 9 acres and park improvements. Working with Suwannee River Water Management District, we would clean up the undergrowth on the property and put in ADA accessible paths and picnic areas. There will also be exercise stations around the park. The remaining native trees and foliage would have plaques to identify them.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

This project would comply with referendum, because it is both the acquisition of sensitive lands and is making improvements to park and recreational facilities.

**Project Funding Total:**

\$700,000

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$350,000

---

## Town of LaCrosse

**Project Title:**

NW 49th Terrace Walking Trail and Acquisition of Adjacent Property

**Project Description:**

This project would close off vehicular traffic on NW 49th Terrace in order to create a walking trail with sufficient lighting and rest areas. The project also has an acquisition component to acquire the adjacent property for additional recreation/open spaces purposes. The acquisition is estimated to acquire no more than 15 acres.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

The acquisition of property for the construction of a new recreational walking trail with open space complies with the referendum, because it meets the acquisition and recreational creation/improvement requirements.

**Project Funding Total:**

\$280,000

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$140,000

---

**Town of Micanopy****Project Title:**

TBD

**Project Description:**

Micanopy is in the evaluation stage of projects and has requested to participate in this grant program at the funding level listed below.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

The project ultimately selected by Micanopy will comply with the referendum and requirements of the grant application.

**Project Funding Total:**

\$170,000

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$85,000

---

**City of Newberry****Project Title:**

Newberry: Easton Newberry Sports Complex Recreational Improvements

**Project Description:**

Newberry's City Commission was unable to fully consider item to meet deadline for submission (our agenda for meeting was published prior to the request for this summary). Newberry's City Commission is committed to several projects at Easton Newberry Sports Complex that qualify for the grant. Most of the project relates to enhancing existing park infrastructure. These enhancement projects include lighting outdoor multipurpose turf fields, improving drainage facilities, improving driving and parking areas, providing sidewalks to improve pedestrian access to all parts of the site, addition of a recreational trail, and providing additional restroom facilities and playground equipment at the site. These projects total more than \$800,000.

Newberry's City Commission is also considering two projects that are considered additional campus assets. The first is the acquisition of 10 acres of property for construction of 3 additional multipurpose turf fields including associate amenities (ie restrooms, storage, lighting, etc). The second is an 8,000 sf expansion of our existing gymnasium facility to provide additional indoor basketball and volleyball play area. Both of these projects total approximately \$800,000 each.

Newberry's City Commission understands Alachua County's criteria for awarding grant funding to proposed projects. Newberry's City Commission understands also that it must finalize selection of a project and submit it to the Alachua County BOCC for consideration before a grant award is finalized.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

Newberry's City Commission understands Alachua County's criteria for awarding grant funding to proposed projects. The Easton Newberry Sports Complex is located adjacent to the City's wellfield and water treatment plant. The 40 acre site is subject to a conservation easement that restricts development and materials that can be used on the site, with an objective of protecting the City's water supply.

Further, the site serves Newberry and surrounding unincorporated Alachua County as a recreation center, offering indoor and outdoor archery, indoor basketball and volleyball, baseball, soccer, football, lacrosse, laser tag, RC (remote control) racing. Newberry's recreation programs offer great recreational opportunities at reasonable costs. Newberry does not differentiate between residents of Newberry and residents of unincorporated Alachua County during registration of collection of fees.

**Project Funding Total:**

\$800,000

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$400,000

---

**City of Waldo****Project Title:**

Waldo Canal Dock or Sid Martin Park Improvements

**Project Description:**

The County has allowed the use of the Waldo Canal and Park to be part of the City of Waldo. The Mayor, Council and Residents would like to see a dock at the end of the canal. This project will include the dock as well as stabilizing the area for a fire pit, picnic area and related improvements. The Dinh property Parcels 17486-000-000/17502-001-000 to the South and the Padgett Property Parcels 17487-000-000/16944-000-000 to the North are all on the Florida Forever Purchase wish list. If that were to happen this could become a great area for residents of The City of Waldo and Alachua County. We also feel it could be an additional stop if the bike path comes to Waldo.

Due to ownership questions regarding the end of the canal, Waldo is also providing an alternate project, if the property is determined to be in private ownership. The City of Waldo is actively working to resolve the ownership matter.

The alternate project is to make improvements to the Sid Martin Park Ballfields/Park. The improvements include replacement of lighting infrastructure, netting for fields, fencing and playground equipment. Sid Martin Park is a great place for area residents to utilize for local sports fields, birthday parties and family reunions. This is a true gathering place for the community. With these improvements Waldo can expand the recreation program for area residents to include adult sports as well as the lighting improvements will extend nighttime activities.

**Demonstrate how project complies with the voter approved referendum:**

Canal Dock: This project will create a beautiful recreational area. If the County land acquisitions proceed on the two adjacent properties it will also become a great wildlife habitat with possible hiking paths for people to experience natural Florida. This project is consistent with the approved referendum, because it improves parks and recreation facilities while also providing potential for improved acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources, water quality and wildlife habitat.

Sid Martin Park: This project will enhance our recreational ball park and provide expanded access to the park through lighting improvements. The project is consistent with the approved referendum, because it improves parks and recreational facilities.

**Project Funding Total:**

\$600,000 (either project)

**Grant Request Funding Total:**

\$300,000