



City of Gainesville Agenda Item Report

File Number: 2025-12

Agenda Date: January 16, 2025

Department: Wild Spaces & Public Places

Title: 2025-12 Wild Spaces & Public Places Update Presentation Proposed 2025-2027 Work Plan (B)

Department: Wild Spaces & Public Places

Description: Update on the Proposed 2025-2027 Wild Spaces & Public Places Work Plan.

Fiscal Note: The Wild Spaces Public Places half-cent sales tax was approved by voters in November of 2022 for an additional ten years and is expected to generate \$90 million in revenue to the City. The Florida Department of Revenue's Office of Tax Research has estimated revenues at \$8.7 million per year and the City of Gainesville will also receive \$3 million from Alachua County to support joint Wild Spaces & Public Places projects that have county-wide impact.

Explanation: The Vision 2020 Master Plan for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs was originally completed in 2012, and is a 20-year plan. The Master Plan guides Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs activities and Wild Spaces Public Places priorities.

Starting in 2022 and into 2023, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs hired and worked with Barth and Associates, Inc. to conduct a needs assessment to provide data to help inform future projects included in the Master Plan. This update was done at the half-way point of the 20-year plan. The needs assessment included a multi-modal approach in gathering community and stakeholder input and provided a summary of findings, as well as some recommendations.

Staff reviewed the needs assessment data, current Wild Spaces & Public Places projects, Commissioner requests, Advisory Board input, the Ballot Referendum Language, State Statute 212.055, the Interlocal Agreement with Alachua County for joint projects that have County-wide impact, the Interlocal Agreement with Alachua County through the County's WSPP Municipal Grant Program and staff evaluated existing park assets and staff capacity to assemble a list of potential projects to begin in 2025 through 2027.

Strategic Connection:

- ☒ Goal 1: Equitable Community
- ☒ Goal 2: More Sustainable Community
- ☒ Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience
- ☒ Goal 4: Resilient Local Economy
- ☒ Goal 5: “Best in Class” Neighbor Services

Recommendation: The City Commission: 1) hear a presentation, and 2) provide input on the Wild Spaces & Public Places Work Plan to establish priorities for 2025-2027.