



## City of Gainesville Agenda Report

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**File #:** 2022-772

**Agenda Date:** January 5, 2023

**Department:** Wild Spaces & Public Places

**Title:** 2022-772 Bid Award and Cooperative Purchasing Contract Authorization – Forest Park Improvement (B)

**Department:** Wild Spaces & Public Places

**Description:** This item is a request for the City Commission to authorize the bid award to Blackwater Construction Services, LLC for the Forest Park Improvement project, located at 4501 SW 20th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32607, and authorize the City to enter into a Cooperative Purchasing Contract with NGU Sports Lighting, LLC to purchase sports lighting via owner direct purchase for Forest Park.

**Fiscal Note:** Funds in the amount of \$3,702,877.00 are available for the Forest Park Improvement project from the WSPP Forest Park Wild Spaces & Public Places ½ cent sales tax project account and Wild Spaces & Public Places fund balance. Please note that \$200,000 will be reimbursed to the City through a FRDAP Fiscal Year 2022-2023 grant. Funding above and beyond the construction contract amount with Blackwater Construction Services, LLC and the contract amount with NGU Sports Lighting, LLC is for the following: permit fees (site work, building permit, and utility connections), renovation of the existing restroom building and owner's contingency. There is an anticipated annual increase in operating and maintenance cost of \$90,000 for one additional Maintenance Worker II FTE, the additional lights, irrigation, restroom cleaning, and turf management after the Forest Park Improvement project is complete. There is also an anticipated one-time cost of approximately \$62,000 for a truck, trailer, mower and hand tools to service the renovated park.

**Explanation:** In November 2017, Forest Park was acquired by the City of Gainesville through annexation from Alachua County. The park was in very poor condition when it was transferred from the County to the City and was in need of a large overhaul. The park currently contains 3 soccer fields, volleyball and basketball courts, a restroom building, a picnic pavilion, and associated parking. The soccer fields currently flood during larger storm events and need to be renovated to prevent the flooding as well as add a fourth 2/3-size field which would cater to youth and older adult soccer groups. Additional improvements include hardscape, landscape, irrigation, prefabricated shade

structures, an additional pavilion, additional site furnishings, court surfacing (pickleball and basketball), field/court equipment, fencing, water fountains, and a dog wash station.

In March 2021 the City Commission approved a project budget for improvements at Forest Park. Community engagement, surveying, geotechnical exploration, environmental assessments, design, and permitting took place from 2021 through the fall of 2022. On October 28, 2022, the Purchasing Division solicited bids for the Forest Park Improvement project. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference was held on November 9, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. at Forest Park. A total of nine (9) bidders attended the pre-bid conference. All bids were due at 2:00 p.m. on November 28, 2022. A total of three (3) bids were received by 2:00 p.m.

Staff recommends awarding this contract to Blackwater Construction Services, LLC in the amount of \$2,667,877.00 for the construction of the Forest Park Improvement Project and \$890,000.00 for the purchase and installation of sports lighting by NGU Sports Lighting, LLC under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Contract. Blackwater Construction Services, LLC was determined to be the lowest responsible, responsive bidder as stipulated by the City's competitive bidding process. The City is pursuing the owner's direct purchase of sports lighting to realize tax savings. It is anticipated that this project will begin construction in early 2023 and completed in the fall.

**Strategic Connection:** This item is connected to Goal 3: A Great Place to Live and Experience

Recommendation: The City Commission: 1) award the bid to Blackwater Construction Services, LLC for the construction of the Forest Park Improvement Project; 2) authorize the City to enter into a Cooperative Purchasing Contract with NGU Sports Lighting, LLC to purchase sports lighting via owner direct purchase for Forest Park and 3) authorize the City Manager or designee to execute all contract documents and other necessary documents, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.