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# City of Gainesville



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City of Gainesville

**WILD SPACES & PUBLIC PLACES UPDATE TO THE GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE**  
FEBRUARY 25, 2021

# Wild Spaces & Public Places History

-  **2009-2010** – First iteration of WSPP, a 2 year long ½ cent sales tax collection
-  **November 15, 2012** – PRCA Vision 2020 Master Plan approved by City Commission
-  **February 18, 2016** – City Commission approved a list of 99 potential WSPP projects and a list of potential City/County projects
-  **November 8, 2016** – Ballot initiative for WSPP approved by voters to *acquire and improve environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources, water quality, and wildlife habitat, and; to create, improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities*
-  **January 1, 2017** – 8 year long ½ cent sales tax collection began, ~\$5,808,000 per year, ~\$46.5M for Gainesville
-  **April 20, 2017** – City Commission approved WSPP projects for 2017
-  **April 20, 2017 and September 14, 2017** – City executed interlocal agreements with the County for \$3,000,000 for specific projects that have county-wide impact and \$660,000 from the County’s WSPP Municipal Grant Program
-  **September 28, 2017** – General Policy Committee received a presentation from PRCA with updates on 2017 projects and proposed projects for 2018
-  **January 10, 2019** – General Policy Committee received a presentation on WSPP 2018-2020 projects
-  **April 11, 2019** – General Policy Committee received a presentation on WSPP 2018-2020 projects
-  **May 16, 2019** – City Commission received a presentation on WSPP 2018-2020 projects
-  **August 22, 2019** – General Policy Committee received a presentation on WSPP 2018-2020 projects
-  **October 3, 2019** – City Commission received a presentation on the Clarence R. Kelly Community Center Project
-  **October 17, 2019** – City Commission received a presentation on a list of small proposed WSPP projects
-  **November 7, 2019** – City Commission received a presentation on the Masonic Lodge
-  **March 12, 2020** – General Policy Committee received a presentation on project updates, a financial overview and discussed future projects for 2021-2024
-  **January 14, 2021** – General Policy Committee received a presentation on project updates, a financial overview and discussed future projects for 2021-2024

# Agenda



## An outdoor event center in Gainesville

- The infrastructure needed to support the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire
- Existing City infrastructure
- Opportunities within Gainesville and the surrounding area
- Expansion of amenities at Fred Cone Park
- The addition of a bandshell at Ironwood Golf Course



## Tom Petty Park – Master Planning and Potential Improvements



## Glen Springs – Existing Conditions and Environmental Analysis

# An outdoor event center in Gainesville a “Festival and Arts Park”



# The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire

- For 34 years the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department (PRCA) has fostered the growth of the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire
- One of the region's most successful special events, it attracts 40,000 visitors over its traditional 2 (or 3 in 2019) weekend span. In good years it can net \$40,000.
- The relocation of Alachua County's Fairgrounds to a site which cannot accommodate the Faire has prompted the PRCA to search for alternative sites for the future.
- In doing so, we have conceived of how a new site might not only provide a space for the Faire in future years but serve as a self-sustaining location for similar events.

# Faire Map



**Legend**

	Restrooms		Stage
	ATM		Encampment
	Food		Ale House
	First Aid		Tickets
	Nursing Area		





~4,000  
Parking  
Spaces

Ticketing

Participant Parking  
500 Spaces

Stages, Merchant  
Marketplace, Food Court, Activity Areas

Backstage areas and camping

Ticketing

~1,200  
Parking  
Spaces

Gainesville  
Regional  
Airport

Santa Fe Work  
Release Center

State Rd 24

NE 39th Ave

Airport Entrance

GRACE Marketplace

# Minimum Festival and Arts Park Requirements

In the most simplistic of terms, and at its most streamlined layout, the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire can be produced on a site that provides access to main arterials and a **60-acre footprint** which includes:

- A gated perimeter of the event space
- 35 acres of surface parking (5,200 cars)
- A main entrance gate with box office, administration and restroom facilities
- 25 acres for event programming, a covered performance space and temporary camping space for participants
- Power and water at locations throughout the site





# Gainesville Festival & Arts Park



- A permanent, revolving event park with ample parking
- A new home for the Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, as well as concerts, events, heritage festivals and outdoor exhibitions produced by both the City and outside promoters
- Enhance Gainesville's role as a regional cultural destination



# Opportunities within Gainesville and the surrounding area

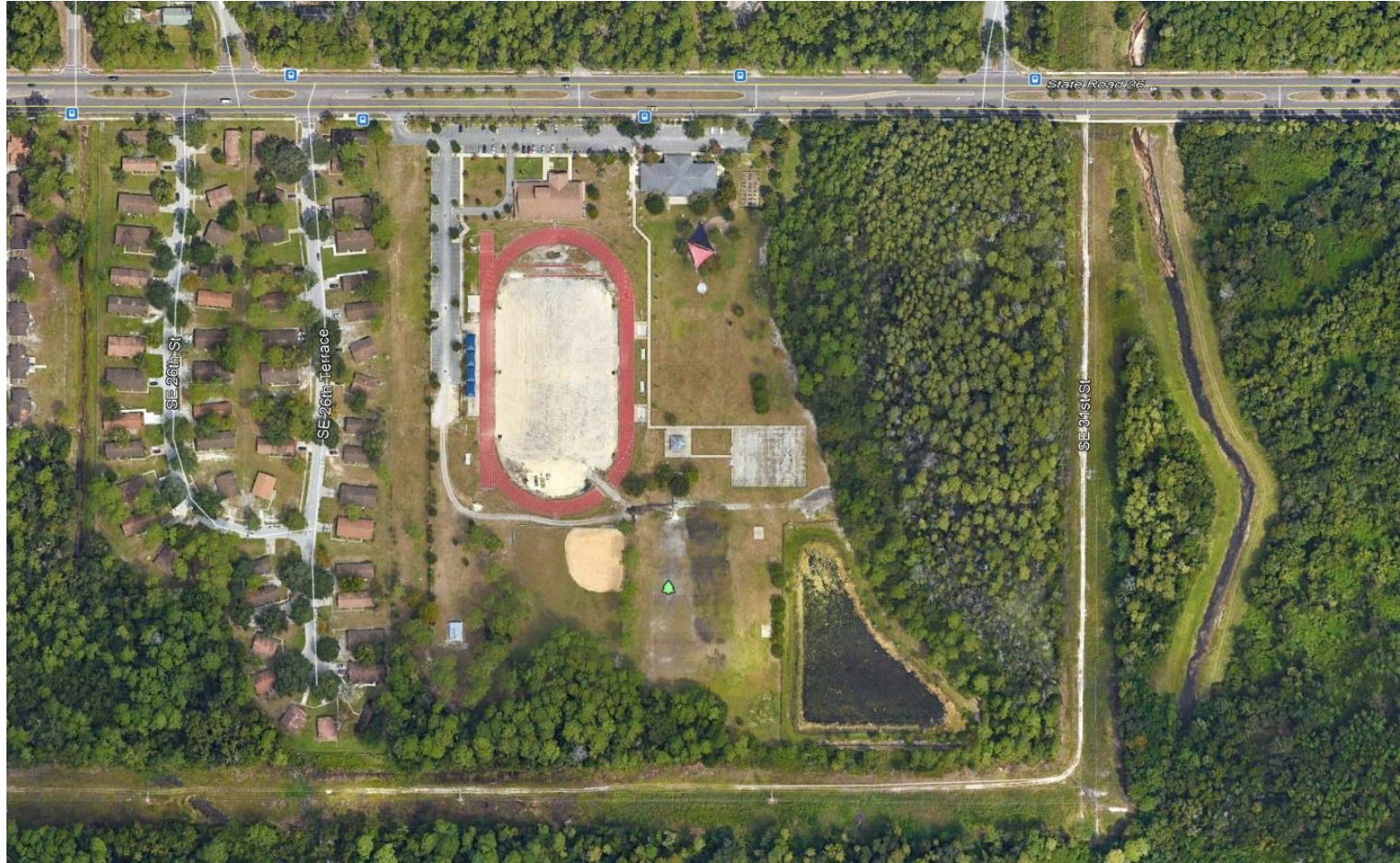
- Cultural Affairs staff have researched and investigated over 20 possible sites for both temporary and permanent homes for Hoggetowne and a Festival & Arts Park.
- This includes the City-owned properties that will be discussed in the next slide. The majority of these properties have been deemed insufficient due to amount of wetlands, accessibility, and land use restrictions.
- Staff requests the opportunity to further explore potential sites for size, suitability, and access for purchase.

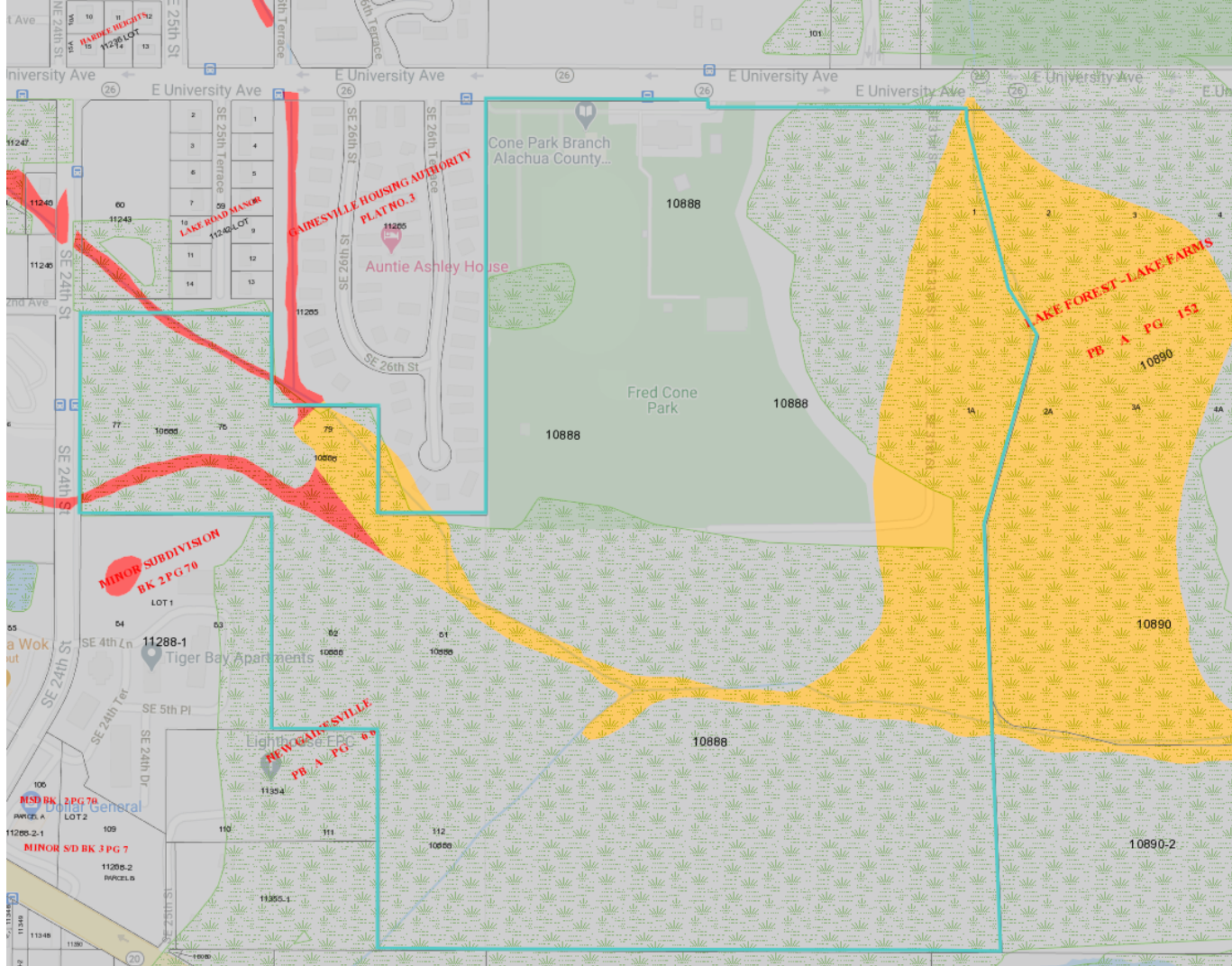
# Existing City Infrastructure

- Fred Cone Park/Cone Park Conservation Area – Development Constraints: Majority wetlands and FEMA Flood Zone AE
- Morningside Nature Center – Development Constraints: Some wetlands, small area designated as FEMA Flood Zone A, on the Registry of Protected Public Places\*
- Sugarfoot Prairie Conservation Area – Development Constraints: Open water and marsh, wetlands and within FEMA Flood Zone AE, on the Registry of Protected Public Places\*, acquired with a Florida Communities Trust grant, accessibility (narrow streets and current traffic congestion issues)
- Boulware Springs Nature Park - Development Constraints: About half of the property is within FEMA Flood Zone A, SE 15<sup>th</sup> Street is a local road that floods periodically, traffic congestion issues
- Route 121 Property - Development constraints: Approximately 60 acres with only about 40 acres usable (not large enough)

\*Property may not be sold or converted to a use that will result in a loss of value for which the property was placed on the Registry, except by a majority vote of the electors.

# Expansion of amenities at Fred Cone Park



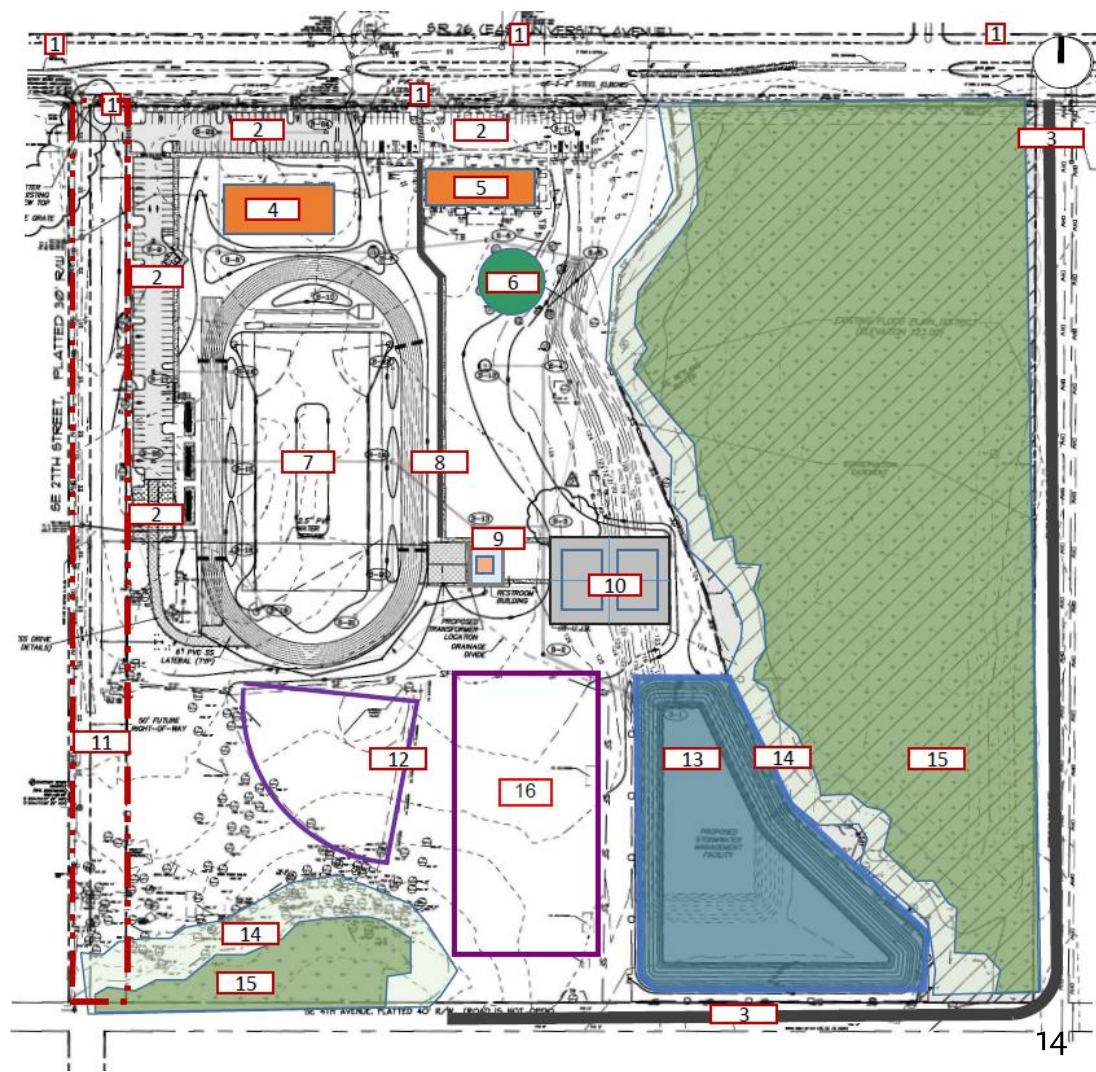


# Fred Cone Park Existing Conditions

## Legend:

1. Bus Stop
2. Parking area (191 spaces: 174 paved; 17 grass)
3. Service dirt road, SE 35<sup>th</sup> St and SE 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, no public access
4. Alachua District Library: Cone Park Branch
5. Eastside Recreation Center
6. Playground
7. Track and Field
8. Path
9. Restrooms
10. Basketball Courts
11. SE 27<sup>th</sup> St Platted 80' R/W
12. Baseball Field
13. Retention pond
14. Wetland buffer zone
15. Wetland
16. Practice Field

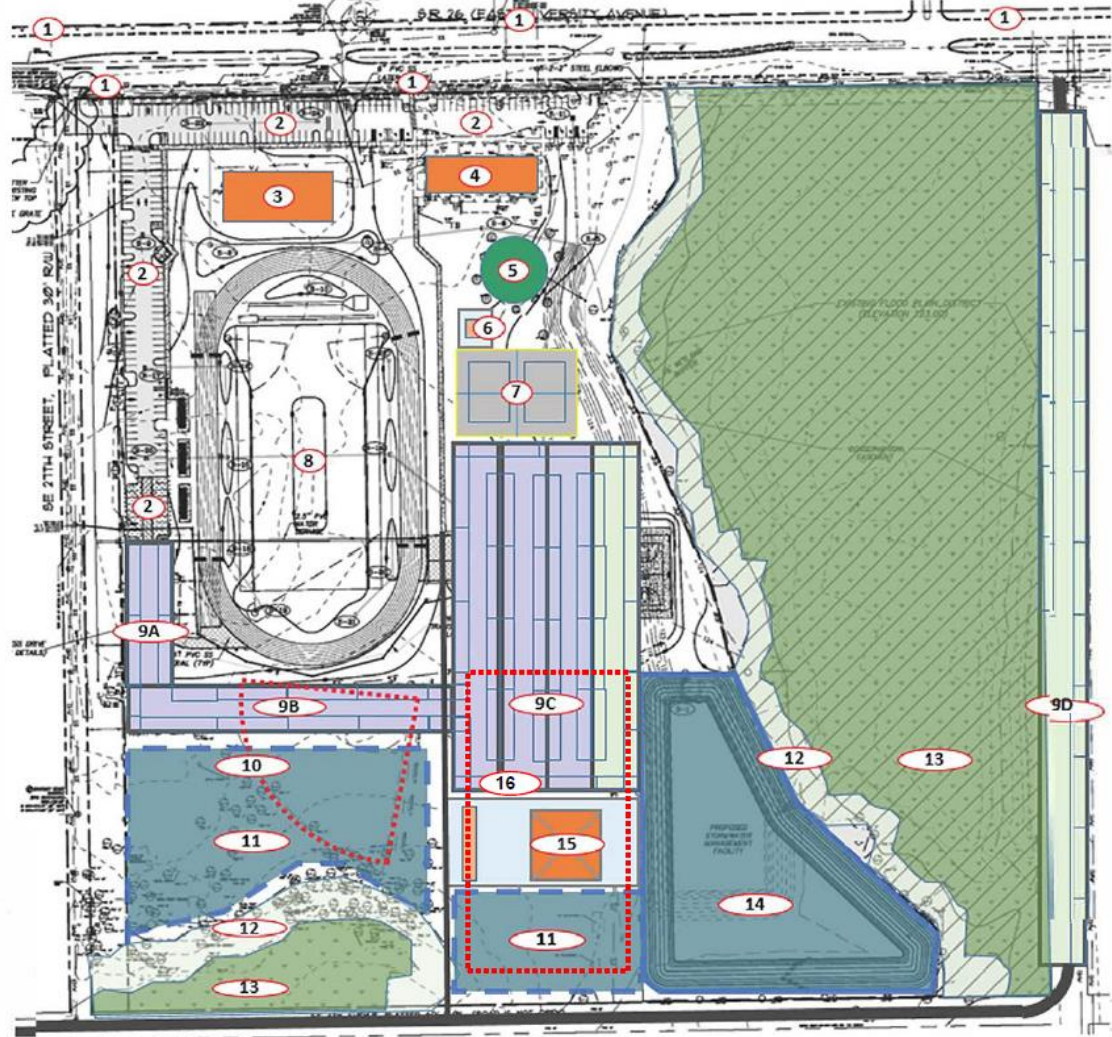
Cone Park PS Development #: DB-12-127SPA



# Fred Cone Park Event Pavilion

## Legend:

1. Bus Stop (existing)
2. Parking area (existing)
3. Alachua District Library: Cone Park (existing)
4. Eastside Recreation Center (existing)
5. Playground (existing)
6. Restrooms (new to replace existing)
7. Basketball Courts (new to replace existing)
8. Track and Field (existing)
9. Parking area (proposed)
10. Baseball Field to be removed
11. Retention pond (proposed location; extent TBD)
12. Wetland buffer zone
13. Wetland
14. Retention pond (existing)
15. Pavilion (proposed, ~10,000 SF+ restrooms/storage)
16. Practice Field to be removed



# The addition of a bandshell at Ironwood Golf Course





# The addition of a bandshell at Ironwood Golf Course - Option #1



# The addition of a bandshell at Ironwood Golf Course - Option #2



# Opportunities and Constraints

- Size of events that could be held at this location
- Parking capacity: main parking lot (100 vehicles) + auxiliary parking on the driving range (150 vehicles)
- Construction budget estimate: bandshell and associated infrastructure, additional lighting to parking areas, etc. (assumes *no* additional restrooms would be constructed at the bandshell/seating locations)
  - Option #1
  - Option #2
- O&M costs associated with managing a bandshell
  - Re-sodding the greens periodically from additional wear and tear
  - Cost per event estimated at \$1,500-\$1,600 (there would be an additional \$2,000 per event for Option #2 to bring in a portable restroom unit)

# Tom Petty Park - Master Planning



# Tom Petty Park – Master Planning and Potential Improvements

**2021/2022** – Address Immediate Needs:

- Add ADA access to fields
- Improve shade for safety and protection
- Support softball groups (equally invest in softball – recent baseball field improvements at Albert “Ray” Massey Park)
- Increased field use with better drainage/grassing
- Improved safety with more predictable playing surfaces
- Response to user feedback and need to improve play of fields

**2023** – Begin Master planning process for additional improvements

# Glen Springs - Existing Conditions and Environmental Analysis



IMAGE FROM GAINESVILLE SUN ARTICLE "MURKY POND FIT ONLY FOR UF SWIMMERS?" (BY AMY REININK. FEBRUARY 25, 2007)

# Staff Recommendations



An outdoor event center / *Festival and Arts Park* in Gainesville



Tom Petty Park



Glen Springs

# Questions?

