



City of Gainesville Master Report

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

File Number: 001112

File Number: 001112	File Type: Discussion Item	Status: Passed
Version: 1	Reference:	Controlling Body: City Manager
File Name: Update on the Alachua County Forever and Florida Communities Trust Grant Applications for 2001 (B)		Introduced: 7/23/01
Requester:	Cost:	Final Action: 7/23/01

Notes: **Title:** Update on the Alachua County Forever and Florida Communities Trust Grant Applications for 2001 (B)

Indexes: **Sponsors:**

Attachments:

History of Legislative File

Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
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City Commission	3/26/01	Approved, as shown above				Pass
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Action Note: City of Gainesville Nature Operations Manager Steve Phillips, Nature Centers Commission Representative Jack Hughes and Nature Programs Coordinator Deanna Kinnard gave presentations.

MOTION: The City Commission approve the recommendation and note that the City Commission is supporting Alachua County Forever Applications for all three projects ("Little Hatchet Creek", "Beville Creek" and "Sugarfoot Sink") and authorize staff as the recommendation indicates to move forward with them as desired and to report back to the City Commission.

Chair Paula M. DeLaney recognized Citizens John Reiskind and Susan Wright who spoke to the matter.

City Commission	7/23/01	Approved, as shown above				Pass
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Action Note: Recreation and Parks Nature Operations Director Steve Phillips gave a presentation.

MOTION: The City Commission directed staff to submit the three FCT applications indicating a 40% match for Little Hatchet Creek; a 60% match for Beville Creek and Sugarfoot Sink with the funding source as Alachua County Forever and any property owner discounts that can be obtained.



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..Title

Update on the Alachua County Forever and Florida Communities Trust Grant Applications for 2001 (B)

..Explanation

The Florida Communities Trust (FCT), Florida Forever application cycle opened on May 29, 2001. Approximately \$66 million in grants are available this funding cycle to local governments for conservation and outdoor recreation land acquisition. Based on the funds available, the limit to individual applicants will be \$6.6 million. Proposed changes to Florida Communities Trust rule (Proposed Rule 9K-7) will require that local governments with populations greater than 10,000 and counties with a permanent population greater than 75,000 provide a minimum 25% match. Points will be awarded for applications with matches as follows: 40% match = 10 points, 50% match = 20 points and 60% match = 25 points. The deadline for applications is August 13, 2001.

On November 7, 2000, the citizens of Alachua County approved the issuance of General Obligation bonds to fund the acquisition, preservation and passive recreational use of environmentally significant lands. Pursuant to Alachua County Resolution 00-100 (3) (b) adopted on October 10, 2000 and effective January 1, 2001, "Alachua County seeks to maximize the effectiveness of local tax dollars by using them to leverage funds available from federal, state, municipal, private non-profit, and Water Management District sources. The County may own land in partnership with other agencies. The County may preferentially elect to designate Alachua County Forever (ACF) bond proceeds as matching funds for perpetual federal, state, municipal, private non-profit or Water Management District land acquisition projects if the Land Conservation Board (LCB) and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) determine that any such project adequately meets the eligibility requirements established in the site ranking criteria or otherwise confirms with the above-stated overall goals of this program. The county need not hold title to such lands, or may hold title in partnership with other agencies. Grant matches made under this provision shall be included on the list of active acquisition projects for the purpose of establishing funding priorities."

On March 26, 2001, Nature Operations Manager Steve Phillips, Nature Centers Commission Representative Jack Hughes and Nature Programs Coordinator Deanna Kinnard gave a presentation to the City Commission on the Alachua County Forever and Florida Communities Trust Applications for 2001. At that meeting the City Commission approved the recommendation from the Nature Centers Commission and City Staff to support the Alachua County Forever Funding Application for "Little Hatchet Creek", "Beville Creek" and "Sugarfoot Sink" and authorized staff to move forward with them as desired and to report back to the City Commission.

The first week of April 2001, the City of Gainesville submitted to Alachua County the funding request for these three tracts of land. The City of Gainesville requested Alachua County Forever consider at least the minimum match funding in order for the City to apply for the Florida Communities Trust land acquisition grant. In speaking with the Alachua County staff responsible for the Alachua County Forever funding project, it was indicated that Alachua County will not be in a position to recommend funding on any of the City's funding requests until the fall, after the FCT grant deadlines are due. It was felt that this would be before the FCT governing board meets in late November. If so, this would allow the City to submit those three FCT grant applications contingent upon an Alachua County Forever funding match, but at this point there is no indication at what funding level, if any, would be recommended.

Nature Operations staff attended an FCT workshop on the grant application process and found that the grant applications have changed from past years so the City will have to rewrite all three applications if we are to apply. At the workshop, FCT staff provided a General Information Handbook on the new Florida Communities Trust Florida Forever Program that contains general information needed to prepare and submit a grant application to FCT. Included is a Project Self-Score Check Sheet, which is to be used prior to preparing an application to determine if a



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proposed project is likely to achieve a competitive evaluation score. FCT staff indicated that if a project falls below 150 points out of the 305 points possible the project probably would not be competitive enough to apply.

Based on a preliminary ranking of the three FCT properties, they scored as follows: Little Hatchet Creek - 135 points; Beville Creek - 100 points; and Sugarfoot Sink - 90 points. These scores do not include any points for matching. In order for the City to be in the funding range based on FCT's estimation, the City would need a 40% match for the Little Hatchet Creek proposal (approximately \$688,800). This would give that parcel approximately 145 points. Beville Creek and Sugarfoot Sink would not be in the funding range if they each received 60% match (Beville Creek - 125 points; and Sugarfoot Sink - 115 points). City staff is prepared to apply for all three FCT applications if so approved.

..Fiscal Note

Total grant monies available to the City in this FCT funding cycle is \$6.6 million. The funding requested for the "Little Hatchet Creek" proposal is \$1,722,000, (\$430,500 minimal grant match required), for "Beville Creek" proposal is \$910,000, (\$227,500 minimal grant match required) and for the "Sugarfoot Sink" the proposal is \$1,909,500 (\$477,375 minimal grant match required), for a total proposal of \$4,541,500. The minimum grant match of 25% from Alachua County Forever is \$1,135,375; however, matching funds below 40% do not contribute points towards the grant award. A 40% match would total \$1,816,600, a 50% match would total \$2,270,750 and a 60% match would total \$2,724,900.

..Recommendation

Hear an update from staff and provide direction on which FCT grants to apply for and their level of funding match.