



## Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

# Private Purchase of Public Lands

Gainesville City Commission  
May 16, 2013

8/9/11 – Private purchase of public land issue referred to RCAPW Committee

8/18/11 - Nature Centers Commission (NCC) reviewed issue and sent letter to Mayor Lowe recommending against the sale of public conservation land

10/10/11 – RCAPW Committee heard discussion of topic

- Staff recommended that designated conservation land should not be considered for disposition

- RCAPW Committee instructed staff to draft a policy regarding the disposal of conservation land

Nov.- Dec. 2011 - Staff drafted a policy regarding the disposal of conservation land

Jan. 2012 – DRAFT policy was reviewed by NCC and City Attorney's office

2/13/12 – DRAFT policy was reviewed by RCAPW Committee

# Background

2/13/12 – RCAPW Committee requested staff make revisions to the DRAFT policy

6/5/12 – RCAPW Committee reviewed and discussed the revised DRAFT policy

10/15/12 - City Manager sent letter to representatives of Mr. Nathan Collier regarding Mr. Collier's ongoing interest in purchasing specific property in the Hogtown Creek Greenway

# Background

- 11/14/12 – City Manager received letter from Mr. Collier making an offer to purchase five acres of Hogtown Creek Greenway property for \$1 million
- Staff advised that Real Estate Guidelines dictate the property would need to be declared surplus by the City Commission and made available for purchase through an open bid process for the City Commission to entertain offers

11/26/12 – RCAPW Committee discussed Mr. Collier's offer to purchase five acres of Loblolly Woods Nature Park for \$1 million

- Citizens attending spoke on this topic both in favor and in opposition to the proposal
- RCAPW Committee referred the issue back to the full City Commission for consideration

12/13/12 – NCC reviewed issue of Collier proposal

1/9/13 - NCC sent letter to Mayor and City Commissioners opposing the sale of public conservation land without first having an approved policy on disposition of designated public conservation lands, and further recommending not to surplus or sell the 5-acre parcel of Loblolly Nature Park

- Sale of the identified property could potentially result in revenue of \$1 million that could be used for recreation and park infrastructure enhancement and improvements.





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Park Boundary

Park Boundary

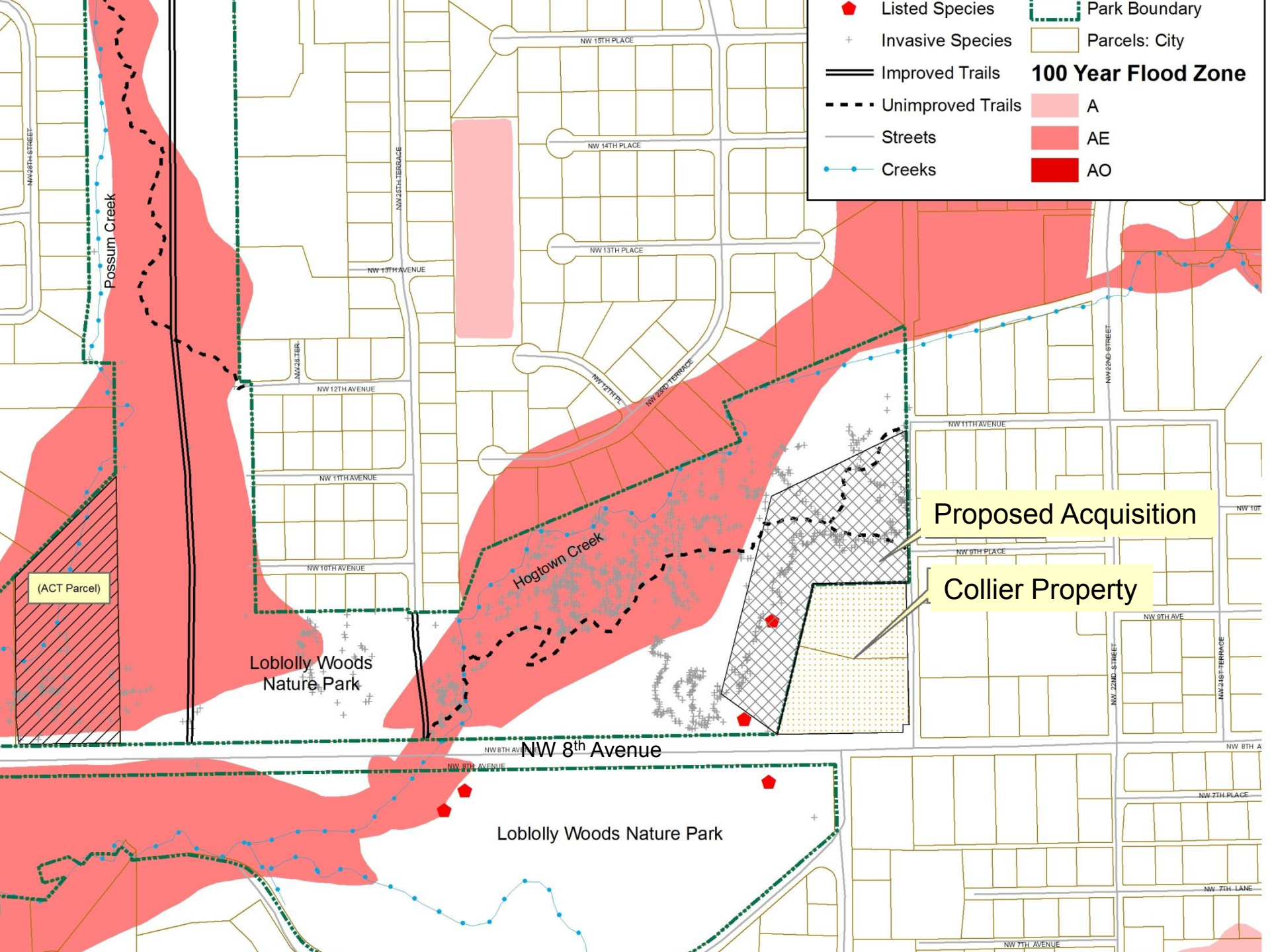
Park Boundary

Proposed Acquisition

Collier Property

NW 8th Avenue





# Recommendation

The City Commission hear an update on the referral and consider options including the following:

- 1) If interested in considering a sale of the property, direct the City Manager to initiate a process to declare the property surplus and solicit bids for purchase of the property with
  - a) no specified constraints on future use of the property or
  - b) a conservation easement on the property; or

- 2) discontinue further consideration of the request to sell the property and remove this item from the referral list.

Questions?