

Citizen's Report 1999

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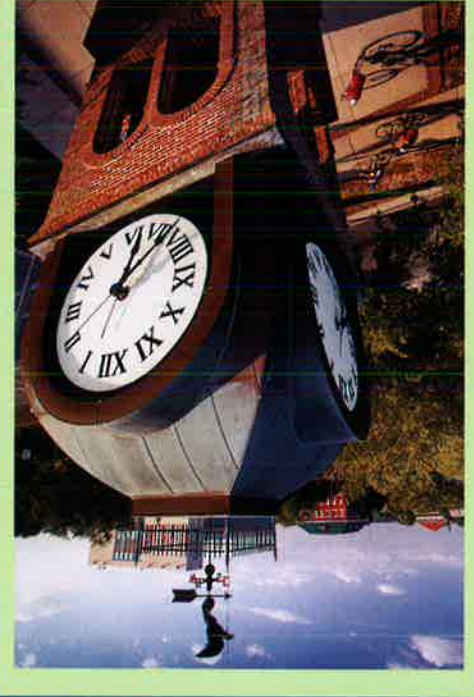
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Check out the City's website at – <http://www.state.fl.us/gvl>

This Document was produced at a total cost of \$9,989 or \$1.33 per copy, to inform the public about City services and finances. Currently, only 7,500 copies are printed annually and mailed to a random sample of residents. If you would like to receive a copy, contact the Finance Department at 334-5054.

In-house Photographer: Johanna Tjcken Willink



Cover artwork by John Moran, a Florida nature photographer and Gainesville Sun Senior Photographer. Special thanks to Artist John Moran for supplying the cover artwork. A bird's eye photo-graphic view of the Clock Tower overlooking historic downtown Gainesville.

Report to the Citizen

This report was prepared to inform residents about the City of Gainesville, its operations, services and programs, and its financial condition. It is suitable for those readers who prefer an overview or summary of City government and its financial condition.

The following pages provide brief descriptive information about your government's organizational structure and how that structure relates to the services provided to the citizens of Gainesville. Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) information, which is a major component of our organization, is included in this report but in a condensed format. GRU issues a separate report to comply with its bond requirements.

The financial information presented here is in condensed and summarized form, but does not substitute for the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR outlines the City's financial position and operating activities for each year presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. This Citizen's Report does not conform to generally accepted accounting principles and associated reporting standards as set forth by applicable governing bodies. Some of the statistical information is from the City's Financial and Operating Plan (annual budget). Both of these documents have received awards for outstanding financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. The CAFR, the City's Financial and Operating Plan, and this Citizen's Report, as well as other referenced material, are available at the Alachua County Library District. You may also find other information regarding the City on the City's website. <http://www.state.fl.us/gvl>

In keeping with our commitment to excellence, we proudly present this report to you. We hope this report will give you a better understanding of the services the City provides, its accomplishments, and its overall financial condition. We welcome your comments and suggestions to improve our presentation.

Your City

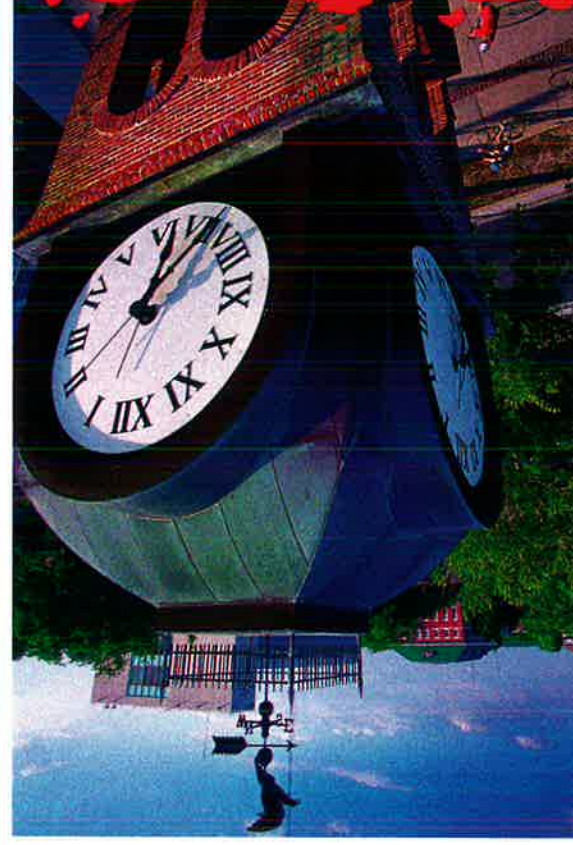
The City of Gainesville, Florida, is the county seat and largest city in Alachua County. The City was founded in 1854 and incorporated in 1869. There are approximately 49 square miles of land included within the corporate boundaries of the City. The population is currently estimated at 101,405.

Gainesville is a beautiful and progressive city, and a leader in promoting intelligent, sustainable growth. A dense canopy of trees justifies the description of Gainesville as a "city in a forest." For the 16th straight year, Gainesville has been named "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation and was presented the "Gold Leaf Award" from the International Society of Arboriculture in 1998. Gainesville is the first city in Florida to receive this award for excellence in community Arbor Day celebrations.

Gainesville is home to the University of Florida, the state's leading research institution; and Santa Fe Community College, a provider of excellent professional and vocational education. The City houses one of the largest medical communities in the Southeastern U.S., and is the center for commerce, art, and culture for North Central Florida.

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If you would like a copy of the results of this survey call 334-5032, after September 30, 2000 and a free copy will be mailed to you. Also, check out the City's website. <http://www.state.fl.us.gvl>

28. Please make any other comments you have regarding the Citizen's Report, in the space below.

	Annually	Every 3 years	Every 5 years	Other (please specify)
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If yes, how often?

27. At a cost of approximately \$1.33 per copy, should the City continue to provide this report to its taxpayers?

	Yes	No
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If so, what?

26. Is there any information you would add or delete from the report?

	Yes	No
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If no, why?

25. Do you feel this report provides useful information to City residents?

	Yes	No
--	-----	----

24. Did you find the report easy to read?

	Yes	No
--	-----	----

23. Did you like the Citizen's Report?

	Yes	No
--	-----	----

22. Did you answer this survey before reading the 1999 Citizen's Report?

	Yes	No
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21. In the space below, please make any comments you have regarding City programs and services. (Remember, this survey is anonymous.)

20. What zip code do you live in?

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18. Your age:

18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	over 64
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19. Your race/ethnicity:

Black	White	Hispanic	Asian	Other
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17. Number of individuals in your household

1	2	3	4 or more
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16. Your gender:

Male	Female
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(Include money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

15. For statistical purposes, please indicate family's total annual income BEFORE TAXES for 1999.

\$0-10,000	\$10,001-30,000	\$30,001-50,000	over \$50,000
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14. Rank the order of issues which you feel are the most important problems for City officials to work on first. Put a '1' next to the issue you feel is most important, a '2' next to the second most important issue, etc.

B. What would encourage you to use the City bus service more often? (Check all that apply)

Nothing	More friendly service	Lower fare
Smaller buses	Cleaner buses	New routes
More frequent buses	Extended hours	Buses being on time

13. A. In the past 3 months, how many times have you used the City bus service (RTS)?

0	1-5	6-10	Over 10
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For the 16th year, Gainesville has been named "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

I am very proud to serve as Mayor for our City, and appreciate the opportunity to share some of my thoughts on our vision for the future. This community, although the city is not responsible for expansion beyond its urban boundaries, we have a great responsibility to make the urban core a most attractive alternative. The City Commission continues to support beautification efforts through landscaping, tree-planting, and improved lighting.

The City Commission has a long-standing commitment to economic development. Creating economic opportunities for our citizens continues to be at the top of the list of important community goals. We have funded various economic development initiatives and organizations. The City of Gainesville continues to identify ways to enhance citizen participation. We have created many collaborative opportunities where we can involve our citizens earlier instead of later in the process. We have also identified ways to strengthen neighborhoods. We know that neighborhoods are the building blocks of our community. Growth management is probably the most important issue facing this community. Although the city is not responsible for expansion beyond its urban boundaries, we have a great responsibility to make the urban core a most attractive alternative. The City Commission continues to support beautification efforts through landscaping, tree-planting, and improved lighting.

My vision for our community is to be the very best city with the very best managed local government. Our goal is to build a community where all people live in a safe environment with good housing in stable neighborhoods and feel connected, where our infrastructure is appropriate and well maintained; and where citizens consider their local government a partner in achieving these community goals. It is our continued goal to have energetic leadership at all levels of general government and Gainesville Regional Utilities.

Message from Mayor Paula M. Delaney



Mayor Delaney and Parks staff display the new City flag.

Creating economic opportunities for our citizens continues to be at the top of the list of important community goals.



Your Government

Your government has operated under a Commission-Manager form of government since 1927. The City Commission is responsible for enacting the ordinances and resolutions that govern the City. The City Manager, who is appointed by the City Commission, is responsible for the operations and management of all departments of City government except for those under the control of other charter officers. The City Manager implements the policy directives of the City Commission. The current organizational structure is depicted below.

The City provides its residents with a wide variety of municipal services including police and fire protection, comprehensive land use planning and zoning services, code enforcement and neighborhood improvement. Construction and maintenance of the City's infrastructure is a very important ongoing service as are the planning and operation of the traffic engineering systems. Cultural opportunities, nature trails and parks, and recreation programs including a championship golf course help make Gainesville one of the most livable cities in the nation. The City provides refuse removal and recycling services through a contract with a franchised commercial operator. The City owns and operates a regional transit system serving the community, the University of Florida, and a portion of unincorporated Alachua County. The City also provides the administrative services to support these activities. The preceding services are accomplished through various City departments under the direct supervision and leadership of the City Manager.

Additionally, the City owns and operates a regional electric, water, wastewater, natural gas, and telecommunication utilities system. The utility operations are overseen by the General Manager for Utilities who reports directly to the City Commission.

The City's financial statements are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. Government resources are allocated to, and accounted for, in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The various funds are grouped into seven fund types within three broad fund categories, plus two Account Groups.

The following pages provide descriptive information about the major services and programs of each City department, as well as an overview of the City's fund structure and the resources that finance those services and programs.



Organization Chart

DETACH HERE AND RETURN IN ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

Questions 6-10 evaluate GPD's response to a specific incident. If you have not had any direct contact with GPD in the last year please go to question 11.

6. Reason for your direct contact with the Gainesville Police Department.

Ticket	Suspect	Victim	Witness	Community Activity	Traffic Incident	Other

7. Evaluation of officer/GPD staff contact.

Manner in which situation was handled.	Helpfulness	Attitude	Level of officer's concern	Level of professionalism	Competence	Appearance	Length of time for officer to arrive (if relevant)	Printed information about rights provided (if relevant)

8. Did an investigator/detective follow up on your case? If No, go to Question 10

Yes No

9. If an investigator/detective followed up, how satisfied were you?

Amount of time to contact you	Service provided by investigator/detective	Level of courtesy and friendliness	Helpfulness	Attitude	Level of professionalism	Competence	Appearance

10. What could the officer have done to increase your level of satisfaction with the services provided?

Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor

11. A. In the past 3 months, how many times have you visited a City nature park (Morningstar, Bivens Arm, etc.) or a City recreational park? (Westside, McPherson, etc.)

0	1-5	6-10	Over 10

B. If more than 0, how would you rate...

The cleanliness	The level of safety	The attractiveness	Maintenance of the park	Maintenance of the sports fields	The educational value

12. A. Do you feel the City of Gainesville needs more parks?

Yes No Don't Know

B. If yes, in what sector of town? (NW, NE, SW, SE)

NW	NE	SW	SE

C. What kinds of facilities? (baseball/soccer fields, pool, gym, center)

Citizen's Survey

This questionnaire is included in the 1999 Citizen's Report which is mailed out during the spring of 2000. The addresses were selected from a random stratified sample of GRU customers within the City limits.

1. Overall, how would you rate the services provided by the City of Gainesville?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know
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2. Please rate the quality of each of the following City services, and the importance of each one to you. (Check one answer on each side for each response)

Police protection	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Fire protection							
City parks - e.g. Westside, McPherson							
Cultural events and exhibits							
Recreational programs							
Nature parks and greenways							
City buses (RTS)							
Building and codes enforcement							
Recycling program							
Trash collection (Waste Management)							
Street maintenance and repairs							
Maintenance of the City's tree canopy							
Ironwood golf course							
Mosquito control							
Planning and Zoning							

3. In the past 12 months, have you or your family done any of the following? If yes, how would rate the helpfulness of the person(s) who handled your question or problem? (Check one answer on each side for each response)

Called for a City paramedic (911)	Yes	No	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Called for mosquito control						
Called the City or Waste Management about trash						
Called the Gainesville Fire Dept. (911)						
Called the Gainesville Police Dept. (911)						
Contacted the City to report poor road conditions						

4. In the past 12 months, have you or your family done any of the following? If yes, how would you rate your overall experience? (Check one answer on each side for each response.)

Attended a City-sponsored concert, art festival, fair, or event	Yes	No	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Participated in a City athletic program						
Participated in other City recreational programs						
Recycled paper, cans, or bottles from your home						
Ridden a City bus						
Visited a City nature area; e.g. Morningside, King Park						
Visited a recreational park; e.g. Westside, McPherson						
Played golf at Ironwood golf course						

5. This question evaluates your general impression of the services of the Gainesville Police Department (GPD). Your opinion of personal safety in the City of Gainesville Your general quality of service by GPD Your impression of professionalism of GPD staff

Your opinion of personal safety in the City of Gainesville	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Your general quality of service by GPD					
Your impression of professionalism of GPD staff					



City Commission



The City Commission consists of five members. Three are elected from single-member districts and two are elected City-wide. In March 1998, the residents of Gainesville elected their first directly elected Mayor since 1927. Previously, mayors were elected from among the commission. The Mayor retained the same power as held in the prior Mayor-Commissioner form of government. Two additional City Commissioners will be added when the City's population reaches 110,000.

The City Commission performs such duties as passing the City's fiscal budget, setting the millage rate, and approving the ordinances and resolutions, which are our local laws and policies. They are ultimately responsible to the residents of Gainesville.

The City Commission appoints the City's five charter officers. The functions of these officers are described below.

5 ELECTED OFFICIALS

TOTAL EXPENSES \$168,238



City Manager Wayne Bowers

Charter Officers

The City Manager is the administrative head of general government. The City Manager is responsible for the administration of all the departments except for those under the direction of the other charter officers. The City Manager's office oversees all general government programs and services, is responsible for enforcing all City laws and ordinances, acts as purchasing agent for the City, prepares the budget, and performs other duties as assigned by the City Commission. These tasks are accomplished through the selection and supervision of the Assistant City Manager and eight departmental directors.

4 BUDGETED POSITIONS

TOTAL EXPENSES \$353,316

From left to right (above): Commissioner John R. Barrow (District 2); Commissioner Pegeen Hanrahan (District 3); Mayor Paula M. Delaney (At-Large); Mayor-Commissioner Pro Tem Bruce L. Delaney (At-Large); and Commissioner Edward L. Jennings, Sr. (District 1).

City of Gainesville

OUR MISSION

We will make Gainesville the most livable and best-managed city by providing courteous and quality services through teamwork, innovation, and a total commitment to excellence.

Charter Officers



Grand Marshal Commissioner Ed Jennings with his wife Betty at the City's Holiday Parade.



PHOTO BY CARL HANNESS

City Attorney

The Office of the City Attorney has three principal responsibilities. First, the City Attorney is the chief legal officer for the City of Gainesville. The Attorney's office prosecutes and defends the interests of the City in lawsuits and administrative proceedings. Second, the City Attorney prepares legal documents and provides legal advice and opinions to the elected and appointed officers, employees, and agents of the City. Last, the Office represents the Gainesville Alachua County Regional Airport Authority, the Gainesville Enterprise Zone Development Agency, the Board of Trustees of the Employees Pension Plan, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the Gainesville Code Enforcement Board.

13 BUDGETED POSITIONS
TOTAL EXPENSES \$891,797

City Auditor

The Office of the City Auditor is an independent appraisal activity established to evaluate City programs by means of financial compliance and operational audits. These include reviewing the reliability and integrity of financial information; reviewing established systems for compliance with policies, procedures, and laws; reviewing the means of safeguarding City assets; and conducting reviews to determine whether program results are consistent with the goals and objectives of the City.

4.5 BUDGETED POSITIONS
TOTAL EXPENSES \$336,467

Clerk of the Commission

The Clerk of the Commission provides general support to the City Commission, maintains the City's vital records, and performs research requested by the City Commission, city staff, and citizens. The Clerk also attends and records all City Commission meetings, certifies official documents, and prepares City Commission agendas and minutes. During 1999, the Clerk's office expanded the City Commission hotline to allow citizens to contact their Commissioners via E-mail during regularly scheduled meetings. Area residents were given notice of advisory board openings on the Government Channel 12 before and during City Commission meetings.

9.5 BUDGETED POSITIONS
TOTAL EXPENSES \$521,404

General Manager for Utilities

The Utility's General Manager oversees the operation of Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU). GRU provides the Gainesville urban area with electric, water, wastewater, natural gas, and telecommunication services. GRU serves approximately 74,000 homes and businesses with one or more of these services. GRU also provides wholesale electric service to the City of Alachua. The residents of Gainesville own the utility, and income generated helps fund about 38% of the City's General Fund annual budget. In 1999, \$27.5 million dollars were returned to the City's General Fund to help support city services such as police and fire protection, parks and recreation, and transportation. Total expenses and budget information can be found in GRU's separately issued report.

Dear Citizen

You, the taxpayer, are the best judge of the quality of service your government provides. We know you expect the highest quality of service and to be treated with courtesy and friendliness. To ensure that quality of service, please take a few minutes to answer the questions on the next three pages.

This survey is designed to help us evaluate public opinion of City services and programs. Your household has been chosen at random to participate in this survey. To accurately reflect the views of all people living in Gainesville, we would like you to utilize the following method to determine the respondent in your household: Please select the adult (anyone 18 years or older) who most recently had his or her birthday.

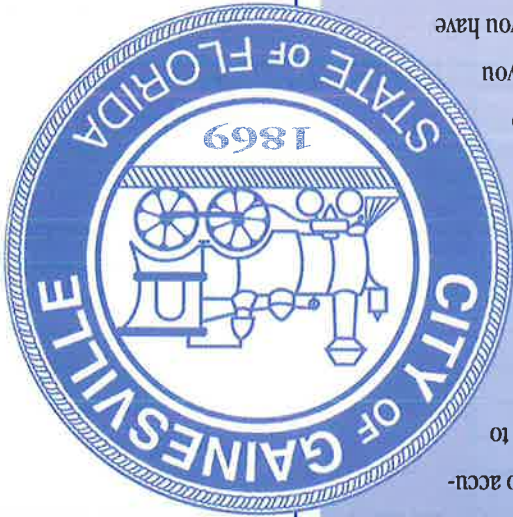
Be assured that all of your answers are given in complete anonymity. Let me stress again that your participation in this survey is very important, especially because you are one of the few households being asked to report your opinions about City services. It is equally important that you choose your household's respondent by the method described above. If you have any questions about this survey, feel free to contact the Office of Management and Budget at 334-5032.

In addition to the Citizen's Opinion Survey on services, we are also very interested in any comments you have on this Citizen's Report. Presently, we are mailing Citizen's Reports to a random stratified sample of GRU customers within the city limits. The report can be found in the public library, and anyone interested in receiving a copy may contact the Finance Department at 334-5054.

Thank you,

Wayne Bowers

Wayne Bowers
City Manager



Citizen's Opinion Survey



Advisory Boards & Committees

Gainesville has long been admired for its participatory style of government. The City has many advisory boards and committees that provide residents an opportunity to contribute to their local government and participate in significant policy decisions. Current boards and committees are listed below. For further information, please call the City Clerk's office at 352-334-5015.

Art in Public Places Trust – 7-member committee is established for each major public constructed project.

Bicycle / Pedestrian Advisory Board – 12 members City residency required for City appointments. The Board shall study 20-87 Gainesville's Code of Ordinances, and make recommendations to the City Commission, the County Commission, and the MPO on all matters concerning planning, implementation, and maintenance of policies, and efficient infrastructure for the safe and efficient integration of bicyclists and pedestrians into the urban area transportation system.

College Park/University Heights Redevelopment Board – 9 members To the extent possible, members of each advisory board should reside or work in the district. Appointed by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Development Review Board – 7 members City residency required. The Development Review Board is a citizen board that reviews, approves or denies development plans submitted for review pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 20-87 Gainesville's Code of Ordinances.

Disabled and Elderly Citizens Advisory Board – 8 members Gainesville Cultural Affairs Board advises the Director of Cultural Affairs City residency not required. The purpose of the board is to study problems in the City relating to the needs and concerns of the disabled and elderly citizens.

Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board – 7 members To the extent possible, members of each advisory board should reside or work in the district. Appointed by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

Fair Housing Board – 9 members City residency required. The board may conduct investigations and hearings and enforcement proceedings authorized by Chapter 893 F.S., Sec. 8-97.

Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Redevelopment Advisory Board – 7 members To the extent possible, resources and submit recommendations and documentation to the City Commission; develop programs to stimulate public interest in urban neighborhood conservation policies and goals; advise property owners concerning handling and grant sources for removal, including those recommended for removal, which might be available for the identification, archaeological, and cultural resources; and cooperate with City, County, Regional, State and Federal Governments in site, building, structures, and private, for listing on the local Register for Historic Places.

Fire Safety Board of Adjustment – 5 members City residency not required. The Board serves as an appeals board, authorized to hear appraisals and to vary the application of any provision of the Community Development Block Grant Commission and City Manager regarding various fire safety codes.

Gainesville Code Enforcement Board – 7 members City residency required. The Gainesville Code Enforcement Board shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide cases in which violations are alleged of provisions of various Gainesville City codes

Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee – 9 members City residency not required. The Committee advises the City Commission on energy policy matters and reviews the continuing work of the Gainesville Regional Utilities.

City Plan Board – 7 members City residency required. The City Plan Board beautification.

Commission on matters pertaining to studies, investigates, develops, assists, and recommends to the City required. The City Beautification Board 15 members City residency not required. The City Beautification Board programs and projects.

City Beautification Board – 15 members City residency not required. The City Beautification Board programs and projects.

Consolidated Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan – 5 members City residency required for the two City members appointed by the City Commission. The Board of Trustees oversees and administers the pension plans of the Police Officers and Firefighters for the City of Gainesville.

Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development – 15 members City residency not required. The Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development (CACD) makes recommendations to the City Commission and City Manager regarding various fire safety codes.

Fire Safety Board of Adjustment – 5 members City residency not required. The Board serves as an appeals board, authorized to hear appraisals and to vary the application of any provision of the Community Development Block Grant Commission and City Manager regarding various fire safety codes.

Gainesville Code Enforcement Board – 7 members City residency required. The Gainesville Code Enforcement Board shall have jurisdiction to hear and decide cases in which violations are alleged of provisions of various Gainesville City codes

Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee – 9 members City residency not required. The Committee advises the City Commission on energy policy matters and reviews the continuing work of the Gainesville Regional Utilities.

City Plan Board – 7 members City residency required. The City Plan Board beautification.

Development Agency – 9 members City residency not required. Created to carry out the economic development and redevelopment purposes of Chapter 290, Florida Statutes.

Gainesville Enterprise Zone Development Agency – 9 members City residency not required. Created to carry out the economic development and redevelopment purposes of Chapter 290, Florida Statutes.

Gainesville Enterprise Zone Development Agency – 9 members City residency not required. Created to carry out the economic development and redevelopment purposes of Chapter 290, Florida Statutes.

Gainesville Housing Authority – 5 members City residency not required. The authority establishes policy and is responsible for the planning, financing, construction, leasing, managing and maintaining of low-rent public housing, subject to applicable laws, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City Commission.

Attars Board – 15 members Gainesville Cultural Affairs Board advises the Director of Cultural Affairs City residency not required. The purpose of the board is to study problems in the City relating to the needs and concerns of the disabled and elderly citizens.

Board of Trustees of the Consolidated Police Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement Plan – 5 members City residency required for the two City members appointed by the City Commission. The Board of Trustees oversees and administers the pension plans of the Police Officers and Firefighters for the City of Gainesville.

Board of Adjustment – 5 members City residency not required. The Board serves as an appeals board, authorized to hear appraisals and to vary the application of any provision of the Community Development Block Grant Commission and City Manager regarding various fire safety codes.

Historic Preservation Board – 9 members City residency required. The responsibilities of this Board are to update the official inventory of cultural resources and submit recommendations and documentation to the City Commission; develop programs to stimulate public interest in urban neighborhood conservation policies and goals; advise property owners concerning handling and grant sources for removal, including those recommended for removal, which might be available for the identification, archaeological, and cultural resources; and cooperate with City, County, Regional, State and Federal Governments in site, building, structures, and private, for listing on the local Register for Historic Places.

Tree Board of Appeals – 3 members City residency not required. The Tree Board of Appeals has been established to hear appeals regarding dangerous or dead trees designated for removal, including those recommended for removal, which might be available for the identification, archaeological, and cultural resources; and cooperate with City, County, Regional, State and Federal Governments in site, building, structures, and private, for listing on the local Register for Historic Places.

Water Management Committee – 7 members City residency not required. Responsibilities include assessing the quality and quantity of water resources available to the citizens of Gainesville.

Nature Centers Commission – 12 members City residency not required. The Nature Centers Commission assists the City Commission through recommendations and advice given in respect to developing programs, ordinances, use regulations and resource management policies as required to protect the natural system and other values to the Nature Centers of the City of Gainesville.

Pension Review Committee – 5 members City residency not required. The Committee shall assist the City Commission in carrying out its fiduciary responsibility as Board of Trustees of the City's pension funds by acting as an Advisory Committee on investment matters and Board referrals. The Committee shall also review investment policies and Investment Manager performance.

Public Recreation Board – 9 members City residency not required. The Public Recreation Board advises the City Commission and offers recommendations as to the needs of the City on all matters pertaining to recreation within the City.

Regional Transit System Advisory Board – 9 members City residency required for City appointments. The duties required for City appointments, the Board shall be to advise the City Commission on all matters relating to the Regional Transit System.

Tree Advisory Board – 5 members City residency not required. The Board shall act as the technical information collector, clarify tree regulations, act on referrals, assist in the creation of a Master Tree Plan, assist in the development of the goals and objectives for the City's Comprehensive Plan with respect to trees, advise all departments of the City on tree issues, and develop tree projects, and serve on the Tree Board of Appeals.

Three Board of Appeals – 3 members City residency not required. The Tree Board of Appeals has been established to hear appeals regarding dangerous or dead trees designated for removal, including those recommended for removal, which might be available for the identification, archaeological, and cultural resources; and cooperate with City, County, Regional, State and Federal Governments in site, building, structures, and private, for listing on the local Register for Historic Places.

Water Management Committee – 7 members City residency not required. Responsibilities include assessing the quality and quantity of water resources available to the citizens of Gainesville.

Nature Centers Commission – 12 members City residency not required. The Nature Centers Commission assists the City Commission through recommendations and advice given in respect to developing programs, ordinances, use regulations and resource management policies as required to protect the natural system and other values to the Nature Centers of the City of Gainesville.

City Plan Board – 7 members City residency required. The City Plan Board beautification.

City Beautification Board – 15 members City residency not required. The City Beautification Board programs and projects.

Commission on matters pertaining to studies, investigates, develops, assists, and recommends to the City required. The City Beautification Board 15 members City residency not required. The City Beautification Board programs and projects.

Departments

Assistant City Manager

The Assistant City Manager reports directly to the City Manager and acts in place of the City Manager in his absence. The Assistant City Manager oversees administrative activities and functions of the following departments: Building Inspection, Cultural Affairs, Facilities Management, and Recreation and Parks. (The Assistant City Manager's administrative expenses are included in the City Manager's budget.)

Building Inspection

Building Inspection promotes the welfare of the residents of Gainesville by enforcing life-safety codes including building, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, gas, and life-safety regulations. This Department provides a pre-plan review service for owners and developers, permitting by fax, on-line plan review for fire alarm and sprinkler systems, a twenty-four hour "call in" inspection request system, and supervision of contractor and journeyman licensing.

The Department's First Step Development Assistance Center provides a convenient one-stop location where a resident or developer may receive permitting and development review assistance in the areas of public works, planning, building, utilities, and fire safety.

16 BUDGETED POSITIONS

TOTAL EXPENSES \$774,197

Cultural Affairs

The Department of Cultural Affairs promotes, manages, and seeks to provide opportunities for access to the arts and events, providing a range of services not only to city residents, but also throughout Alachua County as well as North Central Florida.

The Department operates the Thomas Center, Wilhelmina Johnson Resource Center, Tench Building Artist Studios, and the Gainesville

Community Plaza. Cultural Affairs produces the Master Calendar of Events which serves as a planning tool for area businesses and individuals. It produces and promotes the ARTSREACH programs, the Thomas Center Galleries programs, the annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire, and the Downtown Festival and Art Show; develops cultural and historic tourism; and serves as the Local Arts Agency for Alachua County. Staff plans and coordinates the installation of the downtown area's holiday lighting, the Historic Holidays/Festival of Lights event, the Holiday Parade, and New Year's Eve "Downtown Countdown." The new "Let's Go Downtown" concert series at the Gainesville Community Plaza has served to revitalize the downtown area bringing music and family entertainment on a regular basis. The Department also produces annual events at the Plaza such as the "Black Music Month Celebration"

Events Management oversees policy and permits on public property. This Division also administers an application process for the City's support services at 27 annual events such as the Spring Arts Festival, Homecoming Parade, and others.

12.5 BUDGETED POSITIONS

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,213,249

The Hoggetowne Medieval Faire has become so popular that this highly acclaimed event has been expanded to a two-weekend show in 2001, and will be held the first and second weekend in February.



PHOTO BY CARL HANNES



Fire Rescue

Several significant accomplishments highlighted the year for the Gainesville Fire Rescue Department (GFR). With no fire deaths for the year and per capita costs down, Gainesville was below average among similar size cities in Florida for deaths, injuries, and total value of fire losses. A new tower ladder truck was put into service to provide additional rescue capabilities. Rescue One, a paramedic company in the downtown area, handled over 3,000 medical emergencies. The City received a grant award of \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), which enabled GFR to participate with county agencies in the development of a new Joint Emergency Communications Center.

Training of personnel was accomplished during the year in such areas as emergency medical services, air crash rescue, elevated and trench rescue, advanced cardiac life support, and vehicle accident extrication. Participation in community events was ongoing as well. The annual Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive, the collection of products for the North Central Florida AIDS Network, and the teaching of both children and adults about fire and personal safety were among many programs conducted by firefighters. The Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program, which has been in operation since 1994, has continued to have a perfect record of no repeat juvenile offenders. Appearances in parades, school events, the City's Blizzard Bash, and other similar events continued in 1999. GFR provided leadership and personnel for the City's Y2K Taskforce, which evaluated our community's readiness for Y2K and developed plans for any potential problems. GFR also participated in a community Y2K forum, coordinated a Y2K display by community businesses and City departments, and distributed flyers on Y2K readiness to community residents.



Firefighters extricate a trapped person from a car.

During 1999 GFR responded to more than 21,000 emergency incidents; 75% were for medical emergencies. The remaining calls included fires, automatic alarms, automobile accidents, hazardous materials spills and leaks, airport emergencies, and other calls for various emergency events.

150.5 BUDGETED POSITIONS
TOTAL EXPENSES \$9,132,655

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department develops, implements, and monitors systems and programs to recruit, hire, motivate, train, and retain a highly qualified and diverse workforce. Services are provided to all Charter Officers and City departments within general government and Gainesville Regional Utilities as well as contractually to the Gainesville-Alachua County Regional Airport Authority.

The Human Resources Department acts as a consultant to departments and an advisor to management in the interpretation of personnel policies and procedures and labor agreements. The Department also provides career counseling and training to foster employment growth and development to all City employees.

21.5 BUDGETED POSITIONS
TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,093,583

Police

Over the course of 1999, the Gainesville Police Department (GPD) underwent a period of transition, which culminated in the appointment of Norman B. Botsford as Gainesville's Chief of Police on November 1, 1999. On March 20, 1999, GPD received national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This major accomplishment was achieved after completing a difficult three-year process of rewriting the Department's Policies and Procedures Manual to meet 439 national law enforcement standards related to administration, operation, and technical support activities.

Also, during 1999 a Recruitment and Selection Unit was established to coordinate with the community and members of the Department to improve diversity and increase the number of qualified applicants from all facets of the community. A \$1 million grant, from the U. S. Department of Justice, under the COPS Technology Program will enable GPD to upgrade its computers to interface with the Joint Emergency Communications Center.

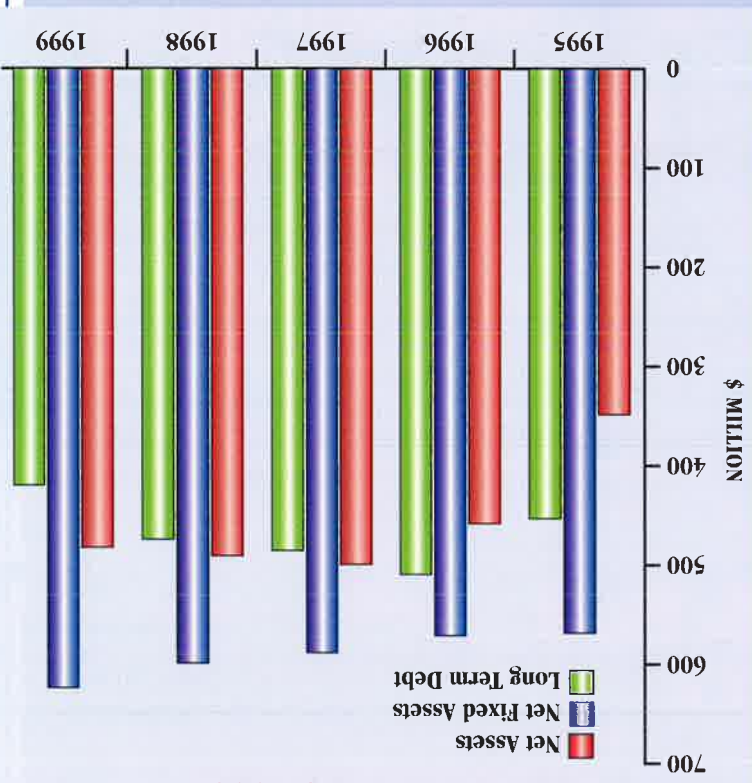
In 2000, the Gainesville Police Department will continue to expand its community policing and crime prevention initiatives.

Financial Reporting

This financial summary and history is based upon a condensed view of the City's assets and liabilities for all funds and account groups at a specific point in time, September 30th, which is the end of the City's fiscal year.

Net Assets represents the resources the City has available to continue to provide services to the citizens of Gainesville if there were no additional revenues or resources available. **Net Fixed Assets** are the City's long-term investments in land, buildings, equipment, improvements other than buildings (such as swimming pools and parking lots), and construction in progress. The stated values represent the original cost less an amount for depreciation. These assets are not available to finance regular City operations.

Long Term Debt represents debt obligations of the City from long-term financing. The proceeds from these various debt issues were used to finance large projects such as building construction and renovations, major equipment purchases, and roadway reconstruction.



Growth of Assets
Fiscal Years 1995-1999

Condensed Balance Sheet All Fund Types and Account Groups As of September 30

[000's Omitted]

Fiscal Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Assets					
Cash and Investments	\$315,145	\$389,698	\$440,996	\$419,498	\$434,828
Receivables, net	28,101	36,838	48,636	40,316	45,522
Inventories, at cost	12,298	10,821	9,951	12,096	18,823
Deferred and Prepaid Expenses	57,861	100,662	94,684	86,191	289,728
Subtotal Assets	413,405	538,019	594,267	558,101	788,901
Liabilities					
Payable and Accrued Liabilities	47,738	61,739	75,348	48,044	63,946
Deferred Credits & Revenues	17,232	17,878	19,428	19,115	242,405
Subtotal Liabilities	64,970	79,617	94,776	67,159	306,351
Net Assets	\$348,435	\$458,402	\$499,491	\$490,942	\$482,550
Net Fixed Assets	\$568,434	\$571,177	\$588,329	\$599,038	\$623,950
Long Term Debt	\$453,185	\$509,551	\$485,530	\$474,359	\$419,987

Utility Regulation

Utility deregulation may be the most critical revenue issue to face the entire organization in recent years. Staff members from General Government and Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) have been meeting for more than a year to examine the potential of electric deregulation and its impact on both GRU's revenues and the transfer to the City's General Fund. A strategy to create an electric deregulation reserve over a period of years was adopted to enable the organization to deal with potential ramifications of the deregulation of the electric utility industry.

Information has been presented to the City Commission regarding Gainesville Regional Utilities' competitive position. The City Commission has recognized that certain revenues to General Government will have to be reviewed once deregulation and the competitive nature of the supply of electricity becomes apparent. The City Commission has also directed staff to review the way in which the General Fund transfer formula is calculated to minimize the impacts of fluctuations on the City of Gainesville.

East Gainesville Sprout Project

In 1998, the City of Gainesville received brownfield redevelopment grants from federal and state agencies to develop a Stormwater Park near Depot Avenue and South Main Street by recycling contaminated land.

City staff is preparing a remedial action plan to specify an environmental cleanup strategy for the former Gainesville Gas Company site and create a design for the Stormwater Park. The park will feature a master stormwater basin to treat stormwater runoff originating from downtown Gainesville. The basin will be created from excavated areas resulting from the removal of coal tar deposited from the former manufactured gas plant. The facility will reduce contaminants in stormwater draining to Payne's Prairie and will reduce downtown redevelopment costs. In addition to the stormwater basin, nature trails, a rail-trail link, information kiosks, and picnic areas will be developed.

The project is a joint effort between the Community Redevelopment Agency, Public Works Department, and Gainesville Regional Utilities.



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to City of Gainesville for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1998.

The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.



Conceptual rendering of a proposed stormwater park for Depot Avenue. Master planning of the site will begin in early 2000.

RENDERING BY BURLINGTON ASSOCIATES, PA



Dedication of the new substation for GPD's Mounted Patrol Unit.

Among the goals of Chief Botford and the officers of GPD is the reorganization of the Department into a district-policing model. Other goals are to enhance community relations through the establishment of broader based crime prevention programs and technological improvements, which will provide officers with the time to become more involved with the citizens they serve.

373.5 BUDGETED POSITIONS
(grant funded positions not included)
TOTAL EXPENSES \$21,499,388

Public Works

The Public Works Department consists of five major work groups: Operations, Regional Transit System, Solid Waste, Stormwater Management Services, and Transportation Services.

During 1999, several major stormwater projects were completed including the installation of a large sedimentation box in the 400 block of SE 2nd Place and construction of a stormwater management basin in the 1000 block of SE 4th Avenue. Two long awaited road construction projects were also completed. One was the extension of SR 8th Avenue connecting Hawthorne Road to SE 15th Street. This project provides a vital transportation link between SR 26 and the southeast neighborhoods in the Lincoln Estates area. The other was the reconstruction of NE 18th Street north of SR 26. Construction contracts were awarded for the reconstruction of NW 38th Street between NW 8th Avenue and NW 16th Avenue, and the traffic calming and resurfacing of NE 8th Avenue from 6th Street to Waldo Road. This project includes the City's first true roundabout at the intersection of NE 8th Avenue and NE 9th Street. The Public Works Department focused much of their operational resources on the livability of neighborhoods by constructing and repairing sidewalks and installing traffic calming devices.

The Solid Waste Division instituted the new "mini-can" option for the super residential recyclers and co-sponsored the EarthQuest museum exhibit featured at the Florida Museum of Natural

History from September 25th through January 30th. This unique exhibit turned the complex subject of the environment into a fun to learn, easy to understand message for 4 to 12 year olds. Solid Waste conducted the successful second annual "Clean Your Files Day"; a public awareness program that has received nationwide attention for office paper recycling.

137.75 BUDGETED POSITIONS
TOTAL EXPENSES \$14,538,260

A Mosquito Control Service Technician identifying mosquitoes from light trap collections.



The Regional Transit System (RTS) has provided public transit services throughout Gainesville and the unincorporated areas of Alachua County. August 23,



1999 marked the 25th anniversary of RTS service in the Gainesville area. A celebration was held at the Downtown Plaza where a specially designed 25th Anniversary bus was unveiled to the community. Emphasis continued on transit service to the University of Florida (UF) campus. From October 1998 through September 1999, UF student ridership surpassed the one million-passenger mark. Because this group represents 27% of total passenger ridership, this milestone confirms the positive rewards an unlimited bus pass program can generate. In 2000, additional unlimited bus pass programs are planned for employees of the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, and the University of Florida. RTS has made great strides to provide improved service to disabled Gainesville area residents. Contractual arrangements with Coordinated Transportation System (CTS) will provide door-to-door ADA Complementary Paratransit service. Last December, RTS provided CTS with four additional wheelchair lift-equipped passenger vans to assist in meeting ADA ridership demands.

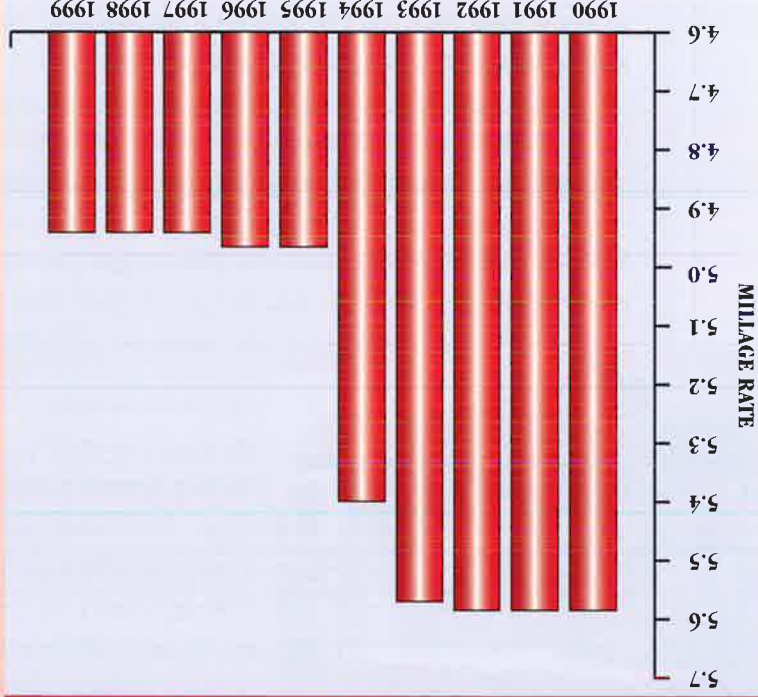
116 BUDGETED POSITIONS
TOTAL EXPENSES \$7,193,218

Economic Outlook

Based on a number of indicators, the economic outlook for the City of Gainesville and its residents continues to be positive. Unemployment is at 2.7%, up slightly from the 1998 level of 2.4%. The Commerce Building project will provide the new home for the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce. In total, the project will provide 60,000 square feet of office space and approximately 46 condominiums. Union Street Station is a \$14 million project which includes a five-story Victorian style building with restaurants and retail space on the ground floor, and offices and residences above. Other major construction projects near completion at the end of 1999 were the Oaks Square shopping plaza near the Oaks Mall and the Royal Park Stadium 16 movie theatre on Newberry Road. Finally, construction of a multi-million dollar UF sponsored hotel and conference center is scheduled to open in the spring of 2000.

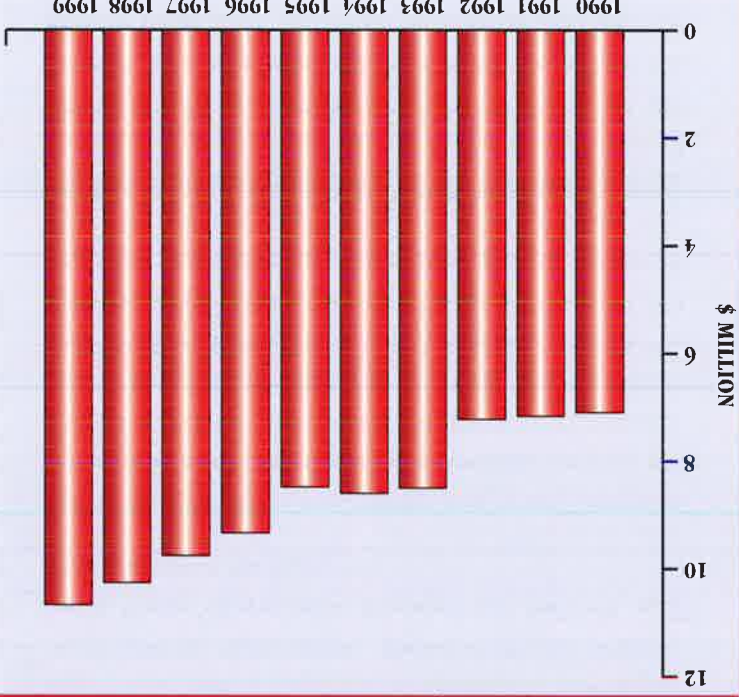
Both are slated for completion in 2000. The Commerce Building construction of the Commerce Building and Union Station projects. project will provide the new home for the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce. In total, the project will provide 60,000 square feet of office space and approximately 46 condominiums. Union Street Station is a \$14 million project which includes a five-story Victorian style building with restaurants and retail space on the ground floor, and offices and residences above. Other major construction projects near completion at the end of 1999 were the Oaks Square shopping plaza near the Oaks Mall and the Royal Park Stadium 16 movie theatre on Newberry Road. Finally, construction of a multi-million dollar UF sponsored hotel and conference center is scheduled to open in the spring of 2000.

Trend in Millage Rates



On October 1st of each year, the City Commission sets the Property Tax (millage) rates. One mill represents \$1 of tax charged per \$1,000 of assessed value. Millage rates are levied based on debt service and operating needs. The current property tax millage rate of 4.9416 represents the twelfth consecutive year in which the City's millage rate has either remained constant or decreased.

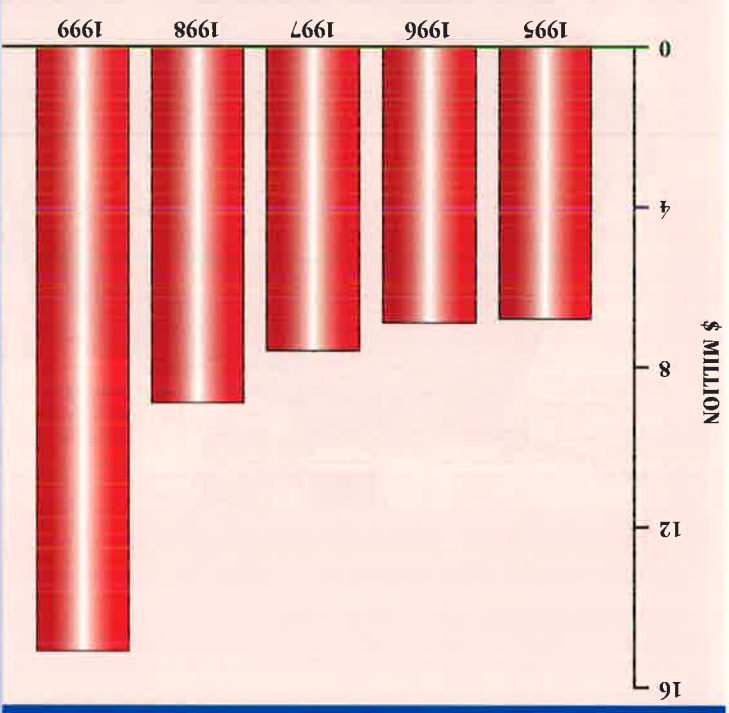
Property Tax Revenues



Property Tax Revenues represent 15% of the City's total general fund revenues. Although the tax rate has decreased from 10 years ago, property tax revenues have increased 34%. This is primarily due to the increase in taxable values of property located in the city limits as determined by the County Property Appraiser, and annexation of urban fringe areas.

Fund Balance represents multi-year accumulated surplus revenues. The City designates fund balance "reserves" for future anticipated needs. As shown by the graph, Fund balance has remained at an acceptable level with an overall five-year increase of 55%. A \$6.3 million operating surplus in fiscal 1999 occurred primarily because of a \$5.1 million transfer related to the lease/leaseback transaction from GRU and a \$5.3 million Campus Development agreement with the Board of Regents. General government expenditures were approximately \$6.6 million below budget due to the fact that the monies from these non-recurring sources were appropriated but not fully expended during fiscal year 1999.

General Fund – Fund Balance



The City Commission in 1998 adopted policies to guide annexation in the future. Annexation ensures that urban services are provided in the most efficient way to citizens. The City of Gainesville has grown through a combination of voluntary and referenda annexations since incorporation in 1869. The City Commissions' long term goal is to annex approximately 50 square miles of the urban area surrounding Gainesville by 2010. The City's policy is to have all areas served by Gainesville Regional Utilities within the City limits.

Annexation

Major Initiatives for the Future

In 1999 the City of Gainesville held three separate voter referenda in three areas adjacent to the City. One was successful and added 371.2 acres to the City limits. The annexation included residential, commercial and recreational property, and Talbot Elementary School in northwest Gainesville. This annexation received 68% affirmative votes. Annexations through voluntary expansions and referenda will be a continued goal for 2000.

General Fund Reservations of Fund Balance

As of September 30, 1999

Fund Balances		September 30
Reserved	Mandated Reserve	\$ 3,816,889
	Capital Projects	2,877,826
	Long-term Receivables	1,509,381
	UF Campus Development SR 26	1,250,000
	Communication Equipment (LLO)	829,000
	FCT Depot Stormwater Park	564,000
	Deregulation Reserve	512,800
	Downtown Parking	500,000
	Encumbrances	467,249
	Consolidated Pension DROP	452,005
	Maintenance Upgrades	300,000
	Facilities Management	273,932
	Historic Resource Grant Match	185,000
	Inventories	162,494
	Cops Ahead Grant Match	153,521
	Community Development	112,036
	Computer Services Programs	103,063
	Union Street Streetscape	100,000
	Other Projects	422,886
	Total Reserved	14,592,082
Designated	Future Projects	304,029
	GPD Communication Center	277,759
	Total Designated	581,788
Undesignated		2,585
Total Fund Balances		\$15,176,455