



City of Gainesville

Craig Lowe, Mayor

April 24, 2012

Paula DeLaney, Chair
Alachua County Commission
PO Box 5547
Gainesville, FL 32627

Dear Chair DeLaney:

This letter is in response to your March 20, 2012 letter requesting that the Gainesville City Commission consider accepting the transfer of Forest Park into the City's park system. As stated in your letter, the City has already accepted the transfer of San Felasco Park into the City's park system adding additional operating and maintenance costs to the City's budget during challenging fiscal times as services and positions were being reduced.

The City Commission previously agreed in concept that Forest Park could be added to the City's park system as well pending available funding to cover the annual costs of park operation and maintenance. Due to ongoing fiscal challenges, the City has not been able to fund these recurring costs.

The City is open to discussing acceptance of Forest Park into the City's park system as part of City/County discussions on the City's interest in taking over fire rescue services at Fire Station 19. Forest Park and Fire Station 19 are on the same County property (parcel # 6680-002-000), are well integrated and have a common design. The future provision of urban services (recreation and fire rescue) provided on this property should be linked together. The City Commission recently authorized the City Manager to initiate discussions with Alachua County on the City's interest in transitioning fire rescue responsibilities for Fire Station 19 from the County to the City and we would be open to including the transfer of Forest Park in these discussions.

Sincerely,

Craig Lowe
Mayor

xc: County Commission
City Commission
Russ Blackburn
Rick Drummond