



# City of Gainesville

Parks Recreation & Cultural Affairs

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## Memo

To: Andy Roberts, Water/Wastewater Supervising Utility Engineer  
From: Steve R. Phillips, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director  
Date: January 14, 2021  
Re: Memorandum of understanding

This memo serves as a summary of the rationale for the City and GRU to enter into a combined design services task assignment with Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$116,738 for professional design services for the Wild Spaces & Public Places (WSPP) Multiuse Trail and the Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) Solids Handling Facility Access Roadway (SE Williston Road to Sweetwater Branch Creek).

In 2012, the City Commission approved the Parks, Recreational and Cultural Affairs Vision 2020 Master Plan. This plan brought to light the need for additional multiuse trails and better connectivity between parks. In April of 2017 the City entered into a \$3M interlocal agreement with the County for projects of mutual interest to the County and the City. The Sweetwater Recreational Trail is the first priority project under this agreement. WSPP Staff worked with the DRMP, Inc. design team in 2019 to develop a schematic layout of the entire trail project to better identify the constraints, design challenges, and gather stakeholder input.

The schematic trail layout showed the multiuse trail running parallel to an existing GRU dirt access road. The GRU dirt access road is currently used by GRU to access their transmission lines and sanity sewer infrastructure. It will be used in the future to access a GRU W/WW Solids Handling Facility, which will be constructed on the old Compost Plant property.

The grading, stormwater design, and permitting required for the GRU access road improvements and the construction of the multiuse trail are tightly intertwined; therefore GRU and WSPP agreed that it would be in the best interest of the City for Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc. to design the multiuse trail in conjunction with the GRU access road improvements from SE Williston Road to Sweetwater Branch Creek.

The GRU access road begins at a driveway off SE Williston Road at GRU's Lift Station No. 40 and continues approximately 1,600 feet northwest through a GRU utility easement. The existing dirt access road is not currently suitable for the vehicle traffic and loading expected to enter the proposed GRU Solids Handling Facility and therefore requires improvement and stabilization. Work performed under this Task Assignment will include developing Contract Documents and preparing Permit Applications for the WSPP Multiuse Trail and the improved GRU Solids Handling Facility Access Roadway as described in the Scope of Services.

Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc. is an approved vendor under the Professional Architectural and Engineering Consulting Services continuing services agreements to help facilitate City projects. They have experience facilitating similar projects.

GRU W/WW and WSPP agree to split the \$116,738 fee for professional design services for the WSPP Multiuse Trail and the GRU Solids Handling Facility Access Roadway (SE Williston Road to Sweetwater Branch Creek) with Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc. WSPP/PRCA agrees to pay \$71,894.53 and GRU W/WW agrees to pay \$44,843.47. This cost share was determined based upon the fees each agency has already spent towards preliminary design of the trail and access roadway, to include survey, wetland delineation, schematic design and permitting coordination. GRU agrees to transfer funds to WSPP in the amount of \$44,843.47 upon City Commission approval of the task assignment with Jones, Edmunds & Associates, Inc.

cc: Lee R. Feldman, City Manager  
Ed Bielarski, General Manager for Utilities  
Tony Cunningham, Water/Waste Water Officer  
Deborah Bowie, Assistant City Manager  
Roxy Gonzalez, Assistant Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director  
Elizabeth (Betsy) D. Waite, Director of Wild Spaces & Public Places