

LEGISLATIVE #

110258B



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Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
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June 14, 2011

Mr. Nathan Collier
Paradigm Properties, Inc.
P.O. Box 13116
Gainesville, FL 32604

Dear Mr. Collier,

This letter serves as follow-up to your email dated Wednesday, March 30, 2011, updating you about the City's decision on your proposal regarding privatizing conservation of a portion of Loblolly Woods Nature Park. City staff evaluated your proposal and the recommendation was to decline your proposal.

The City does not want to create this kind of precedent for the exchange of land purchased for public conservation purposes. In order to fulfill your proposal, the City would need to proceed with the land surplus process. The proposed action would jeopardize the City's ability to receive grant funding for future conservation land acquisitions, park development, and invasive species control projects. In addition, the proposed conservation easement language is not acceptable for the purposes for which the property was originally purchased. The language regarding the right to enclose the property and the right to sell, mortgage, bequeath, or donate the property does not compliment the City's commitment of protecting the property in perpetuity for the benefit of the public.

In conclusion, the City of Gainesville does not feel that it is feasible to provide any portion of the Loblolly Woods Nature Park, in any capacity, due to the high quality of habitat, presence of listed species, previous grant and mitigation award agreements, as well as possible legal issues involved with such a proposal.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to meet with me and my staff about your proposal. If you have any questions please call me at 393-8755.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Phillips, Director
Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Copied to: Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager
Michelle Park, Assistant Director, Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs
Stefanie M. Nagid, Natural Resource Management Program Coordinator
Ron Combs, Sr. City Attorney