



CITY OF GAINESVILLE

Public Works Department

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DATE: March 12, 2002

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Public Works Staff

SUBJECT: East Gainesville SPROUT Project Task Force
Discussion of Conceptual Depot Park Design, February 19, 2002

On January 26, 2002 the City held a park design workshop to obtain public comment on three conceptual park designs. On January 29th, the East Gainesville SPROUT Project Task Force requested that the City develop one park concept based on the public comments received during the workshop. On February 19th, staff and Genesis Group presented to the Task Force a proposed park design. Len Buffington of Genesis Group explained the various design elements and the rationale for their inclusion in the concept plan. Staff obtained feedback from the Task Force on this design and authorized Mr. Buffington to proceed with revising the concept, which is attached to this memorandum. The comments of the Task Force are summarized in the following paragraphs:

Viability of Amphitheater

Task Force comment: The Task Force questioned whether income-producing forms of entertainment would be allowed on land purchased with Florida Communities Trust (FCT) funding. This type of entertainment would likely be concerts or theatrical performances.

Members noted that Gainesville does not have a concert venue suitable for large-scale outdoor events. The bandshell on the UF campus is appropriate for large outdoor concerts where attendance reaches into the many-thousands, but there is no similar facility near the urban center of the city. Task Force members questioned if the park is suitable for large gatherings in light of potential parking and noise impacts to nearby residential areas. The Task Force is very concerned about noise affecting the neighborhoods and asked staff to reduce potential impacts by planning the park and programming types of entertainment to minimize creating objectionable amounts of noise. The Task Force speculated that possible uses for the amphitheater could include weddings, plays, concerts, and other outdoor events. Chair Hutchinson stated that a decision is needed by the Task Force concerning the purpose of the amphitheater and whether it is intended for large gatherings and amplified music or a smaller venue and un-amplified events.

advice of GPD in the park planning stages as well as the implementation of a security plan. A cost estimate for security will be prepared and will be discussed with the Task Force upon its completion.

Location of Transit Stop/Parking

Task Force comment: The Task Force expressed concerns that a transit stop on Depot Avenue near the Depot building would cause pedestrian conflicts with buses and excessive bus exhaust at the building entrance.

A concern was also raised regarding the location of a small parking area near the east end of the Depot building. Member Brad Guy, UF Center for Construction and Environment, stated a preference for locating the parking on the west side of the building to preserve the view looking south into the park from SE 3rd Street.

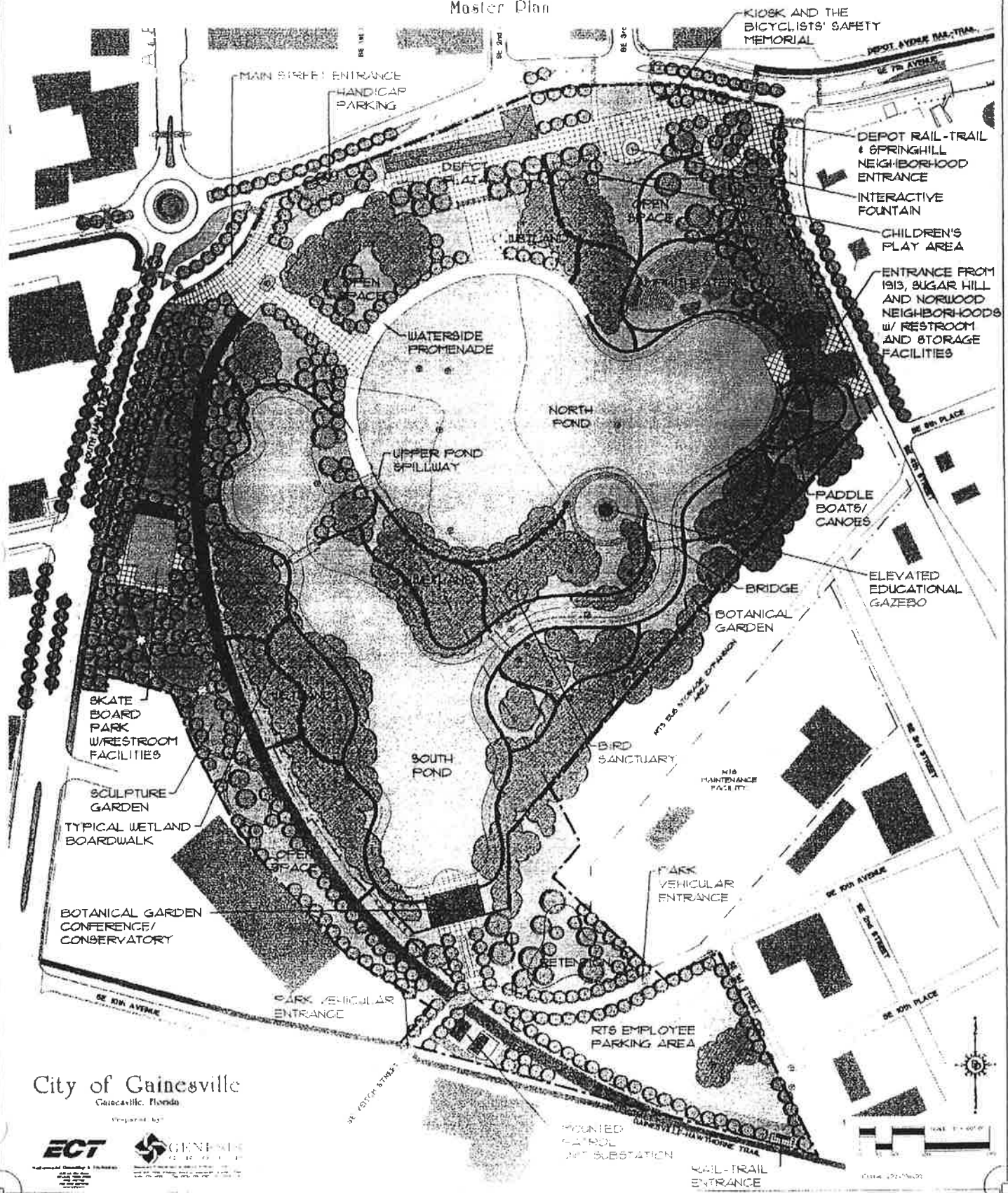
Staff response: Mr. Buffington will seek the advice of RTS Director Jeff Logan to select a location for the transit stop.

Mr. Buffington has relocated the Depot parking area to the west side of the building. It is understood that this location may change as the design for the depot rehabilitation progresses. Mr. Buffington will work closely with the architect responsible for the depot building rehabilitation in order to ensure the optimum location for the parking area.

The modified version of the concept reflecting the location of the parking area and transit stop will be reviewed with the Task Force upon its completion.

Depot Park

Master Plan



City of Gainesville
Gainesville, Florida

Prepared by:



MOUNTED PATROL UNIT SUBSTATION

RAIL-TRAIL ENTRANCE

DATE: 02/15/2005