



Why are we here today?

We would like to discuss how the City of Gainesville can help improve the overall Gainesville Regional Soccer League experience.

Discuss Improvements to Forest Park

Discuss broader shared goals

Who is GRSL?

- Gainesville Regional Soccer League
- Founded in 1982
- Largest [only] recreational soccer league in the Gainesville area

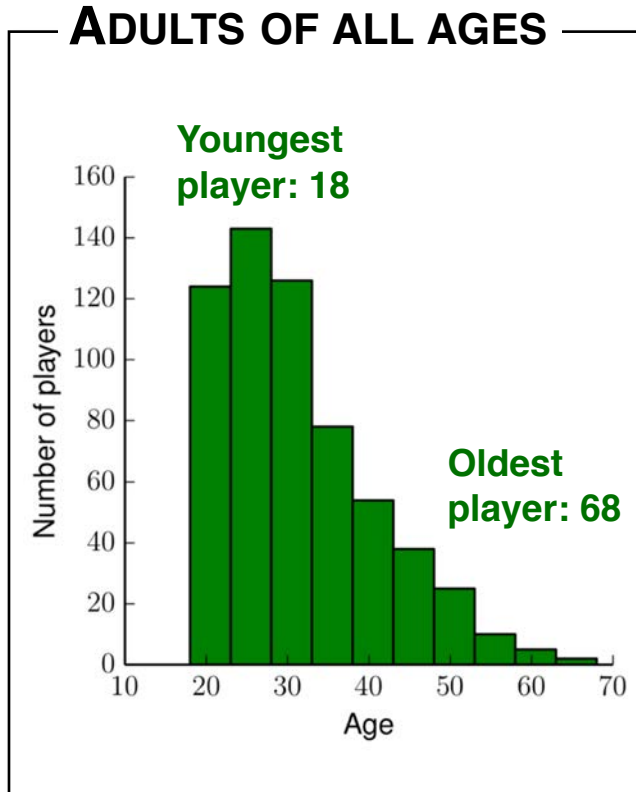
Who is GRSL?

- Gainesville Regional Soccer League
- Founded in 1982
- Largest [only] recreational soccer league in the Gainesville area

*currently 605 active players

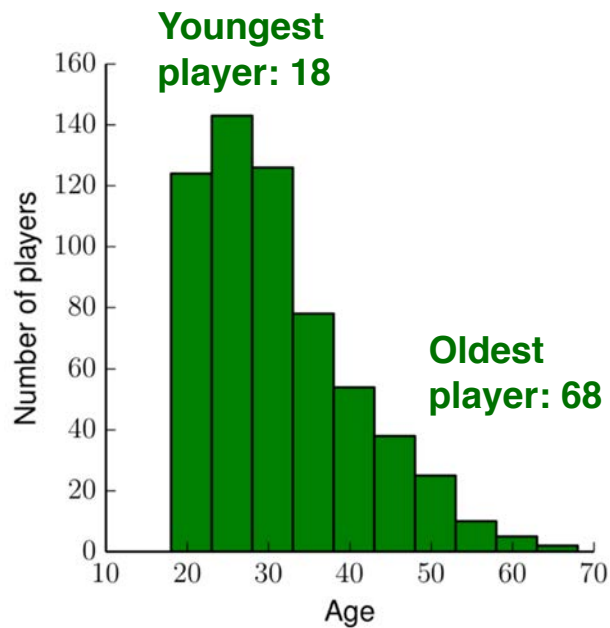


Who is GRSL?

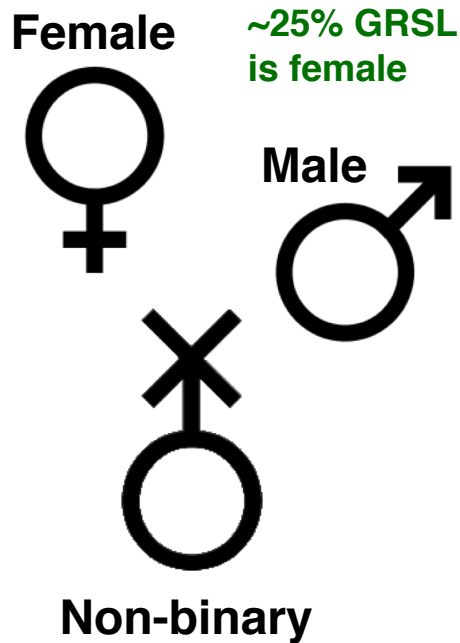


Who is GRSL?

ADULTS OF ALL AGES

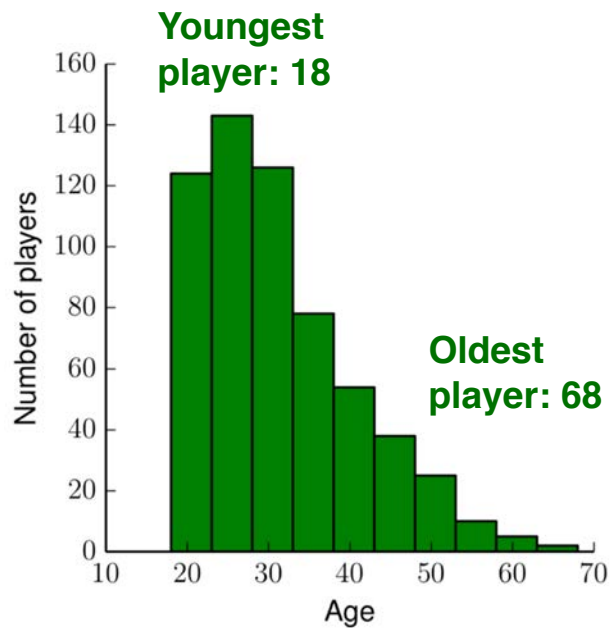


ALL GENDERS

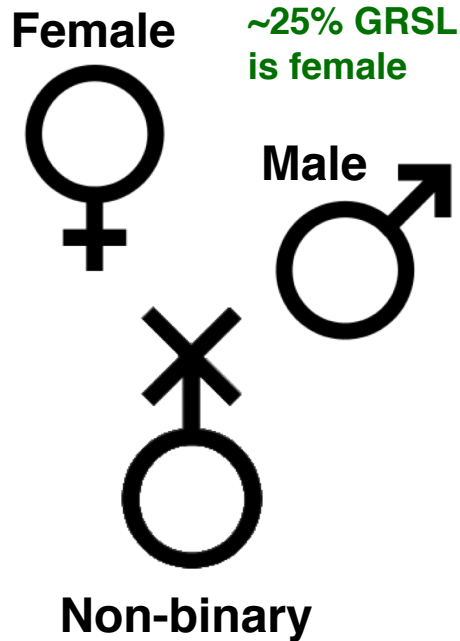


Who is GRSL?

ADULTS OF ALL AGES



ALL GENDERS



MULTIPLE NATIONALITIES



Who is GRSL?



Local soccer league has deep roots



By Dylan Rudolph / Correspondent

Posted Jun 17, 2019 at 11:28 AM

Updated Jun 17, 2019 at 11:36 AM

“We try to build a sense of community and fellowship out here... The community when you go out there is amazing... You meet guys all over the world from all walks of life. Just the fellowship out there is great.”

-John Malanchuk, GRSL President



GRSL Board

John Malanchuk

President

Steve Moore

Vice president

Rebeca Denahan

Treasurer

Beth Roland

Secretary/Communications

Martin Costello

Disciplinary Chair

Eric Wang

Technology/Operations

GRSL Board

John Malanchuk

President

Steve Moore

Vice president

Rebeca Denahan

Treasurer

Beth Roland

Secretary/Communications

Martin Costello

Disciplinary Chair

Eric Wang

Technology/Operations

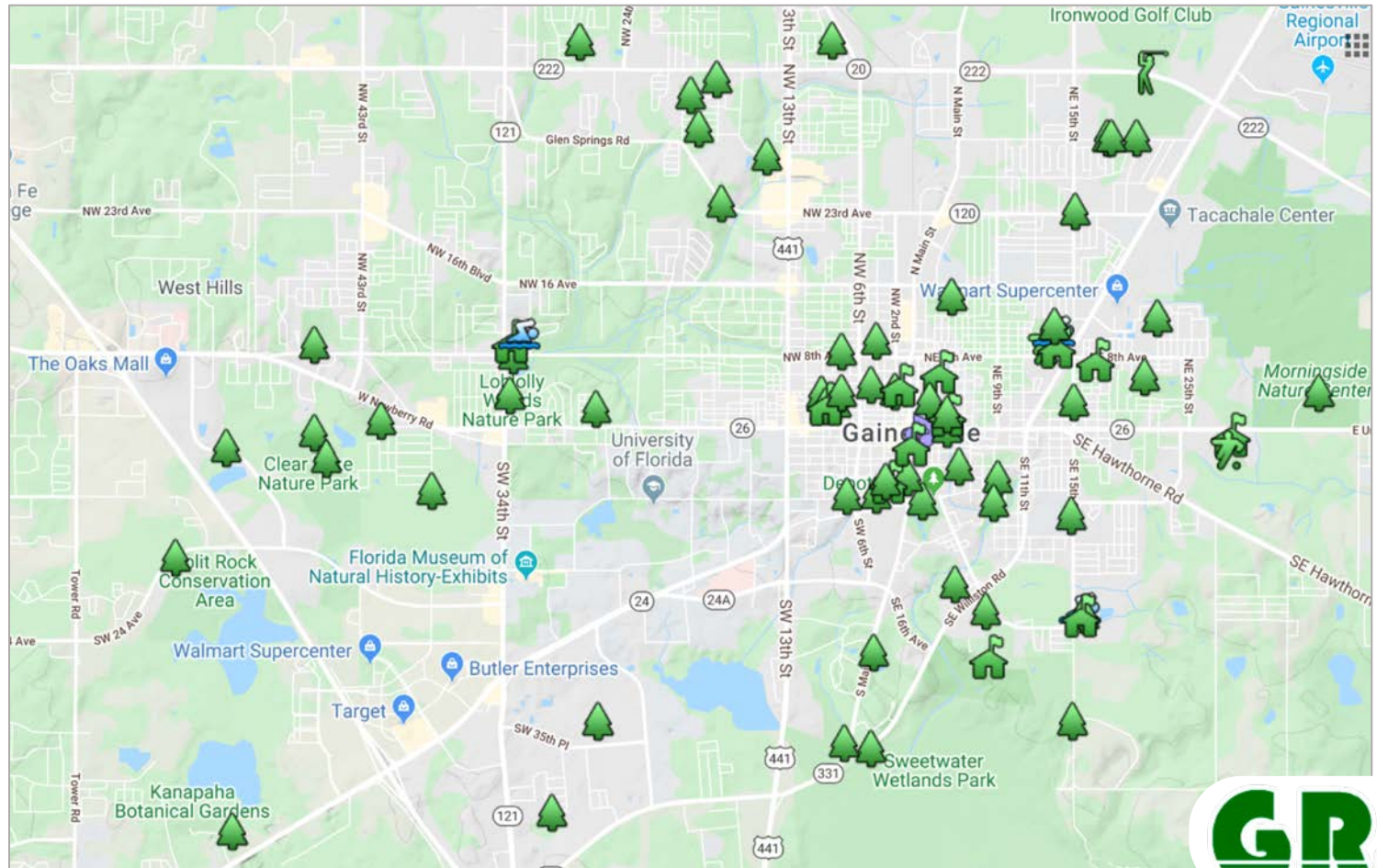
Volunteer [non-paid] Positions

Meetings once per month

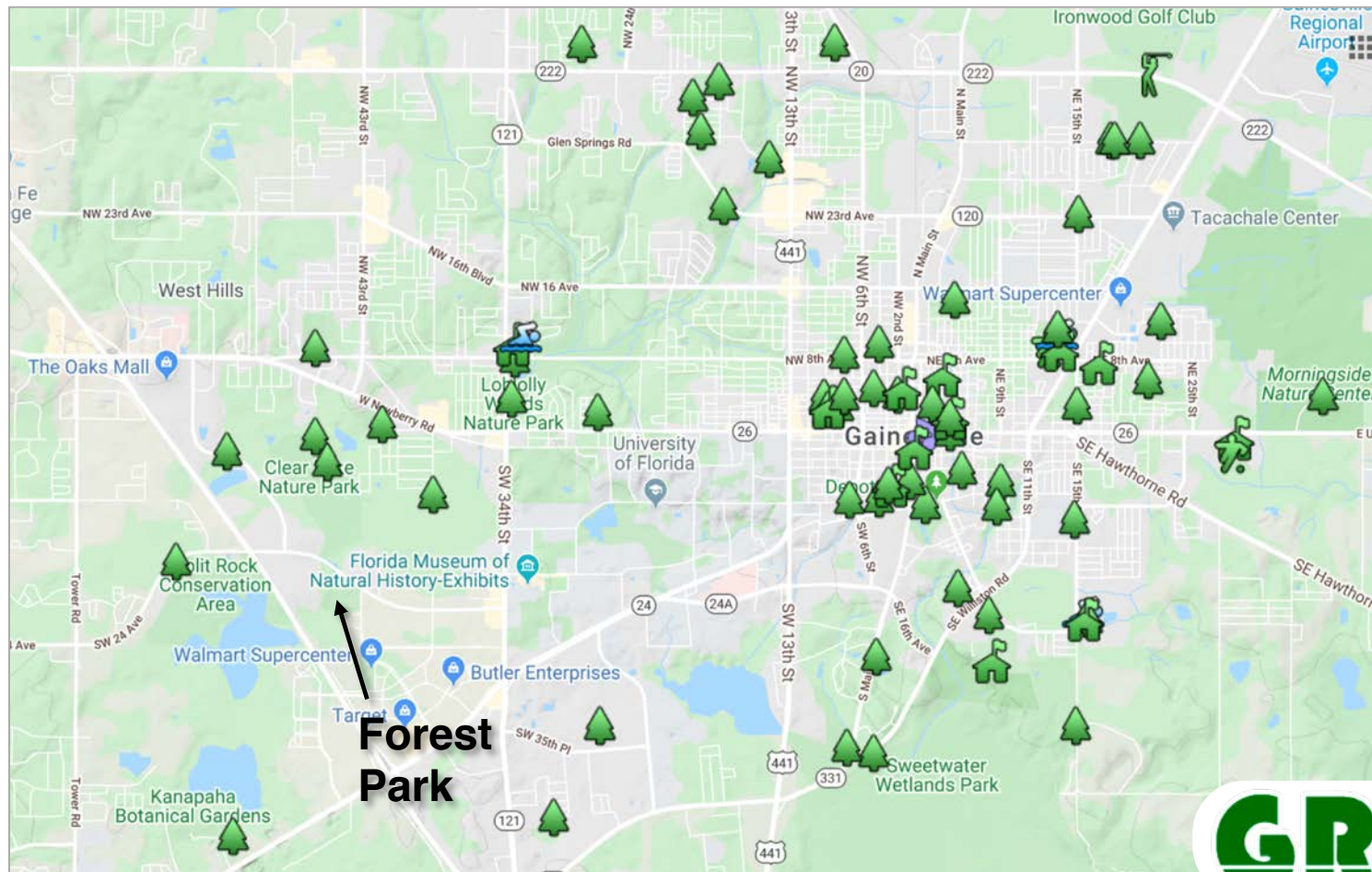
Captains' meetings once per season

Other events as needed

All City of Gainesville Parks

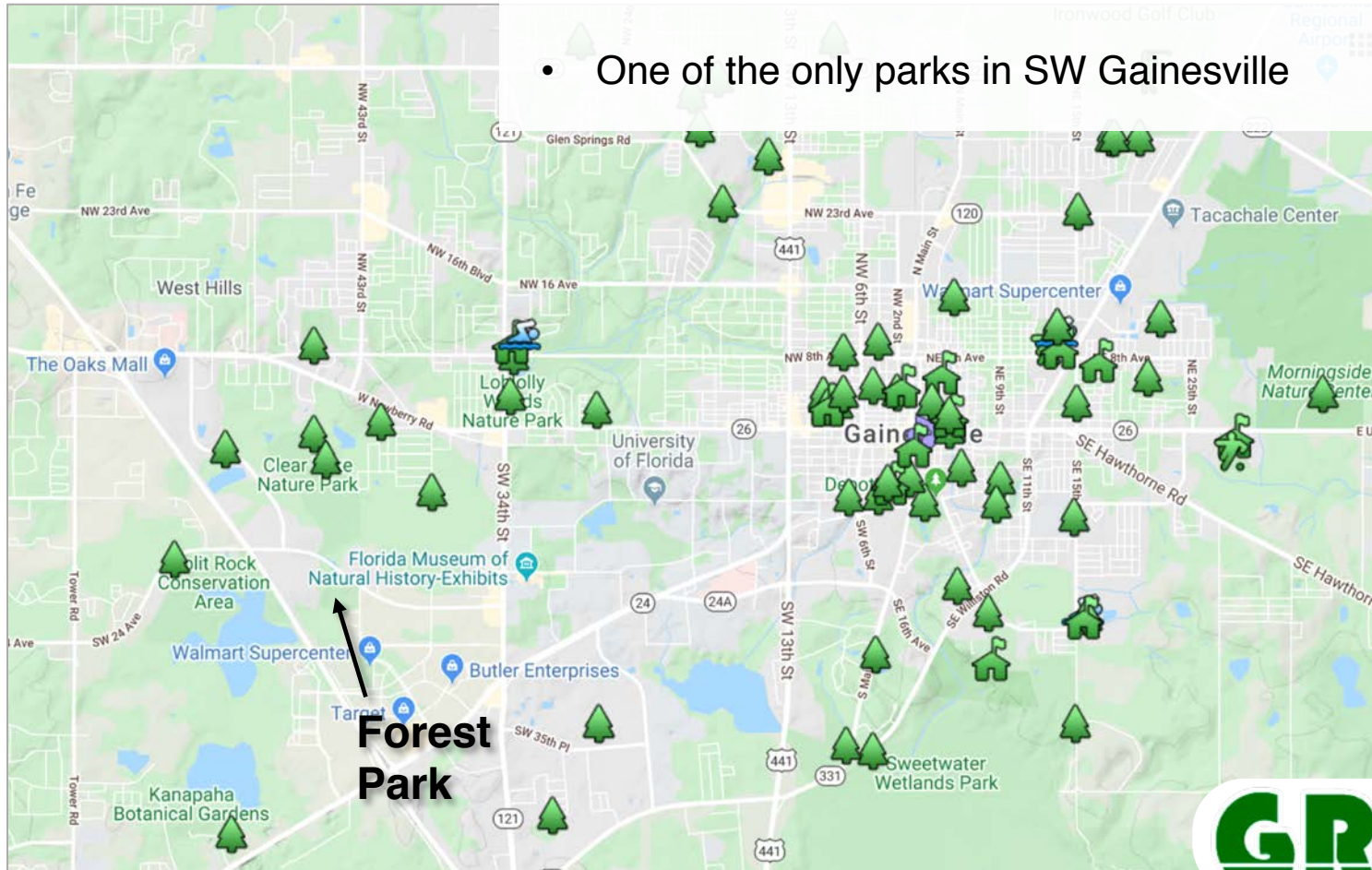


Forest Park is the primary site for GRSL games & practices



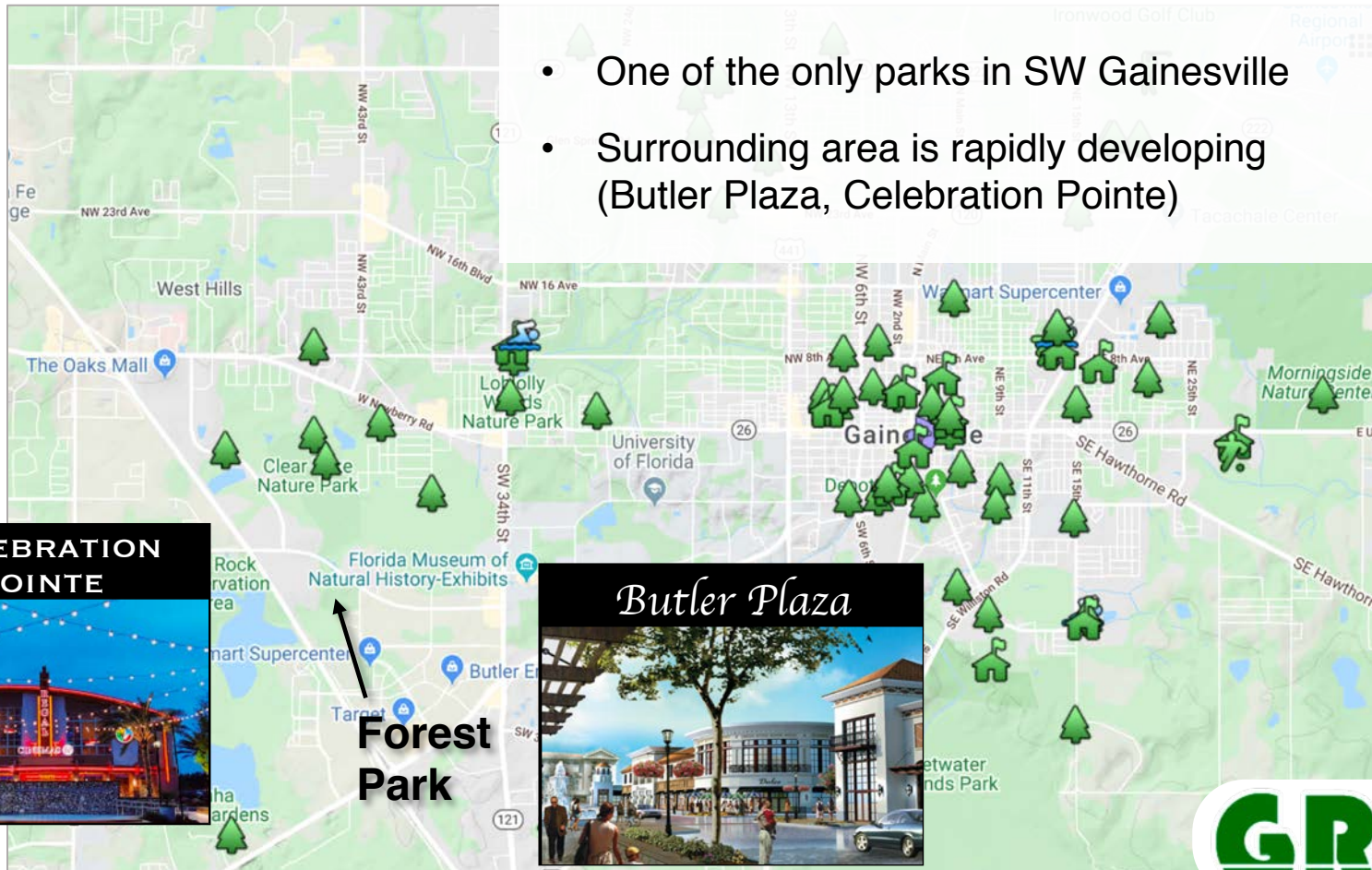
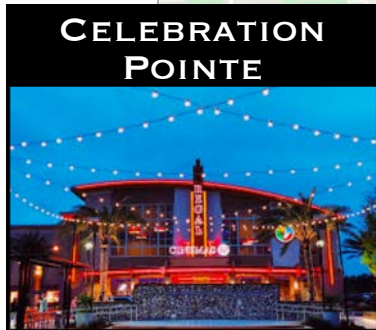
Forest Park is the primary site for GRSL games & practices

- One of the only parks in SW Gainesville



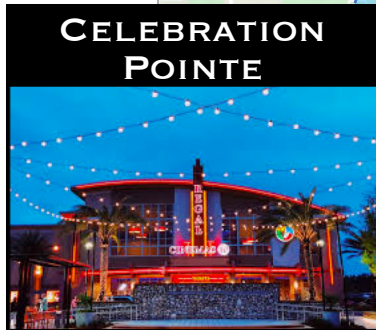
Forest Park is the primary site for GRSL games & practices

- One of the only parks in SW Gainesville
- Surrounding area is rapidly developing (Butler Plaza, Celebration Pointe)

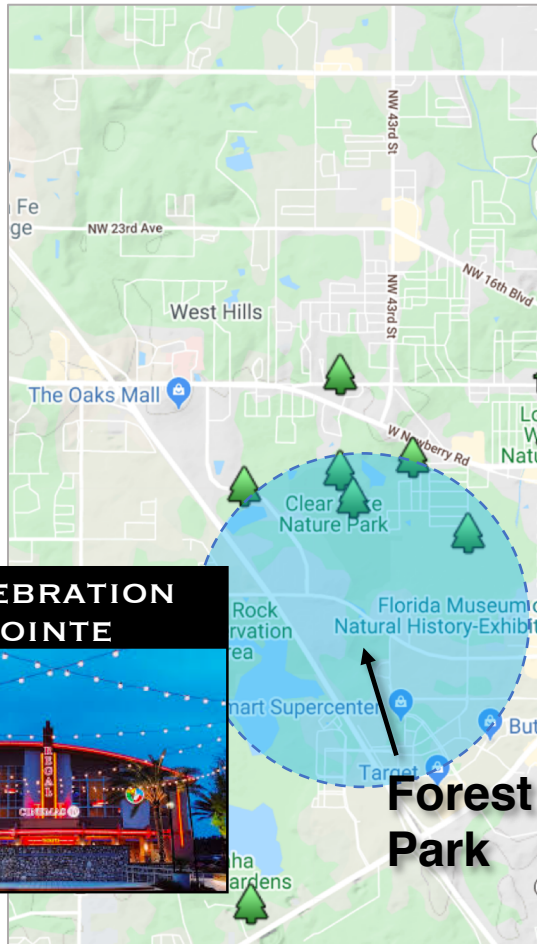


Forest Park is the primary site for GRSL games & practices

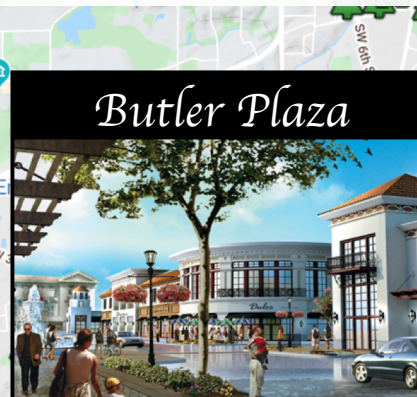
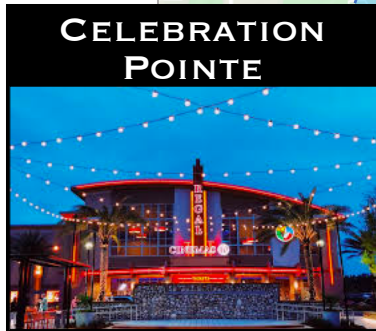
- One of the only parks in SW Gainesville
- Surrounding area is rapidly developing (Butler Plaza, Celebration Pointe)
- A diversity of housing developments nearby



Forest Park is the primary site for GRSL games & practices



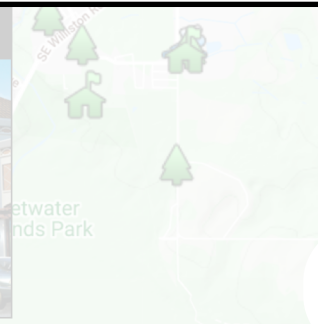
- One of the only parks in SW Gainesville
- Surrounding area is rapidly developing (Butler Plaza, Celebration Pointe)
- A diversity of housing developments nearby
- Dog park, basketball courts, volleyball courts, pavilions, & 3 full size soccer fields



Forest Park is the primary site for GRSL games & practices

- One of the only parks in SW Gainesville
- Surrounding area is rapidly developing (Butler Plaza, Celebration Pointe)

**Many Gainesville residents
and visitors use Forest Park!**



New ownership

- Forest Park was recently transferred from **Alachua County** to **City of Gainesville**
- This resulted in improvements to field conditions and responsiveness to requests
 - Communication with **John Weber**
 - Hiring of a new field contractor – new sod, consistent mowing
 - Adequate bathroom supplies
 - New signage for GRSL fields
- However, significant needs remain to be addressed



Safety concerns

- No **lightning warning system** in place
 - e.g. Thorguard system at Jonesville
 - Places liability of decisions on GRSL personnel
- Players often cross busy 43rd Street to chase soccer balls
 - Potential solution: **netting** to prevent balls from rolling into street
- Major need for **field re-grading/re-sodding**:
 - Uneven terrain can cause injuries
 - Insufficient drainage results in dangerous and deteriorating field conditions

Field conditions require attention

Bare spots
on fields



Broken fencing;
field is very close
to busy road



Insufficient/
minimal
seating



Goal areas are
completely
worn down



Additional issues to address

- Limited parking capacity
- Lack of shade
- Lack of seating & bleachers for each field
- Limited access to water
- No lighting for evening use
- Bathroom facilities could benefit from renovation

Additional issues to address

- Limited parking capacity
- Lack of shade
- Lack of seating & bleachers for each field
- Limited access to water
- No lighting for evening use
- Bathroom facilities could benefit from renovation

Does not meet desired standards of parks in Gainesville.

These improvements fit within a broader vision for recreation in Gainesville

- Additional facilities/fields for soccer
 - Koppers Site Remediation
 - Celebration Pointe Sports Complex
- Building a community
- How can GRSL work with the City of Gainesville to build a “**world-class park system**”?

Recommendations

- Ensure that Forest Park is listed to receive support from Wild Spaces/Public Places **this year**
 - Obtain 4 votes at March 12th meeting
- Advocate for capital improvements and maintenance at Forest Park
 - Continue discussions with city officials
- Find ways to work with the city to achieve broader shared goals





Thank you!