



Legislation Text

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Sweetwater Branch/Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration Project (B)

A presentation will be made of 100% Construction Drawings for the Public Use Facilities at the Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration Project in accordance with Vertical Capital Projects procedure.

The Sweetwater Branch/Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration project design is complete. This project provides substantial benefits: improves water quality, restores wetlands and meets the City's (GRU and stormwater utility) Total Maximum Daily Load regulatory requirements. The project includes a public access component that provides opportunities for passive recreation; hiking, jogging and nature study. Initial construction includes Phase I public use improvements: parking, restroom/entrance, trails, boardwalks, welcome classroom, interpretive signage and security residence. The Prairie Viewing Tower is included as a construction alternate. Additional architectural designs for future public use facilities include a solar viewing tower and visitor center.

Two neighborhood workshops held to present conceptual and preliminary plans to neighboring property owner's generated overwhelmingly supportive comments. The final neighborhood workshop to present final development plans will take place on July 24, 2012 at the Thomas Center at 6:00 pm.

The City Commission:1) Hear a presentation from staff; 2) Approve 100% Construction Drawings.

The final construction estimates for the Paynes Prairie Sheetflow Restoration water quality and Phase I public use facilities and Security Residence is approximately \$22.1 million. The cost of the Prairie Tower alternate is \$404,000 and will be included if additional funding can be obtained. Grant funding obtained from outside funding partners is \$5.5 million. Cost share and grant applications totaling an additional \$1.7 million are pending. Cost share and grant funding will offset local funding obligations. Funding for construction is included in the GRU Wastewater Capital Improvements FY 12 -FY 14 budget, and in the Public Works Stormwater Capital Improvements FY 12 - FY 14 budget. The Funding needed for future phases including the solar viewing tower and visitor center is estimated at approximately \$2.3 million, and is not included in current budgets.

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