

# NEFRC

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



**December 7, 2023**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**Northeast Florida Regional Council**  
Hybrid Meeting  
Virtual & In-Person



100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org


Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

***Bringing Communities Together***

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** DECEMBER 7, 2023

**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**FROM:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

**RE:** NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

---

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 4, 2024**. This will be a **hybrid meeting** via Zoom and in person at the Northeast Florida Regional Council office located at 100 Festival Park Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32202.

---

Follow Us.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**Northeast Florida Regional Council**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**A G E N D A**

**Zoom Link:** <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>

**Meeting ID:** 874 9977 0491

100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023**

**10:00 a.m.**

**(ADDED OR MODIFIED ITEMS IN BOLD)**  
**(\*Denotes Action Required)**

**TAB**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call – President Whitehurst
3. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation – President Whitehurst
4. Welcome – President Whitehurst
5. Invitation to Speak – President Whitehurst

*Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to speak on any item brought before the Council. The public will be recognized during public comments. At that time, virtual attendees who would like to speak will be asked to raise their (electronic) hand and they will be recognized in the order of response.*

**\*6. Consent Agenda – President Whitehurst**

A. August 3, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes ..... 1

**B. Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews ..... 2**

- City of Jacksonville Adopted Amendment 23-1ESR
- City of Palm Coast Adopted Amendment 23-2ESR
- **Nassau County Adopted Amendment 23-6ESR**
- City of Fernandina Beach Adopted Amendment 23-1ESR
- Town of Hilliard Adopted Amendment 23-1ESR

7. Other Reports/Action Items

**\* A. October 2023 Financial Report – Ms. Starling ..... 3**

**\* B. Website Design Services Negotiations – Ms. Payne ..... 4**

* C. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Discussion – Ms. Payne	
D. Trails & Ecotourism Update – Mr. Anderson .....	5
E. 2024 Workplan Discussion – Ms. Payne .....	6
* F. Awards Selection – Mr. Nolen .....	7
8. Public Comment – <u>LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER</u>	
9. Local & Regional Issues Discussion	
10. Chief Executive Officer’s Report – Ms. Payne	
11. Upcoming Meetings/Events:	
• Dec. 7, 2023 – Executive Committee Meeting	
• Dec. 14, 2023 – City of Palatka Vision Plan, BOCC Presentation	
• <b>Dec. 25-26, 2023 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – COUNCIL CLOSED</b>	
• <b>Jan. 1, 2024 – NEW YEAR’S DAY – COUNCIL CLOSED</b>	
• Jan. 4, 2024 – Board of Directors Meeting	
• <b>Jan. 4, 2024 – Elected Officials Luncheon &amp; Regional Awards</b>	
• Jan. 9, 2024 – City of Palatka Vision Plan, Stakeholder Community Workshop	
• <b>Jan. 15, 2024 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day – COUNCIL CLOSED</b>	
12. Next Executive Committee Meeting: <b>April 4, 2024</b>	
13. Adjournment	

(\*Denotes Action Required)

# Agenda

---

## Item

---

Tab 1

Tab 1

Tab 1

Tab 1

Tab 1



**NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**August 3, 2023**

---

MINUTES

The Northeast Florida Regional Council's Executive Committee, pursuant to Chapter 120.525, F.S., held a hybrid meeting both in-person and virtually via Zoom, on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

**President Whitehurst** called the meeting to order with the following members present, representing a quorum:

BAKER        Mr. Register (zoom)  
CLAY         Commissioner Condon (In Person)  
               Commissioner Renninger (In Person)  
NASSAU      Commissioner Martin (In Person)  
FLAGLER     Commissioner Sullivan (In Person)  
PUTNAM      Commissioner Harvey (zoom)  
ST. JOHNS   Commissioner Whitehurst (In Person)  
Also Present   Mr. Conkey, SJRWMD (In Person)

Staff Present: Elizabeth Payne, Donna Starling, Eric Anderson, Tyler Nolen, Sheron Forde, et al.

INVITATION TO SPEAK

**President Whitehurst** stated that members of the public are welcome to speak on any item before the Board.

\*CONSENT AGENDA

**President Whitehurst** asked if anyone would like to pull any item on the consent agenda for discussion. Hearing none, he **called for a motion on the consent agenda. Commissioner Harvey motioned to approve the consent agenda; seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. Motion carried.**

OTHER REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

\*May 2023 Financial Report

Ms. Starling provided the financial report for the month of May 2023 reflecting a net loss of \$21,726 and a year-to-date net income of \$60,665. She stated that the loss is attributed to having three payrolls in May, the quarterly Florida Regional Council Association (FRCA) dues, tuition reimbursement and annual software costs.

**President Whitehurst called for a motion on the May 2023 Financial Report. Commissioner Harvey moved approval of the May 2023 Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Condon. Motion carried.**

#### \*June 2023 Financial Report

Ms. Starling provided the financial report for the month of June 2023 reflecting a net income of \$14,379 and a year-to-date net income of \$75,043.

**President Whitehurst called for a motion on the June 2023 Financial Report. Mr. Register moved approval of the June 2023 Financial Report; seconded by Commissioner Renninger. Motion carried.**

#### \*FY 2022-23 Return On Investment (ROI) Summaries & Talking Points

Ms. Payne provided an overview of the Regional Council's Return on Investment for each County and the Region as a whole. Also highlighted are projects completed for each County. The ROI's reflects 3-years ROI, with the exception of Clay County. This information will be shared with each County Board of County Commission Chairs and as many of the City of Jacksonville's City Council as possible. Discussion followed.

Ms. Payne shared that the two new City of Jacksonville appointments to the Board are Councilmen Joe Carlucci and Mike Gay, with Councilman Carlucci also serving as the Chair of the Duval County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board. She stated that the Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee will address filling the second vice president position at their September meeting.

Ms. Payne directed the Members' attention to the speaking points that are provided to assist them when speaking with others about the work of the Regional Council. A digital copy will be provided to the Members.

**President Whitehurst called for a motion on the Return On Investment. Commissioner Condon moved approval of the Return On Investment; seconded by Commissioner Renninger. Motion carried.**

#### Ecotourism Update

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the activities of the Ecotourism & Trails Steering Committee and highlighted a District 2 Florida Department of Transportation presentation on SUN Trail and Florida Wildlife Corridor. He also highlighted the Committee's project schedule and upcoming opportunities with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. This program is designed to assist locally led projects by combining the skills of their staff with those of local organizations over a couple of years. Following meetings with hurricane impacted communities, it was determined that two separate requests for assistance would be submitted: 1) a letter was developed requesting assistance for hurricane impacted communities (Flagler, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties), and 2) support for a regional trails and ecotourism initiatives that included technical support for GIS and storyboards, collaboration services, identifying funding strategies, and designing community outreach & participating strategies. Next steps: submit a request letter to the National Parks Service, develop the regional initiative request letter, and await a response. While we hope for an approval, we will return to our current work plan if not approved. Discussion followed.

#### 2024 Legislative Priorities' Tentative Schedule

Ms. Payne stated that with the 2024 Legislative Session beginning in January, a request for

priorities was sent out and are due in mid-September. She thanked Commissioner Harvey for his willingness to Chair the Legislative Policy Committee this year. The Members for the Committee were provided, other members are welcome to attend the meetings if interested. Ms. Payne reminded the Members that the Regional Council does not advocate or lobby on any specific issues; these are requested from our local governments, including municipalities, and reviewed for the most impact to our local communities to develop the Northeast Regional Legislative Priorities. The tentative schedule for the Committee meetings was provided. It is expected that the final priorities will be presented to the Board in October for approval. Discussion followed.

#### CEO Evaluation / Contract Review

Mr. Register provided an overview of the extremely positive CEO evaluation results and stated that Ms. Payne has far exceeded expectations and has continued to carry the Council upward and onward. He noted that Ms. Payne's self-evaluation was lower than others, but believes it is a sign of a good leader in recognizing there is room for improvement. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Register stated that Ms. Payne's current three-year contract ends September 30<sup>th</sup>; therefore, a new contract needs to be discussed, and any increase to be included. He stated that, based on precedence, the President should negotiate the new contract and any increase with Ms. Payne. This could be brought to the Personnel, Budget & Finance Policy Committee in September for review and recommendation to the Board so that Ms. Payne can start October with a new contract.

**Mr. Register motioned for President Whitehurst to negotiate a new three-year contract and any increase with Ms. Payne for consideration at the September Personnel, Budget & Finance Policy Committee meeting; seconded by Commissioner Condon.** Discussion followed.

Ms. Payne shared the contents of her current contract for the Members information.

During discussion, it was recommended that the average salary of the other Regional Councils Director be provided to use in negotiating the salary.

**President Whitehurst stated there is a motion on the floor, and called for a voice vote. Motion carried.**

#### Public Comment

None.

#### Local and Regional Discussions

**Water Management District** – Mr. Conkey stated that Blue School grants have increased to \$60,000. This is an opportunity for teachers to teach about the WMD's four core areas, i.e., ecosystems and environmental science. Information on these grants will be provided to the schools.

**Clay County – Commissioner Condon** stated that the County is beginning to deal with the Live Local Act and believes there may be some unintended consequences of this Act; one of which includes fire rescue. She is interested to see how other counties are going to deal with these types of issues. Discussion followed.



CEO Report

Ms. Payne reiterated the upcoming Live Local webinar; the newly appointed City of Jacksonville representatives; and the Personnel, Budget & Finance Committee addressing the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president position. She also provided an update on Council grants and contract renewals, in addition to a new contract with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority for a hurricane preparedness exercise. Se reminded the Members that the budget was adopted with a deficit of approximately \$100,000+. With the recent award of a Department of Environmental Protection regional resilience entity grant in the amount of \$275,000, the budget is made whole, with four or five other grants applied for. Additionally, the Council is working with Flagler County, who were allocated an additional \$200,000 in funding from DEP for resiliency.

Ms. Payne informed the Members staff has received the Pediatric restraints and will be distributing them, in our region and the remaining 18 counties served by the Healthcare Coalition, over the next few weeks.

Ms. Payne shared information on the Council staffing; Ms. Sonya Abu-Sharar, Communications Specialist, and Ms. Cassidy Taylor, Post Disaster Recovery Coordinator. Unfortunately, the Council's Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinator is moving on for another opportunity. She shared that Mr. Bacon has done more with the program than has been done in some time and he will be greatly missed, but we wish him well. We will be looking to fill this position in the meantime, as well as an additional Resiliency Planner.

Ms. Payne shared activities surrounding the accommodation for the expansion and growth of the Council and its staff.

Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023.

Adjournment

**President Whitehurst** adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

---

Christian Whitehurst  
President

---

Elizabeth Payne  
Chief Executive Officer

# Agenda

---

## Item

---

Tab 2

Tab 2

Tab 2

Tab 2

Tab 2



100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org


Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties


***Bringing Communities Together***

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** DECEMBER 4, 2023

**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**THRU:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

**FROM:** ROBERT JORDAN, REGIONAL PLANNER 

**RE:** LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT REVIEWS

---

Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, Council review of transmitted and adopted amendments to local government comprehensive plans is limited to adverse effects on regional resources and facilities identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. The review is also limited to extra-jurisdictional impacts inconsistent with the comprehensive plan of any local government within the Region. Pursuant to Section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, a written report with an impact evaluation should be provided to the local government and the State land planning agency (Florida Commerce) within 30 calendar days of receipt (of the amendment).

A regional map of the listed amendments is provided on the next page, and the site-specific maps are provided in the appendix herein. Upon approval of this report by the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) Executive Committee for transmittal to the State land planning agency, a copy will be provided to the respective local government.

### **Recommendation**

**Staff respectfully recommend that the NEFRC Executive Committee concur that the five adopted amendments are consistent with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.**

---

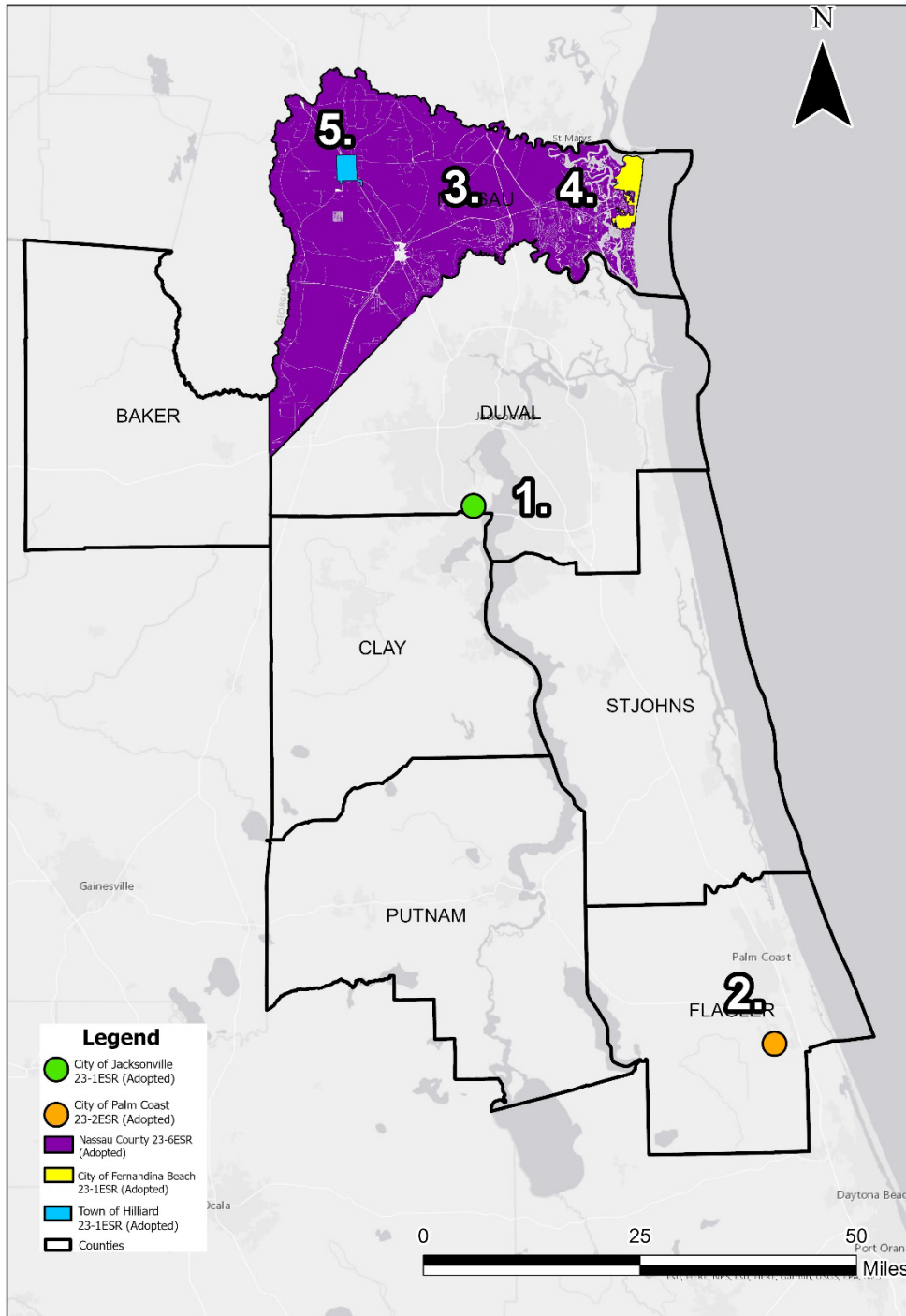
**Follow Us.**



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

# REGIONAL MAP OF AMENDMENT LOCATION SITES

## December 2023 Executive Committee Comprehensive Plan Amendments



Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
City of Jacksonville 23-1ESR	1		X	Duval	12-8-2023	Ordinance 2023-650-E

- **Type:** Future Land Use
- **Issue:** This adopted amendment to the City of Jacksonville’s Comprehensive Plan changed the Future Land Use of 115.73 acres located between Roosevelt Blvd. and Ortega Bluff Parkway from Light-Industrial (LI), Medium-Density Residential (MDR), and Residential-Professional-Institutional (RPI) to just Medium-Density Residential (MDR) and Residential-Professional-Institutional (RPI) to allow for commercial and multi-family uses.
- **Background:** The 115.73-acre subject site is located west of the railroad tracks along Roosevelt Boulevard, a major arterial road, with frontage along the north side of Collins Road, a collector road. The site is mostly undeveloped with two single-family residential units located along the Collins Road portion of the subject site. After the transmittal of the land use map amendment package, the applicant revised the request to remove all land located within the Accident Potential Zone -2 (APZ-2) for Naval Air Station Jacksonville. This change reduced the overall acreage of the site by 12.22 acres from 127.95 to 115.73 acres. Please see maps 1 and 2 in the Appendix for additional information.
- **Impacts:** The adopted amendment is located within the 150 Feet Height and Hazard Zone for the Jacksonville International Airport, a Transportation Resource of Regional Significance. Zoning will limit development to a maximum height of less than 150 feet unless approved by the Jacksonville Aviation Authority or the Federal Aviation Administration. Uses located within the Height and Hazard Zone must not create or increase the potential for such hazards as electronic interference, light glare, bird strike hazards, or other potential hazards to the safe navigation of aircraft.
- **Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination:** The subject site is within proximity to the Town of Orange Park and Clay County. The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) recommended that the City of Jacksonville coordinate with the Town of Orange Park’s Economic and Community Development Department and the Clay County Planning and Zoning Department in the adoption phase. The City reached out to both the planning staff at the Town of Orange Park and Clay County. Clay County staff recommended coordination with the Town of Orange Park regarding their efforts to establish a multi-use trail from Orange Park to Naval Air Station Jacksonville. The Town of Orange Park responded that the amendment would have the potential to positively impact the proposed multi-use trail.

Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
City of Palm Coast 23-2ESR	2		X	Flagler	12-8-2023	Ordinance 2023-15

- **Type:** Future Land Use
- **Issue:** This Future Land Use (FLUM) amendment changed approximately 375 acres from Flagler County designations of Residential Low Density/Rural Estate and Conservation to the City of Palm Coast designation of Residential and Conservation. The applicant delineated the Cascades Planning Area to limit development within the Planning Area to 850 dwelling units.
- **Background:** The subject site is approximately 375 acres located approximately 3 miles south of State Road 100 on the west side of Seminole Woods Blvd. The amendment will delineate the Cascades Planning Area, which will have a maximum development in the planning area of 850 dwelling units. The amendment will include amending the Future Land Use Map designation for four parcels totaling 330.8 acres from their current Flagler County Land Use designation of Residential Low Density/Rural Estate and Conservation to the City of Palm Coast designation of Residential and Conservation. The four parcels were recently annexed into the City of Palm Coast. The remaining 44 acres were previously designated Residential in 2019. Please see Maps 3, 4, and 5 in the Appendix for additional information.
- **Impacts:** The development potentially could impact U.S. 1, a Transportation Resource of Regional Significance. The applicant submitted a Traffic Study which included the subject site. In addition to the potential traffic impacts from the project, the traffic study considered the impacts of recently approved developments in the area. The traffic study concluded that the project will not significantly impact the roadway network (roads will maintain an acceptable Level of Service).
- **Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination:** Intergovernmental coordination is recommended between the City of Palm Coast and Flagler County.

Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
Nassau County 23-6ESR	3		X	Nassau	12-8-2023	Ordinance 2023-30

- **Type:** Text
- **Issue:** This text amendment to the 2030 Nassau County Comprehensive Plan adjusts the Public School Facilities (PSF) Policy 08.04, which allows for exemptions from school concurrency requirements for

age-restricted developments, from being recorded for a period of 50 years to 30 years. School concurrency is a system of land use regulations designed to meet the demands placed upon public school capacity by new residential development.

- **Background:** PSF.08.04 provides the ability to exempt age-restricted developments subject to deed restrictions and so prohibiting permanent occupancy of residents under the age of eighteen (18). This policy requires that the deed restrictions be recorded and irrevocable for a period of at least 50 years. This span is inconsistent with the Comprehensive Impact Fee Ordinance which requires the adoption of non-revocable covenants and restrictions for a period of 30 years.
- **Impacts:** No adverse impacts on Resources of Regional Significance in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan, nor adverse impacts to adjacent local comprehensive plans have been identified.
- **Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination:** No intergovernmental coordination is recommended for this amendment.

Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
City of Fernandina Beach 23-1ESR	4		X	Nassau	12-8-2023	Ordinance 2023-24

- **Type:** Text
- **Issue:** This adopted amendment to the City of Fernandina Beach’s 2030 Comprehensive Plan removes policies requiring pervious materials for parking lots relative to standards in the Land Development Code and a text amendment to the City’s Land Development Code. The developer and the City believe that this requirement hinders the commercial development’s ability to maintain and upgrade facilities. They believe the costs are prohibitive, hindering the developer’s ability to invest in other aspects for the maintenance or improvement of a project. As a result, properties are obligated to demonstrate a hardship in order to obtain a variance. Variances are considered a risky investment of time and money for developers, given municipal staff has difficulty recommending approval, including when a site or user-specific special conditions prevent full compliance with the Land Development Code.
- **Background:** In Fernandina Beach, “large-scale” commercial development has historically been concentrated along roadways leading to the Central Business District including Sadler Road, S. 14th Street, and 8th Street stemming from the late 1970s and 1980s. It was a time when typical commercial development patterns included large expanses of asphalt vehicle parking, to accommodate strip malls with one or more anchor tenants. Since then, the City’s established shopping centers have been maintained and updated several times including through façade and interior renovations as well as with new roofs and updates to mechanical aspects (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), electrical, and plumbing).

The retrofit of parking areas to incorporate additional landscaping has occurred incrementally but mostly remains far from compliant with current standards. One of the issues addressed by this amendment that impacts commercial re-investment is a requirement within the City’s Comprehensive

Plan and Land Development Code which says that all new development and redevelopment projects must include parking with 75 percent pervious materials. This standard was adopted in late 2012 when Florida was considering changes in stormwater regulations through water management districts to recognize low-impact development strategies and reduce stormwater runoff. Due to administrative shifts following the gubernatorial election, the respective rulemaking process stopped between 2013 and 2014. Subsequently, today, stormwater calculations have not been updated and there is no credit for incorporating pervious materials in site design. Further, there is no incentive to incorporate alternative paving materials to reduce land/surface for stormwater management.

- **Impacts:** No adverse impacts to Resources of Regional Significance were identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and no adverse impacts to adjacent jurisdiction’s comprehensive plans have been identified.
- **Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination:** No intergovernmental coordination is recommended for this amendment.

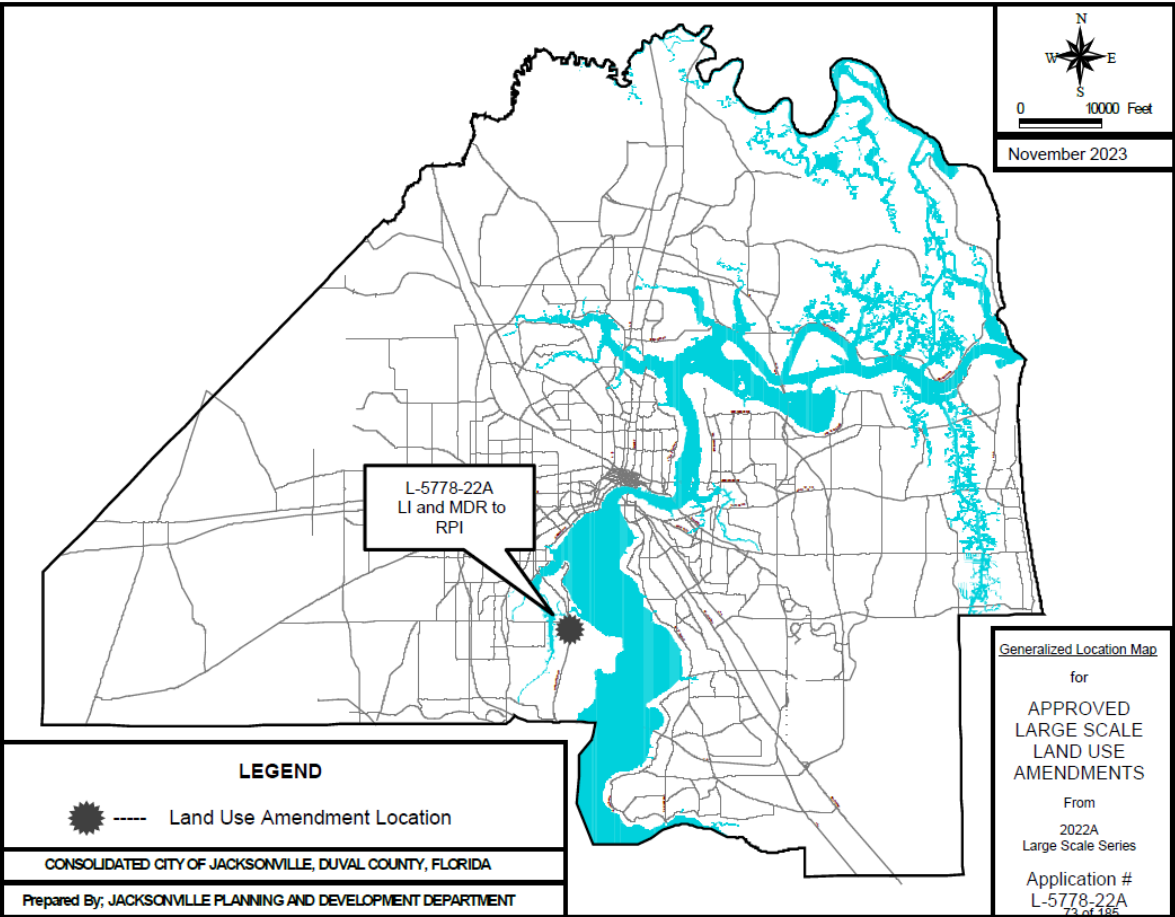
Local Govt. & Plan Amendment	No. on Regional Map	Transmitted	Adopted	County Location	Due Date to be Mailed to Local and State Govt.	Local Govt. Item Number
The Town of Hilliard 23-1ESR	5		X	Nassau	12-8-2023	Ordinance 2023-04

- **Type:** Text Amendment
- **Issue:** The Town of Hilliard amended the Hilliard Comprehensive Plan to revise the description of the Institutional Future Land Use Category.
- **Background:** The adopted amendment will permit memory care, independent senior living facilities, and supportive uses including neighborhood-related commercial, retail, and professional offices. Supportive uses are limited to 30% of the square footage of the institutional structures.
- **Impacts:** No adverse impacts to Resources of Regional Significance were identified in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and no adverse impacts to adjacent jurisdiction’s comprehensive plans have been identified.
- **Recommended Intergovernmental Coordination:** No intergovernmental coordination is recommended for this amendment.

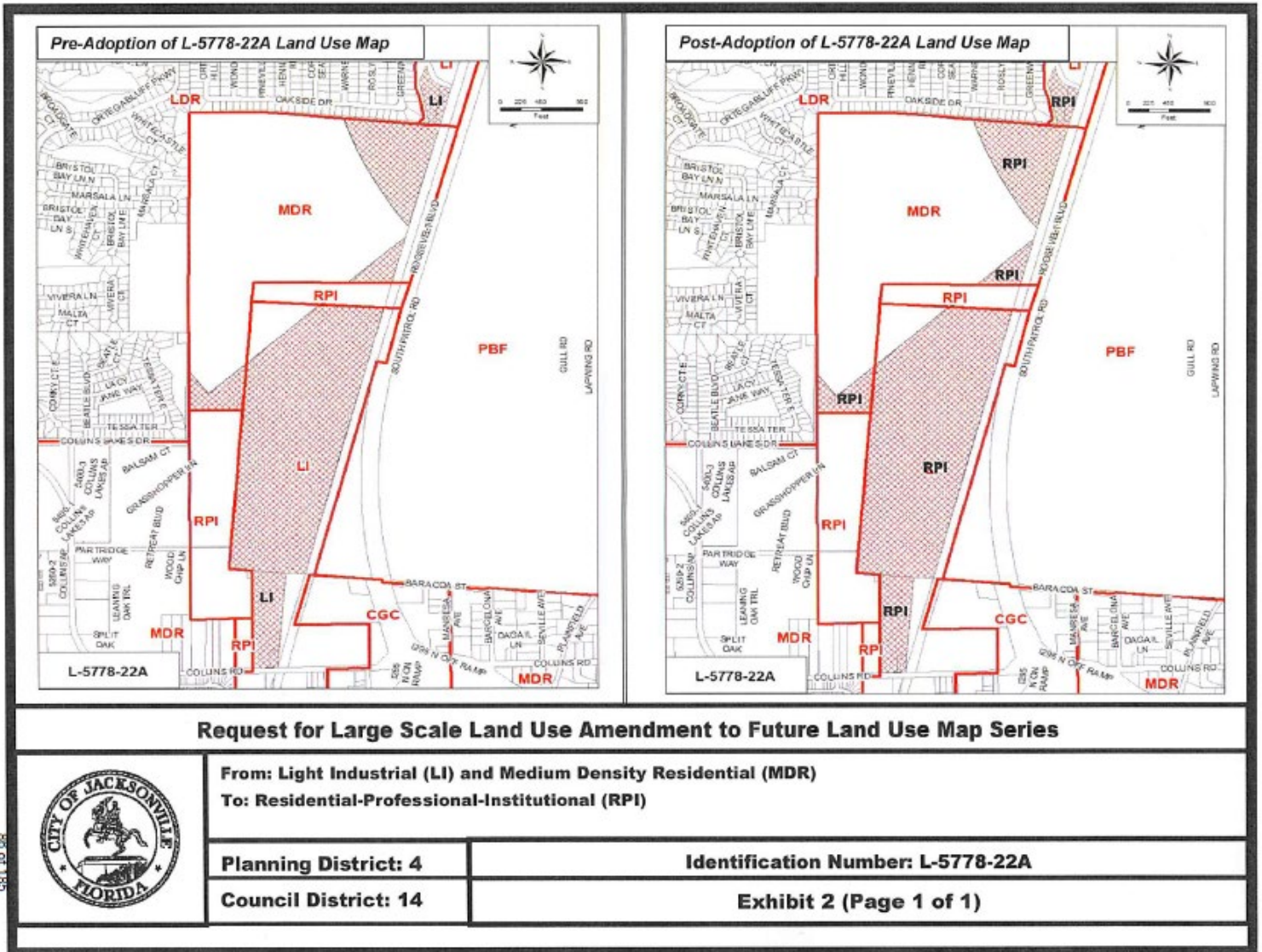


# Appendix

## Map 1: City of Jacksonville 23-1ESR (Subject Site)

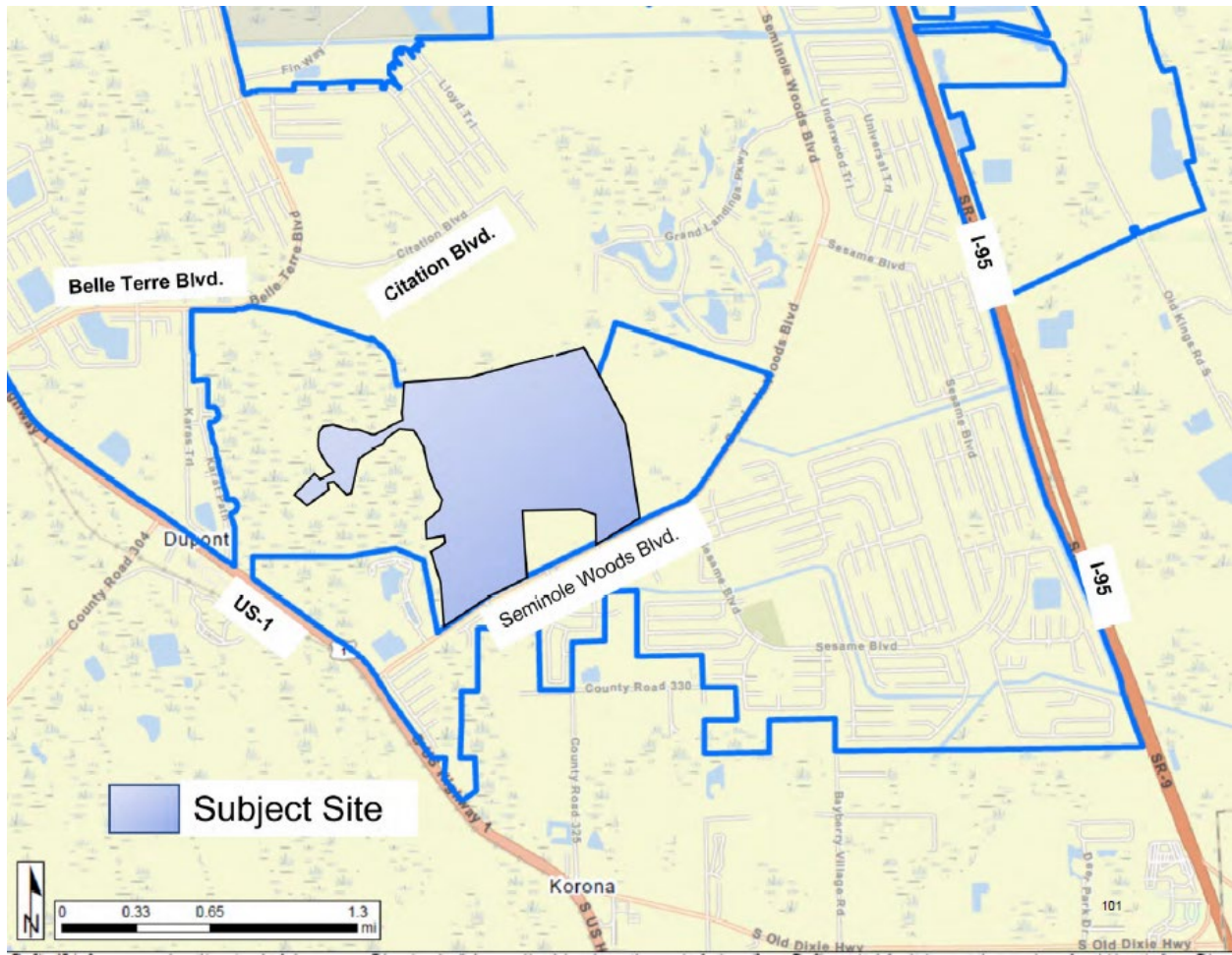


## Map 2: City of Jacksonville 23-1ESR (Current and Proposed Future Land Use Map)

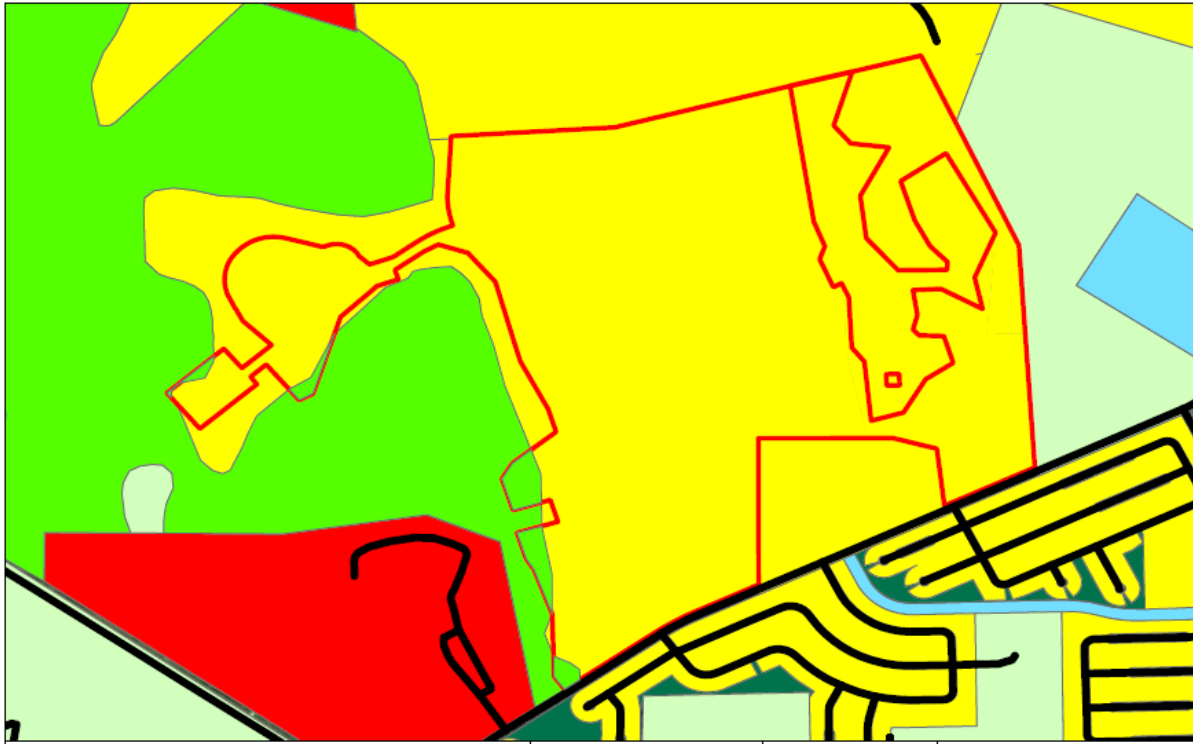


C81.10.03

Map 3: City of Palm Coast 23-2ESR (Subject Site)



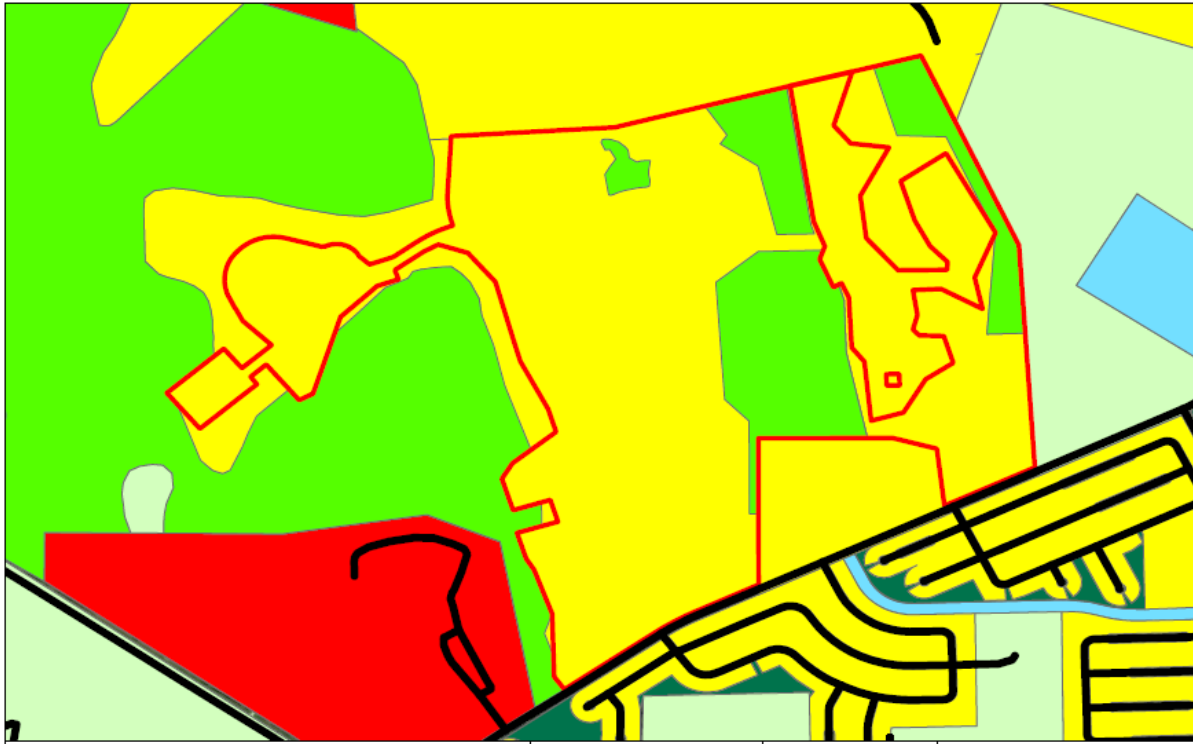
# Map 4: City of Palm Coast 23-2ESR (Current Future Land Use Map)



<b>Current FLUM Map</b> Subject Site <b>Flagler County Flum Classification</b> Educational Use Agriculture/ Timberland Commercial High Intensity Conservation Residential		<b>FLUM Classification</b> Canals Greenbelt Mixed Use Residential	Feet 0 1,000 Dataframe Rotation: 0° off True North 	 <b>Map Provided By:</b> Planning Division	The City of Palm Coast prepares and uses this map/map data for its own purposes. This map/map data displays general boundaries and may not be appropriate for site specific uses. The City uses data believed to be accurate; however, a degree of error is inherent in all maps. This map/map data is distributed AS-IS without warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied including, but not limited to, warranties of suitability to a particular purpose or use. This map/map data is intended for use only at the published scale. Detailed on-the-ground surveys and historical analyses of sites may differ substantially from this map/map data. 102
--	--	---	---	--	--

Document Path: H:\FLUM\Cascades\MXD\MXD\Flum analysis-Cascades\Flum analysis-Cascades.aprx

# Map 5: City of Palm Coast 23-2ESR (Proposed Future Land Use Map)



<b>FLUM Amendment</b> Subject Site Streets <b>Flagler County Flum Classification</b> Educational Use		Agriculture/Timberland Commercial High Intensity Conservation Residential		<b>Proposed FLUM Classification</b> Conservation Residential		<b>FLUM Classification</b> Canals Greenbelt Mixed Use Residential		Feet 0 1,000 Dataframe Rotation: 0° off True North 		 <b>Map Provided By:</b> Planning Division		The City of Palm Coast prepares and uses this map/map data for its own purposes. This map/map data displays general boundaries and may not be appropriate for site specific uses. The City uses data believed to be accurate; however, a degree of error is inherent in all maps. This map/map data is distributed AS-IS without warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied including, but not limited to, warranties of suitability to a particular purpose or use. This map/map data is intended for use only at the published scale. Detailed on-the-ground surveys and historical analyses of sites may differ substantially from this map/map data. 103	
--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

Document Path: H:\FLUM\Cascades\IMX\IMXD\Flum analysis-Cascades\Flum analysis-Cascades.aprx

# Agenda

---

## Item

---

Tab 3

Tab 3

Tab 3

Tab 3

Tab 3



100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org

Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

***Bringing Communities Together***

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 29, 2023

**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**THRU:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FROM:** DONNA STARLING, <sup>DS</sup> CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

**RE:** OCTOBER 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

---

The Northeast Florida Regional Council posted a Net Income of \$9,014 for the month of October and a Year-to-Date Net Income of \$9,014.

---

Follow Us.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Regional Council - Agencywide	Adopted Budget 23/24	October 2023	YTD	Represents 8% of Fiscal Year	Budget Variance
<b>Revenues</b>					
County Dues	\$ 694,757	57,896	57,896	8%	0%
Local Government Technical Assistance	\$ 236,300	11,523	11,523	5%	-3%
Transportation Disadvantaged (TD)	\$ 186,329	10,870	10,870	6%	-2%
Economic Development Administration (EDA)	\$ 70,000	5,931	5,931	8%	0%
Hazardous Analysis	\$ 13,849	816	816	6%	-2%
Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC)	\$ 77,000	9,591	9,591	12%	4%
Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Program	\$ 75,878	-	-	0%	-8%
Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program	\$ 5,000	-	-	0%	-8%
Healthcare Coalition	\$ 748,712	30,057	30,057	4%	-4%
CDBG North Florida Resiliency Plan	\$ 250,000	18,316	18,316	7%	-1%
CDBG Mitigation Assessment and Planning	\$ 106,000	4,502	4,502	4%	-4%
Florida Hospital Association	\$ 132,879	-	-	0%	-8%
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	\$ -	14,507	14,507	0%	-8%
Disaster Recovery Coordinator	\$ 87,000	8,702	8,702	10%	2%
Regional Leadership Academy (RLA)	\$ 4,200	-	-	0%	-8%
Other Revenue	\$ 13,350	58,328	58,328	437%	429%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 2,701,254</b>	<b>\$ 231,037</b>	<b>\$ 231,037</b>	<b>9%</b>	
<b>TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 100,466</b>	<b>\$ (9,014)</b>	<b>\$ (9,014)</b>		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE/GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 2,801,720</b>	<b>\$ 222,024</b>	<b>\$ 222,024</b>	<b>8%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries and Fringe	\$ 1,675,438	147,018	147,018	9%	1%
Contract/Grant Direct Expenses	\$ 791,707	3,334	3,334	0%	-8%
Indirect - Allocated Expenses*	\$ 201,295	17,069	17,069	8%	0%
General Fund Expense*	\$ 133,280	54,602	54,602	41%	33%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 2,801,720</b>	<b>\$ 222,024</b>	<b>\$ 222,024</b>	<b>8%</b>	
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	<b>\$ (100,466)</b>	<b>9,014</b>	<b>\$ 9,014</b>		



Northeast Florida Regional Council  
 Balance Sheet  
 October 2023

	<b>FY 22/23</b>	<b>FY 23/24</b>
	<b>October 2022</b>	<b>October 2023</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	2,480,421	2,430,628
Accounts Receivable	301,992	416,347
Pension Liability-Deferred Outflows	334,226	439,576
WJCT Security Deposit	7,400	7,400
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,124,039</b>	<b>3,293,951</b>
<b>Property and Equipment:</b>		
Office Furniture and Equipment	277,765	243,214
Less Accumulated Depreciation	172,748	190,870
<b>Total Property and Equipment, net</b>	<b>105,017</b>	<b>52,344</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,229,055</b>	<b>3,346,295</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	12,743	11,465
Accrued Salaries and Leave	59,307	102,765
Deferred Revenue	345,235	226,977
Pension Liability	428,190	1,087,234
Pension Liability-Deferred Inflows	566,417	56,671
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,411,892</b>	<b>1,485,113</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
<b>Equity and Other Credits:</b>		
Retained Earnings	1,817,164	1,861,183
<b>Total Equity and Other Credits</b>	<b>1,817,164</b>	<b>1,861,183</b>
<b>Total Liabilities, Equity and Other Credits</b>	<b>3,229,055</b>	<b>3,346,295</b>

## YTD Comparison

	22/23	23/24	22/23	23/24
	Net Income (Loss)	Net Income (Loss)	Cash Balance	Cash Balance

### AGENCYWIDE

October	\$ 3,147	\$ 9,014	\$ 2,480,421	\$ 2,430,628
November	\$ 10,292		\$ 2,548,733	
December	\$ 21,445		\$ 2,427,805	
January	\$ 29,526		\$ 2,516,530	
February	\$ 44,710		\$ 2,488,934	
March	\$ 65,477		\$ 2,237,393	
April	\$ 82,390		\$ 2,354,111	
May	\$ 60,665		\$ 2,200,457	
June	\$ 75,043		\$ 1,807,496	
July	\$ 86,500		\$ 2,227,862	
August	\$ 98,379		\$ 2,360,077	
September	\$ 82,101		\$ 2,480,421	



100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org

Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

***Bringing Communities Together***

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 29, 2023  
**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
**THRU:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**FROM:** DONNA STARLING, <sup>DS</sup> CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
**RE:** OCTOBER 2023 INVESTMENT REPORT

---

Bank Account Interest	<u>FY 22/23</u>	<u>FY 23/24</u>
October Interest	\$ 9	\$ 1,410
Year to Date Interest	\$ 9	\$ 1,410
Florida Local Government Investment Trust		
	<u>FY 22/23</u>	<u>FY 23/24</u>
Current Balance	\$17,482	\$18,193

---

Follow Us.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

# Agenda

---

## Item

---

Tab 4

Tab 4

Tab 4

Tab 4

Tab 4



100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org


Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

***Bringing Communities Together***

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 29, 2023

**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**FROM:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER 

**RE:** WEBSITE DESIGN SERVICES NEGOTIATIONS

---

As a follow up to the November Board meeting, staff engaged in further discussions with the top two website design firms that submitted a proposal for the NEFRC's Request for Proposal (RFP) for website design – CONTROL+ ALT Digital and SGS Technologie. As a result, staff will present a final recommendation for the Executive Committee's consideration.

---

Follow Us.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

# Agenda Item

---

---

Tab 5

Tab 5

Tab 5

Tab 5

Tab 5



100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org

Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

***Bringing Communities Together***

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**THRU:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *EP*

**FROM:** ERIC ANDERSON, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *EA*

**RE:** TRAILS AND ECOTOURISM UPDATE

---

In response to a support request letter from the NEFRC, the – Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program – came to northeast Florida to determine if NPS-RTCA can assist with resources and subject matter expertise to support our regional trails and ecotourism initiative, as well as local partner projects. The tour agenda is attached for your information.

Staff will provide an update on the agency’s activities associated with the work plan on trails and ecotourism, an overview of the National Parks Service’s regional tour, and discuss next steps.

---

Follow Us.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

# Site Visit Itinerary

NPS - RTCA Program

*November 6th - 8th, 2023*



## Northeast Florida Regional Council Contacts:

**Eric Anderson, Deputy CEO, (904) 505-3428**

**Cassidy Taylor, Economic Recovery Coordinator, (904) 637-9739**



# Site Visit Itinerary

## NPS - RTCA Program

Monday, November 6th, 2023



### St. Johns County

9 a.m.

#### Meet at St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Administration

2175 Mizell Road, St. Augustine, FL 32080

- 9 – 9:15 a.m. Meet at St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Administration  
2175 Mizell Road, St. Augustine, FL 32080
- 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. Trails Workplan and Priority Project Overview
- 9:45 – 11:15 a.m. Site Visit to Vilano A1A Scenic Highway  
Meet at 3721 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Travel to Micklers Landing  
1109½ Ponte Vedra Blvd, Ponte Vedra, FL 32082
- 11:15 - 11:30 a.m. Closeout Huddle at Micklers Landing  
Q & A / Next Steps

#### County Contacts

Jamie Baccari, Assistant Director, (904) 814-0265

Nathan Otter, Natural Resources Superintendent, (904) 788-6655

# Site Visit Itinerary

## NPS - RTCA Program

Monday, November 6th, 2023



### Flagler County / Palm Coast

1 p.m.

#### Meet at Flagler County Tourism Development Office

120 Airport Rd, Palm Coast, FL 32164

1 – 2 p.m.

Meet at the Tourism Development Office (TDC Conference Room)

-Introductions

-Presentation of Regional Visitor Eco-Discover Center

- Discussion, City of Palm Coast Initiatives

-Discussion of other opportunities available from NPS

2 – 4 p.m.

Site Visits

\*Regional Eco-Tourism Discover Center (6201 State Hwy 100 E, Flagler Beach, FL)

\*Bicycle Tour of City of Palm Coast/Flagler County trails

- Linear Park - Shuttle bus to Linear Park to retrieve bicycles from indoor classroom and travel to St. Joe Walkway to Waterfront - approx. 2.25 miles

- Waterfront Park - Travel St. Joe Walkway to Intracoastal Waterway trail through Waterfront Park and out to Colbert Lane - approx. 1.25 miles

- Graham Swamp - Travel Colbert Lane to Graham Swamp trail where the boardwalk meets the bridge; then back to Colbert Lane to return to Linear Park - approx. 1.5 miles

- Shuttle bus back to TDC office

#### County Contacts

Amy Lukasik, Flagler County Tourism Development Director, (386) 983-8351

Maeven Rogers, Palm Coast Chief Sustainability & Resiliency Officer, (386) 529-4314

# Site Visit Itinerary

## NPS - RTCA Program

Tuesday, November 7th, 2023



### Putnam County

9 a.m.

#### Meet at the St. Johns River Center (Headquarters of the National Recreation Trail)

102 N 1st Street, Palatka, FL 32177

- 9 - 9:30 a.m. Presentation of Putnam County, Palatka, Bartram Trail in Putnam County National Recreation Trail, Bartram Trail in Florida. This will include slides with details of the St. Johns River, conservation lands, parks, river access, and designated trails.
- 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Tour of the Palatka Riverfront Park – Bartram Trail in Putnam’s kiosk, signs, playground, kayak landing, boat landing, sculpture, and ship store.
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Tour of Veterans Park and view Wilson Cove property – both projects would provide river access, historic views, conserve wetlands, and a mooring field for river travelers.
- 10:30 - 12 p.m. Tour of other sites and possibly waterfront in Welaka (15 miles from Palatka). There are several Bartram sites on the way. Welaka is the town Bass Pro has purchased 4,000 acres of property – making a resort.

\*\*If you want to have lunch in Palatka, Sam Carr recommends Corky Bells on the river. They have a meeting room that is isolated or outside and inside river view tables.

#### County Contacts

Sam Carr, President of the Bartram Trail Society, (386) 937-3901

# Site Visit Itinerary

## NPS - RTCA Program

*Tuesday, November 7th, 2023*



**Clay County**

**1:30 p.m.**

### **Meet at the Clay County Administration Building**

**477 Houston St, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, Floor 4**

1:30 - 1:35 p.m.	Introductions
1:35 - 1:50 p.m.	Overview - NPS and NEFRC
1:50 - 2:05 p.m.	Clay County BCC Project Update Discussion
2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Town/Municipality Project Updates Discussion
2:30 - 4 p.m.	Tour of Keystone Heights Lakes

### **County Contacts**

Megan Mosley, Grants Director, (904) 295-4151

Justin Pierce, Parks and Recreation Director, (904) 429-2375

# Site Visit Itinerary

## NPS - RTCA Program

*Wednesday, November 8th, 2023*



**Baker County / Nassau County**

**9 a.m.**

### **Meet at Baker County Board of County Commissioners Building**

**55 North 3rd St, Macclenny, FL 32063**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 9 - 9:30 a.m.      | Welcome and Introduction   |
| 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  | Travel to St. Marys Shoals Park for tour and discussion  |
| 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. | Travel to bridge on SR 121 that passes over the St. Marys River (observed while in transit due to lack of parking)                               |
| 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. | Travel to the St. Marys Cove Boat Ramp (AKA The Old Boy Scout Camp)<br>-Tour and discussion of upcoming improvements being made to the boat ramp |
| 11:45 a.m.         | Return to BOCC Office for debriefing and refreshments, as provided by Baker County   |

### **County Contacts**

Brandy Carvalho, Director of Strategic Advancements/Economic Resources (Nassau), (904) 676-8841

Greg Combs, Baker County GIS Analyst, (904) 874-8639

Emily Floore, St. Marys Riverkeeper, (843) 906-6548

# Site Visit Itinerary

## NPS - RTCA Program

Wednesday, November 8th, 2023



**Duval County / City of Jacksonville**

**1:30 p.m.**

**Meet at Betz-Tiger Point Preserve (look for picnic shelter ~.5 mi into the Preserve on the right)**

**13990 Pumpkin Hill Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32226**

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

7 Creeks Recreation Area

- Focus on recent partnership effort & desire to expand/promote ecotourism while also reaching underserved populations
- Discuss envisioned shared-use trail linking community to this recreation area as part of the City's greenway plans

Tour Stops:

- Betz-Tiger Point Preserve (13990 Pumpkin Hill Rd)
- Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park main trailhead (13802 Pumpkin Hill Rd)
- NPS's Cedar Point Boat Ramp (9023 Cedar Point Rd)

2:30 - 3 p.m.

Travel to Downtown

3 - 4 p.m.

Downtown

- Discuss recent water activation efforts Citywide with a focus on downtown / identify need to raise awareness of access and promote water-based ecotourism
- Emerald Trail and other connected bike/pedestrian efforts

Tour stops:

- Riverfront Plaza (2 Independent Dr W, Jacksonville, FL 32202)
- Post Street Dock (end of Post St, between Cummer Museum & Garden Club)
- Emerald Trail Model Mile

### County Contacts

Brian Burkett, Waterfront Project Manager, (850) 559-2756

# Trails & Ecotourism Update

December 2023



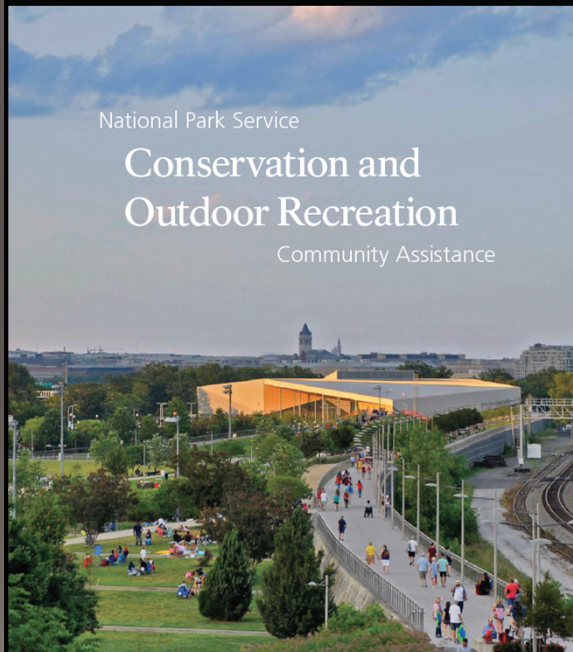
# Leveraging Resources and Subject Matter Experts

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Park Service  
Conservation and  
Outdoor Recreation  
Community Assistance





# NPS-RTCA

## Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

- Support locally led projects and assists communities with conservation and outdoor recreation projects. NPS-RTCA provides professional planning, design, and technical expertise to help achieve your conservation and outdoor recreation vision.
- The NPS-RTCA model is to combine the skills of our staff with those of your organization. It's a partnership – we work alongside your team and local knowledge experts to assist with the work that you are leading.



**Parks**  
Creating a system of parks for all

**Trails**  
Creating a network of trails for public health and enjoyment

**Accessibility**  
Developing equitable access to the nation's lands and waters

**Water Trails**  
Creating public access to explore our nation's waterways

**Conserving Lands and Waters**

**Climate Change Adaptation**  
Assisting communities in becoming resilient to a changing climate

**Land and Habitat Conservation**  
Developing local and regional conservation strategies

**River Restoration**  
Restoring rivers to their natural systems

**Building Healthy Communities**

**Health**  
Developing outdoor recreation strategies that support community health goals

**Natural Disasters**  
Assisting communities with natural disaster recovery

**Underutilized Spaces**  
Reimagining underutilized spaces for community use

**Heritage**  
Helping communities preserve cultural connections to lands and waters

**Collaboration Services**  
Bringing interested parties together to implement shared goals

**Organizational Development**  
Strengthening the capacity of organizations

**Developing Organizational Capacity**

**National Parks**  
Supporting parks and their gateway communities

**State and Federal Lands**  
A large landscape approach to working together

**Supporting Public Land Management Collaboration**

**Youth Program Development**  
Engaging the next generation in America's great outdoors

**Engaging Youth**

**Youth Stewardship**  
Engaging local youth in the planning and development of conservation and outdoor recreation projects



Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## NPS-RTCA Site Visits

National Park Service

# Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

Community Assistance

**Southern Counties/Impacted Counties**  
Monday AM – St. Johns County  
Monday PM – Flagler County/City of Palm Coast  
Tuesday AM – Putnam County/Palatka/Welaka  
Tuesday PM – Clay County

**Northern Counties**  
Wednesday AM – Baker & Nassau County/St. Mary’s River  
Wednesday PM – Duval County/City of Jacksonville

- Stephan Nofield - RTCA National Program Manager
- Deirdre Hewitt - RTCA Southeast Program Manager
- Helen Siewers - RTCA Landscape Architect
- Moses Chun - RTCA Senior Project Manager
- Michael Schilling - RTCA Florida Community Planner

## Site Visit Itinerary

### NPS - RTCA Program

*Monday, November 6th, 2023*

**NEFRC**  
NORTHEAST FLORIDA  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**St. Johns County**
**9 a.m.**

**Meet at St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Administration**  
**2175 Mizell Road, St. Augustine, FL 32080**


9 – 9:15 a.m.	Meet at St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Administration 2175 Mizell Road, St. Augustine, FL 32080
9:15 – 9:45 a.m.	Trails Workplan and Priority Project Overview
9:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Site Visit to Vilano A1A Scenic Highway Meet at 3721 Coastal Highway, St. Augustine, FL 32084 Travel to Micklers Landing 1109½ Ponte Vedra Blvd, Ponte Vedra, FL 32082
11:15 - 11:30 a.m.	Closeout Huddle at Micklers Landing Q & A / Next Steps

**County Contacts**  
Jamie Baccari, Assistant Director, (904) 814-0265  
Nathan Otter, Natural Resources Superintendent, (904) 788-6655

## Site Visit Itinerary

### NPS - RTCA Program

Monday, November 6th, 2023




---

**Flagler County / Palm Coast** 1 p.m.

**Meet at Flagler County Tourism Development Office**  
**120 Airport Rd, Palm Coast, FL 32164**

1 - 2 p.m. Meet at the Tourism Development Office (TDC Conference Room)

- Introductions
- Presentation of Regional Visitor Eco-Discover Center
- Discussion, City of Palm Coast Initiatives
- Discussion of other opportunities available from NPS

2 - 4 p.m. Site Visits

- \*Regional Eco-Tourism Discover Center (6201 State Hwy 100 E, Flagler Beach, FL)
- \*Bicycle Tour of City of Palm Coast/Flagler County trails
  - Linear Park - Shuttle bus to Linear Park to retrieve bicycles from indoor classroom and travel to St. Joe Walkway to Waterfront - approx. 2.25 miles
  - Waterfront Park - Travel St. Joe Walkway to Intracoastal Waterway trail through Waterfront Park and out to Colbert Lane - approx. 1.25 miles
  - Graham Swamp - Travel Colbert Lane to Graham Swamp trail where the boardwalk meets the bridge; then back to Colbert Lane to return to Linear Park - approx. 1.5 miles
  - Shuttle bus back to TDC office


**County Contacts**  
 Amy Lukasuk, Flagler County Tourism Development Director, (386) 983-8351  
 Maeven Rogers, Palm Coast Chief Sustainability & Resiliency Officer, (386) 529-4314



## Site Visit Itinerary

### NPS - RTCA Program

Tuesday, November 7th, 2023




---

**Putnam County** 9 a.m.

**Meet at the St. Johns River Center (Headquarters of the National Recreation Trail)**  
**102 N 1st Street, Palatka, FL 32177**

9 - 9:30 a.m. Presentation of Putnam County, Palatka, Bartram Trail in Putnam County National Recreation Trail, Bartram Trail in Florida. This will include slides with details of the St. Johns River, conservation lands, parks, river access, and designated trails.

9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Tour of the Palatka Riverfront Park – Bartram Trail in Putnam's kiosk, signs, playground, kayak landing, boat landing, sculpture, and ship store.

10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Tour of Veterans Park and view Wilson Cove property – both projects would provide river access, historic views, conserve wetlands, and a mooring field for river travelers.

10:30 - 12 p.m. Tour of other sites and possibly waterfront in Welaka (15 miles from Palatka). There are several Bartram sites on the way. Welaka is the town Bass Pro has purchased 4,000 acres of property – making a resort.


**\*\*if you want to have lunch in Palatka, Sam Carr recommends Corky Bells on the river. They have a meeting room that is isolated or outside and inside river view tables.**


**County Contacts**  
 Sam Carr, President of the Bartram Trail Society, (386) 937-3901

## Site Visit Itinerary

### NPS - RTCA Program

*Tuesday, November 7th, 2023*





---


Clay County
1:30 p.m.

**Meet at the Clay County Administration Building**  
**477 Houston St, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043, Floor 4**

1:30 - 1:35 p.m.	Introductions
1:35 - 1:50 p.m.	Overview - NPS and NEFRC
1:50 - 2:05 p.m.	Clay County BCC Project Update Discussion
2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Town/Municipality Project Updates Discussion
2:30 - 4 p.m.	Tour of Keystone Heights Lakes

**County Contacts**

Megan Mosley, Grants Director, (904) 295-4151  
 Justin Pierce, Parks and Recreation Director, (904) 429-2375







## Site Visit Itinerary

### NPS - RTCA Program

*Wednesday, November 8th, 2023*

---

Baker County / Nassau County
9 a.m.

**Meet at Baker County Board of County Commissioners Building**  
**55 North 3rd St, Macclenny, FL 32063**

9 - 9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Travel to St. Marys Shoals Park for tour and discussion
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Travel to bridge on SR 121 that passes over the St. Marys River (observed while in transit due to lack of parking)
10:45 - 11:45 a.m.	Travel to the St. Marys Cove Boat Ramp (AKA The Old Boy Scout Camp) -Tour and discussion of upcoming improvements being made to the boat ramp
11:45 a.m.	Return to BOCC Office for debriefing and refreshments, as provided by Baker County

**County Contacts**


Brandy Carvalho, Director of Strategic Advancements/Economic Resources (Nassau), (904) 676-8841  
 Greg Combs, Baker County GIS Analyst, (904) 874-8639  
 Emily Floore, St. Marys Riverkeeper, (843) 906-6548



## Site Visit Itinerary

### NPS - RTCA Program

Wednesday, November 8th, 2023



---

Duval County / City of Jacksonville
1:30 p.m.

---

**Meet at Betz-Tiger Point Preserve (look for picnic shelter ~.5 mi into the Preserve on the right)**  
**13990 Pumpkin Hill Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32226**

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.    7 Creeks Recreation Area

- Focus on recent partnership effort & desire to expand/promote ecotourism while also reaching underserved populations
- Discuss envisioned shared-use trail linking community to this recreation area as part of the City's greenway plans

**Tour Stops:**

- Betz-Tiger Point Preserve (13990 Pumpkin Hill Rd)
- Pumpkin Hill Creek Preserve State Park main trailhead (13802 Pumpkin Hill Rd)
- NPS's Cedar Point Boat Ramp (9023 Cedar Point Rd)

2:30 - 3 p.m.    Travel to Downtown

3 - 4 p.m.    Downtown

- Discuss recent water activation efforts Citywide with a focus on downtown / identify need to raise awareness of access and promote water-based ecotourism
- Emerald Trail and other connected bike/pedestrian efforts

**Tour stops:**

- Riverfront Plaza (2 Independent Dr W, Jacksonville, FL 32202)
- Post Street Dock (end of Post St, between Cummer Museum & Garden Club)
- Emerald Trail Model Mile

**County Contacts**

Brian Burkett, Waterfront Project Manager, (850) 559-2756



# NPS-RTCA

## Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

### Next Steps –

- Await a response from NPS-RTCA
  - Support for Local Projects & Regional Initiative?
  
- Revisit NEFRC Workplan
  - Assist with local projects
  - Advance regional trails and ecotourism initiative
  
- Steering Committee Meeting



# Trails & Ecotourism Update

Questions?



# Agenda Item

---

---

Tab 6

Tab 6

Tab 6

Tab 6

Tab 6




100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org

Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

***Bringing Communities Together***

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 28, 2023  
**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER   
**RE:** 2024 WORKPLAN DISCUSSION

---

December each year is when the Executive Committee discuss programs and work opportunities for Regional Council staff to pursue over the next calendar year. In recent years, work plan items have included resiliency, affordable housing, opioid epidemic and most recently ecotourism. Staff will engage the Executive Committee members on potential 2024 initiatives and project ideas.

---

Follow Us.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

# Agenda

---

## Item

---

Tab 7

Tab 7

Tab 7

Tab 7

Tab 7





100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
☎ (904) 279-0880  
📠 (904) 279-0881  
🌐 www.nefrc.org  
✉ info@nefrc.org

Serving the communities of Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties

***Bringing Communities Together***

## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**TO:** NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**THRU:** ELIZABETH PAYNE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *EP*

**FROM:** TYLER NOLEN, SPECIAL PROJECTS *TN*

**RE:** **2023 REGIONAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE**

---

Sitting as the Awards Selection Committee, the Executive Committee will finalize the recipients of the 2023 Regional Awards of Excellence. Staff will present a summary of all nominations, by category, for the Committee to review and select the winners.

Award Winners will be honored at the Annual Elected Officials Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, to be held immediately following the January 4, 2024 Board Meeting.

---

**Follow Us.**



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

# 2023 Award Nominations:

## Affordable Housing

### 1. Tiny Home Development Program- Nassau County

Mobile Homes and Recreational Vehicle Parks are routinely utilized to assist in meeting the demands of affordable and workforce housing. Within the unincorporated limits of Nassau County there are 25 mobile homes and/or RV parks with the capacity to accommodate 365 spaces. Many of these parks are aging and the mobile homes are dilapidated, creating pockets of blight throughout the community. The Tiny Home Development Program will allow existing mobile home parks, travel trailer parks, and RV Parks to redevelop as affordable communities and will allow lands owned or managed by local government entities to provide diversified housing options. The amendments will also create an incentive for developers to redevelop blighted areas in order to provide long-term affordability.

### 2. Villages of New Augustine- St. Johns

Villages of New Augustine is a 92-unit new construction apartment community to be constructed at the intersection of North Volusia Street and Chapin Street in the West Augustine neighborhood. Ten percent of the units will serve individuals at 33% AMI, 10% of the units are for those at 50% AMI and the remaining 80% of the units will serve residents at 60% AMI. The construction will meet Florida Green Building Certification guidelines to ensure the buildings have energy efficient features for residents. In addition to the apartment buildings, the community will include a community center with onsite leasing offices, a computer lab, library, community space, exercise room, and space for workshops and trainings. The community will also include a playground and a dedicated walking trail. The space to the west of North Volusia Street may be used to provide additional community amenities.

Because St Johns County designated Villages of New Augustine as a priority project, including a commitment from the County of \$460,000, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation approved an award of Low Income Housing Tax Credits for development of the project. Upon notification of the award from FHFC, Ability Housing experienced a funding gap which required additional County support in order to complete the financing for the project. Additional resources from American Rescue Plan Funds as well as the creation of an impact fee deferral ordinance/process solved the funding gap concerns for Ability. The groundbreaking for this project is currently scheduled for November 30, 2023, with construction scheduled to begin in January 2024, and the apartments will be move-in ready for residents by July 2025. This project will provide much needed affordable housing in an underserved community within St. Johns County.

Renderings of the project are available but require permission from the architectural firm prior to publication.

## **Culture Historic Preservation or Adaptive Reuse**

### **1. First Baptist Church Institutional Rehabilitation- St. Augustine**

The Lincolnville Community Redevelopment Area (LCRA) was established in 2013 in an effort to address challenges related to the improvement of physical conditions, economically depressed corridors, and residential stabilization. In 2017, the Community Redevelopment Plan was amended. This amendment identified three elements of focus; “preserve African American heritage and retain long-term residents”, “preserve Lincolnville’s historic character”, and “conduct neighborhood improvements”. Focus groups recommended establishing the LCRA Institutional Rehabilitation Grant Program, which would both preserve the African American Heritage in Lincolnville and assist in retaining long-term residents, as many of the Lincolnville residents are connected to the established institutions in the area. This program also met the City’s overall goal of preserving historic structures.

In 2020, at the height of the global pandemic, First Baptist Church rehabilitation efforts would begin, making it the inaugural Institutional Rehabilitation Grant Program Project. Funded completely by the LCRA revenues, the \$1.2 million dollar project included structural stabilization, stained glass window restoration, mechanical and electrical upgrades, HVAC installation and weatherization, restroom facility restoration, interior and exterior painting, flood protections and the installation of an ADA compliant elevator. The elevator is housed in a structural addition, that seamlessly flows with the historic elements of the church’s facade. Staff worked diligently with the City’s Historic Preservation Officer to ensure that the addition did not compromise the integrity of the church’s historic features.

The CRA has received over \$1M in grant funds from the African American Cultural and Historic Grant fund to complete additional historic institutional rehabilitation projects.

### **2. Citizen's Guide to Preserving Historic Places- Nassau County**

Nassau County recognizes the vital importance of place-making to the quality of life for citizens. Being aware of and understanding the history of one’s home connects the community together and leads to greater retention and satisfaction of residents. Historic preservation bridges the gap between generations with celebrations of history serving as a way to solidify and strengthen family and community ties. The County is limited in its ability to preserve all items of historic significance due to reasons including: population of the County (over 97,000), number of jurisdictions within the County (4), ownership of private property, staffing, and funding. In recognition of this, the Nassau

County Planning Department developed The Citizen's Guide to Preserving Historic Places in Nassau County with assistance from Community Planning Collaborative staff, Adrienne Burke and Ennis Davis. The Guide is intended to walk the reader through a brief history of the historic preservation field and to arm the reader with the tools necessary to act as historic preservationists. Since the Guide's completion (10/11/23), multiple requests have been made for print copies to be created and distributed, which the County has decided to do. The County intends to update the Guide annually as new information becomes available.

## **Economic Development and Tourism**

### **1. Port Putnam-Putnam**

Since the cancellation of the Florida Cross Barge Canal project, the barge port in Palatka laid mostly dormant. With the construction of the First Coast Expressway and the resulting raising of the Shands Bridge, officials saw the opportunity of turning an inert structure into a regional intermodal cargo hub benefiting the local economy. In working with Federal, State and local partners, Putnam County staff has successfully:

- had the US Army Corps of Engineers to determine the feasibility to dredge an access channel from the port to the St John's River Federal Navigable Waterway,
- obtained a Port Infrastructure Development grant from MARAD,
- had the state legislature statutorily name Port Putnam as a member of the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council,
- been elected into the Florida Ports Council, and
- developed a Port Master Plan to guide the facility towards a fully functional regional intermodal cargo hub.

The combination of all those factors will provide a foundation for Putnam County to seek funding for necessary infrastructure rebuilds to bring the Port up to today's standards and open for business. This will offer local manufacturers to not only the opportunity to bid on bigger and greater projects but to also expand their current markets and reduce their aggregate materials import costs. Which, in turn, will lead to the creation of good paying jobs at their facilities, thus increasing the local money supply resulting in an income boost for local entrepreneurs and retailers.

### **2. County Destination & Community Enhancement Strategy- Nassau**

With the continued success of Amelia Island's tourism industry and the ongoing growth and opportunity in Nassau County, the Amelia Island Tourist Development Council (AITDC) embarked on a Countywide Destination and Community Enhancement Strategy on behalf of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The evolution of Nassau County as a destination with an enhanced quality of life brings economic prosperity. As the County's top private job creator, the visitor industry supports more than 25% of all jobs in Nassau County and generates almost \$1 billion in annual

economic impact. This prosperity enhances the Nassau County community through a wide variety of positive impacts.

The goal of the project was to assess future opportunities, outlining strategies and actions that would support the development of a Destination and Community Enhancement Strategy across the entire County while also addressing current concerns, challenges and opportunities faced by both industry and County residents. The detailed Four-Phased strategic approach involved a review of existing studies as well as engaging more than 700 Nassau County stakeholders to understand and assess all potential priority areas. After diligently incorporating feedback from stakeholders and residents, conducting comprehensive market research, and considering relevant existing plans, it became evident that this Strategy should prioritize ongoing reinvestment in the current tourism economy while also expanding its influence across the entire County. The final Strategy provides a framework for current and future opportunities and reinvestments, as well as manage the current growth and explore potential destination and community enhancements across Nassau County.

### **3. Sing Out Loud Festival- St. Johns**

SJCCE Inc. is the organization behind Sing Out Loud, the annual, month-long music festival that takes place throughout St. Johns County, FL. Sing Out Loud is held every September – a month that experiences the lowest visitation of the year.

Averaging only 55% hotel occupancy, this drop in tourism significantly impacts the local economy, resulting in reduced revenues for hotels, restaurants, attractions, retail and more. To solve this, SJCCE Inc. expanded Sing Out Loud to include a two-day concert event in downtown St. Augustine featuring headliners The Black Keys, Mumford & Sons, and more.

Between September 22 and 23, over 32,000 attendees from 40 states and all parts of Florida traveled to the event. 51% of tickets were sold outside of St. Johns County and hotel occupancy hit 74%. 59% of businesses surveyed reported revenue increases and 78% would be in favor of a two-day concert event being held every year. Additionally, \$161,530 was raised through ticket and F&B sales and donated to four local nonprofit organizations.

This record-breaking event punctuated the annual month-long festival. From September 8 through October 1, an estimated 52,000 attendees saw 157 local, regional, and national acts play at 15 venues. Venues retained 100% of F&B sales and performers were paid a minimum of \$400 equaling an investment of \$75K in the music community.

Sing Out Loud's immense impact on economic development and tourism was celebrated by local businesses, musicians, residents, and officials.

## **Environmental Stewardship**

### **1. Follow The Water: UF Extension- Baker/Nassau**

The Suwannee River basin is one of the least developed watersheds in Florida and the Suwannee River is the largest undammed river in the Southeastern US. However, watersheds, including the Suwannee River watershed, and their water resources are threatened by increased urbanization and consumption. Therefore, every Floridian has a role to play in conserving water resources to ensure Florida's economic success. Similarly, environmental behavior research has shown that as an individual's connectedness to water increases, they are more likely to adopt water conservation practices (Warner et al., 2020 and Warner & Diaz, 2021). Therefore, extension agents in Florida's Northeast Extension District (including Nassau, Baker, and Duval counties) created the Follow the Water (FTW) program. FTW is a four-day educational tour that, "follows a drop of water from southern Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico," to increase participants' watershed knowledge and connectedness to water.

FTW has been offered six times since 2020 with 58 participants completing the training, including alumni events. The program provides approximately 32 hours of education per person (a \$1600/person); a \$92,000 value since 2020. Participant surveys showed a sustained increase in connectedness to water, and after one year, 13 of the 14 respondents reported changes in environmental-related behaviors, including one participant who began a career in water resource communication. Collectively, participants reported sharing FTW information with 2,209 individuals. The team plans on providing training opportunities to other extension agents in Florida and Georgia, so they may develop similar programs, including for the St Mary's River watershed.

### **2. Ashantae Green- City of Jacksonville**

This project and the regular volunteer activities of our candidate more than meets the criteria of using a local approach that works in one area and duplicating the model in the seven county service area of our region.

Ashantae's work within the region can bring trees to your area of the region. She works with the Sierra Club, Greenscape and several other organizations in her private life with those in rural areas of our regions. She advocates for long term initiatives and continuous attention to the matters that mean the most and encourages and educates conservation to our regional communities.

## **Healthcare Emergency Preparedness**

### **1. AdventHealth Palm Coast Parkway Exercise- Flagler**

Before the grand opening of the new AdventHealth Palm Coast Parkway Hospital, a team from AdventHealth, Flagler County Fire Rescue, Flagler County Sheriff's Office, Palm Coast Fire Department, Bunnell Police Department, and Flagler County Emergency Management designed and implemented a multi-agency full-scale exercise. Part 1 of the exercise focused on an active shooter event at the hospital and the necessary actions to neutralize the active shooter, secure the facility, and triage, treat, and transport the victims. Part 2 of the event was done as a workshop in order to help emergency management, and related partners, work through the process of establishing a family reunification center for similar type events. The team worked tirelessly for over 9 months to design and ultimately implement the exercise which took place on July 12, 2023. Even following the exercise the team continued working to develop a after-action report that highlighted both strengths and areas for future growth.

### **2. CORe (Coordinated Opioid Recovery)- Flagler**

The CORe (Coordinated Opioid Recovery) initiative is a group of local organizations – Flagler County Fire Rescue, FlaglerCares, Flagler OARS, and Outreach Community Care Network – that provide whole-person care for those suffering with opioid use disorder and give a real chance at recovery with support from all sides.

The key features of the program are as follows:

- It is free regardless of whether someone has insurance.
- It is confidential.
- Law enforcement is uninvolved.
- There is peer support.
- Medication-Assisted Treatment is provided.
- Behavioral health support continues after the opioid use disorder treatment.
- Care coordination supports the whole person and all presenting needs.

Implementation meetings began in October 2022, and the program began in January 2023 with grant funds awarded by the Florida Department of Health.

Flagler County Fire Rescue Community Paramedic Rob Errett is the “feet on the ground” with the back up of fellow Community Paramedic Tracy Farmer if needed. Errett and Farmer provide and distribute CORe program information as part of their regular community outreach.

Currently there are 80 people in the CORe program, with 50 Medication-Assisted Treatment services. Fourteen have had in-the-field interactions with Flagler County Community Paramedicine that includes dosing of Buprenorphine.

Individuals in need can walk into the FlaglerCares offices from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

As part of the Flagler County opioid use disorder and overdose prevention strategy, FlaglerCares is hosting a public facing data dashboard (<https://www.flaglercares.org/od2a-data-dashboard/>) to monitor overdose trends.

## **Planning and Growth Management**

### **1. City of Green Cove Springs Community Redevelopment Area**

The City of Green Cove Springs has coordinated a multi-year planning effort into establishing a CRA. This planning process includes putting together a Finding of Necessity determination regarding the existence of blight within a defined section of the city. Following, staff put together a Redevelopment Plan identifies the CRA's redevelopment objectives. They include:

Objective 1: Create a multimodal, pedestrian friendly transportation system.

Objective 2: Create a vibrant Downtown area with a mixed-use, development pattern.

Objective 3: Increase the Downtown Parking Supply

Objective 4: Incorporate housing revitalization through housing maintenance programs and rehabilitation services.

Objective 5: Establish a creative, equitable, efficient and practical funding and financing mechanism to properly implement this Plan.

Objective 6: Ensure the Redevelopment Area is safe and clean over the life of the CRA.

Objective 7: The city may plan, design, and deliver additional infrastructure improvements or services within the Redevelopment Area, if deemed those improvements enhance the quality or attractiveness of the Redevelopment Area especially with regard to public amenities.

Objective 8: Preserve the Historic Facilities within the CRA

Objective 9: Provide support, including funding for construction and operation of facilities for Parks and public spaces that will draw visitors to the CRA district while simultaneously building a sense of "Place" in the Downtown Area.

Objective 10: Redevelopment Administration



## **Public Safety**

### **1. Jacksonville Aviation Authority's Triennial Aviation Disaster Exercise**

The Jacksonville International Airport serves as the major passenger airport for our region. The FAA requires a full-scale exercise every 36 months to maintain the certification. This full-scale exercise requires a simulated emergency, as it would in an actual aircraft disaster, for airports holding a Class 1 Airport Operating Certificate, to ensure that all personnel having duties and responsibilities under the plan are familiar with assignments and are properly trained. While this exercise is only implemented every 36 months, it has grown in complexity and added a lot of realism over the last 4 triennial exercises (9 years). Planning for this exercise began on March 22, 2023, with partners from throughout the community, and was successfully implemented on November 8, 2023.

What makes this exercise unique is that JAA staff has taken the exercise beyond the normal expectation of responding to an airline crash. They have begun to exercise the initial recovery phase which tends to be the most complicated and most likely to be in the news (for the wrong reasons). This was done through the implementation of a Family Assistance Center (FAC). The FAC is where family members can gather to receive information about their loved one, as well as resources to help them navigate the disaster. The airlines, JAA, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and JAXPAWS partnered on this effort.

Lastly, this year's exercise had a layer of realism unlike other major exercises. Moulage artists used exquisite skills to make our 80 volunteer actors look like they had injuries commensurate with being in an airline crash, and the actors played their parts perfectly from being victims of an airline crash or being a concerned family member trying to access the family assistance center.

### **2. Interagency Emergency Events Fields Reports Mobile App- Palm Coast**

City of Palm Coast Fire and Information Technology Departments collaborated to develop a mobile GIS application to perform real time data collection and information sharing. The Interagency Emergency Events Field Reports application gives first responders the ability to report and monitor emergency conditions during a large-scale or wide area event to include hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, and tornados. The mobile application collects and categorizes data related to both street statuses and active incidents. Street statuses display accessibility for responders, allowing administrators to send resources to ensure uninterrupted access to law enforcement, fire protection, and emergency medical services for all Flagler County residents. Real time incident monitoring through the active incidents side of the application provides real-time information for both first responders and administrators. Utilizing ten incident types (fire, flood, hazardous issue, LEO, medical, power, rescue, sewer/public health issue, tree, other) field crews upload descriptive reporting, locations, pictures, and videos,

providing situational awareness to responders and information for administrators seeking to right size resource allocation. Palm Coast partners with Flagler County Emergency Management, Flagler County Fire Rescue, Flagler Beach Fire Department, Flagler County Sheriff's Office Dispatch, and Palm Coast Emergency Operations Center for information collection and sharing. The mobile application proved valuable during Hurricanes Ian, Nicole, and Idalia. City of Palm Coast Fire and Information Technology Departments continue to refine this tool to enhance public safety efforts for the citizens of Palm Coast and Flagler County.

## **Quality of Life**

### **1. Minute with the Mayor- Fernandina Beach**

The City of Fernandina Beach has a permanent population of just over 13,000 residents. As traditional methods of communication have become increasingly expensive and requiring longer lead times, the City has sought creative ways to provide its population with current news updates. Residents were consistently requesting advance information from the City on upcoming events and projects.

In February 2023, Fernandina Beach's Mayor Bradley Bean along with Mary Hamburg, Digital Communications Specialist launched the "Minute with the Mayor" series. This strategy allows the city to quickly communicate project updates, recent Commission decisions, partner organization coordination efforts and discuss upcoming events. Its timeliness in providing information is its greatest strength. This approach enabled the City to proactively address potential concerns residents may voice by offering information ahead of issues. The series proved effective at giving citizens information about emergency orders and preparedness advice during and following natural disasters. The series has covered topics such as hurricane preparedness, tree giveaways, recycling events, the annual shrimp festival, new trails, recreation department programming, conservation efforts, and much more! This series serves to increase confidence in City operations and has been effective at communicating complex changes. By exclusively relying on our trusted and dependable Mayor Bean, staff time, and easy-to-find technology, the approach has proven to be an extremely successful community outreach strategy leading to an enhanced quality of life. Demonstrating its success is simple, the Minute with the Mayor series has resulted in 30 shorts (nearly one per week) with the number of views averaging 860+.

### **2. Food for Thought-Flagler**

The Flagler County Public Library contemplated creating a "Little Free Library" in West Flagler to encourage reading, build literacy skills and to accommodate access. While Flagler County has a population of over 124,000, there are less than 3,000 living in West

Flagler County. However, this community has limited means of transportation, lives the furthest from the library and most live below the poverty level.

At the same time the library also had a program called "Food for Fines". This program allowed residents to donate a canned good in lieu of fines, which was given to our local food pantry. Each year residents would have two dollars in fines waived for every canned good up to twenty dollars maximum.

We decided to combine both of these programs and call it "Food for Thought". Those using the library can pay their fines down with a canned good which is then diverted to the kiosks. The concept for use of the kiosk is for residents to take a book, leave a canned good or vice versa. The combination is innovative, fills a gap and serves a need for low-income residents.

The Flagler County General Services Department built the kiosks for about \$100 each and installed them at three community centers for the safety and security of the residents. The library staff filled them with donated food and books, and they officially opened in February 2023. These kiosks are maintained by library staff and checked bi-weekly for usage and restocking.

### **3. Project Opioid- Regional**

Project Opioid Jax stands as an exemplary candidate for the Regional Excellence Award for Quality of Life, boasting a diverse coalition of 473 members, including 119 businesses, 35 faith organizations, 62 civil service leaders, 158 service providers, 43 healthcare leaders, and over 50 citizens/affected families. Their impactful initiatives, such as media campaigns, educational seminars, and advocacy for regional partners, have significantly improved the quality of life in our region.

Over the next six months, Project Opioid Jax's ambitious goals include expanding their Youth Social Media Campaign to reach more young individuals living in North Florida, collaborating with numerous new businesses to implement the Employer Toolkit, hosting Overdose Awareness Seminars, cultivating valuable partnerships, securing funding to expand Medicated Assisted Treatment in vulnerable communities, convening a focus group of those with lived experience, advocating for the effective use of settlement dollars, and hosting a Regional Law Enforcement Summit to appreciate and educate public safety officials. These initiatives demonstrate their unwavering commitment to addressing the opioid crisis comprehensively and improving our community's overall well-being and safety. Recognizing Project Opioid Jax with the Regional Excellence Award for Quality of Life would celebrate their dedication to the betterment of our region and inspire continued progress in this critical endeavor.

#### **4. Palm Coast Southern Recreation Center- Palm Coast**

Slated to open in early 2024, the Southern Recreation Center (SRC) expands on the current Palm Coast Tennis Center. In addition to the existing 10 har-tru clay tennis courts, the new SRC facility now boasts 12 pickleball courts (six covered and six uncovered) for open, league, and tournament play, in addition to a permanent clubhouse with food/beverage space, locker rooms, ample seating/viewing areas, one multi-purpose room, and one fitness room. The facility is being built to LEED design standards for a minimum silver-level designation, including features, such as solar panels, electric vehicle charging stations, energy-efficient lighting, and more. The SRC garnered the interest of our local Tourism Development Council (TDC) and Flagler County Board of Commissioners due to its attractive nature for tourism as it brings racquet and paddle sports under one location. The permanent clubhouse seamlessly ties together the space for athletes, business professionals, locals, tourists, families of traveling players, and sports fans. All of this serves to put Palm Coast on the map. After going through a rigorous application and presentation process, the TDC Board and Board of County Commissioners awarded the SRC a Capital Project Funding Program grant in the amount of \$739,158. Furthermore, the SRC is adjacent to the new Lehigh Trailhead, which provides enhanced trail connectivity and amenities such as water fountains, paved parking, a restroom, a dog park, and community gardens. The complementary nature of SRC and Lehigh Trailhead being in a close vicinity offers a regional destination for recreation.

## **Resiliency**

### **1. Resilient Jacksonville- City of Jacksonville**

Chief Resilience Officer, Anne Coglianesse, began the development of the City's first long-term resiliency strategy in 2021, which led to the completion and adoption of the plan in 2023.

Resilient Jacksonville (RJ) looks to the future of the City of Jacksonville over the next 50 years, providing a roadmap for adapting to a changing climate, accommodating a growing population, guiding new urban development, and planning for uncertain shocks and stressors. RJ builds on many recent efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Matthew and Irma and leverages local expertise with science-based assessments to identify specific, implementable actions and prioritize investments that will strengthen the city's resilience.

Coordinated working groups, comprised of subject matter experts, were tapped to help identify 45 Actions and 90 Sub-Actions organized by the scales at which the actions are

intended to be implemented—Systems, Sites, and People. Under each scale, Actions were further organized across 11 Adaptation Approaches.

RJ established eight types of development conditions, providing a framework for targeted and scalable resilience actions, tailored to the different characteristics and vulnerabilities of Jacksonville's communities. These Development Types include: Downtown, Historic Walkable Neighborhoods, Post-War Suburbs, Contemporary Suburbs, Rural Mosaic, Coastal Communities, Protected Lands, and Industrial Riverfront. Place-Based Strategies were identified within each Development Type, determining the extent of each type, its defining characteristics, its unique risk profile (e.g., flood and extreme heat vulnerability), and opportunities to enhance resilience through shared adaptation approaches and actions. Collectively, the Strategy's recommendations provide a framework for scaling the implementation of resilience actions citywide.

## **2. P.E.P. System Advancement-Palm Coast**

The City of Palm Coast acquired the city's water/wastewater system in 2003. With almost 40 percent of our city on the Pre-Treatment-Effluent-Pumping (P.E.P) system which was existing at the time of purchase with 24,000 units at full build-out, staff began to see failures in the system due to age and design. These failures have led to relentless calls for repair on these tanks and their components.

Along with building a more sustainable system, we have also built a safer one for our field technicians. Most of our failures occur in the tanks due to wire splices. The internal conditions and H<sub>2</sub>S gas eventually rot and corrode the bare wire connections. This also causes hazardous working conditions in our tanks, mixing water and electricity. To overcome this, with help from our vendors and suppliers to completely redesign our electrical system we have found our way advancing forward. We have begun directly wiring pumps into our panels and pulling continuous double insulated stranded wire through our conduits with no splice and solid wiring directly into our panels.

Our pilot program has proven successful and will reduce the number of calls we receive for service. Once we have fully integrated these components throughout our system we will see our emergency call volume plummet, leaving more staff time for proactive maintenance. If it wasn't for our entire staff and management's support, and determination as a team to find a better system for not only us, but more importantly our residents, this would not be possible.

## **Transportation**

### **1. Pedestrian Bridge- Flagler**

The bridge, along with its associated trails and sidewalks that round out the project, link the Lehigh Trail, Old Kings Road sidewalk, conservation lands in Graham Swamp, and the Flagler County owned property known as Bulow “Parcel D,” which has potential for future trails.

There are many benefits to the community, especially giving pedestrians and bicyclists a safe way to cross a major, high-speed, four-lane thoroughfare. The ramps on and off the bridge are ADA compliant.

It also provides a means for users to take in often inaccessible areas of nature and experience our fabulous, huge, old-growth oaks, and wetland vegetation that they may otherwise never see.

The project includes a 1.6 mile paved “shared-use” path – 12 feet in width – that goes through the Graham Swamp Conservation Area from just south of State Road 100 to the Lehigh Trail. There is an 8-foot-wide concrete sidewalk along the south side of State Road 100 that connects with the existing sidewalk along Old Kings Road. The crowning feature is an enclosed pedestrian bridge spanning the four-lane divided highway that provides a critical connection to serve pedestrians and bicyclists now and in the future.

The process for the project – that spent years on the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Alternative Priorities ranking list – began in 2018 when the Board of County Commissioners approved the design phase.

The costs – largely funded through Federal and State grants, and not local tax dollars are: Design/Permitting \$1,478,161.30; Post Design \$51,381.66; Engineer of Record Construction, Engineering, and Inspection (CEI) \$980,878.12; and, Construction \$9,858,121.65

### **2. Citation Boulevard Extension- Palm Coast**

The development of a residential community of 633 single family and 78 town house units called Seminole Palms in the City of Palm Coast has several unique collaborative efforts which resulted in many benefits for the community at large.

The benefits include the following:

1) An east-west connector, 1.2 m Citation Blvd extension, connecting Belle Terre Blvd to Seminole Woods Blvd, major north-south collectors.

- 2) The land exchange resulted in provision the Citation Blvd extension right-of-way and provision of a public park along the south side of the Iroquois Canal.
- 3) Reduction of a need for another fire station if without the Citation Blvd extension.
- 4) Expedite a long term identified transportation need for the southern region of Palm Coast.
- 5) Enhance emergency and evacuation routes for the community.

The Seminole Palms project advances the long-term planning and growth management needs of the communities and improving the quality of transportation options by provision of another east-west connector where it is most needed to address emergency evacuation and rescue efforts. The refinement on the use of prepayment of impact fees and provision of impact fee credit were in conjunction with the land exchange. The advancement of this project has enabled to address the concurrent impacts of surrounding developments within the area. Within less than 2 years, the Seminole Palms development is currently under construction including the Citation Blvd extension. This demonstrates the effectiveness and implementation strategies of this collective and collaborative efforts between the developers and the City of Palm Coast.



## Award Nomination Overview

- Nomination period closed on Friday, November 3, 2023.
- Staff met on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> to vet the projects and to provide recommendations.
- The #1 project for each category in your packet is the staff recommendation. While the rest of the projects are numbered, they are not prioritized.





## Staff Recommendations

<b>Affordable Housing</b>	Tiny Home Development Program (Nassau)
<b>Culture, Historic Preservation or Adaptive Reuse</b>	First Baptist Church Institutional Rehabilitation (St. Johns)
<b>Economic Development and Tourism</b>	Port Putnam (Putnam)
<b>Environmental Stewardship</b>	Follow The Water: UF Extension (Baker & Nassau)
<b>Healthcare Emergency Preparedness</b>	AdventHealth Palm Coast Parkway Exercise (Flagler)

## Staff Recommendations

<b>Planning and Growth Management</b>	City of Green Cove Springs Community Redevelopment Area (Clay)
<b>Public Safety</b>	Jacksonville Aviation Authority Triennial Aviation Disaster Exercise (Duval)
<b>Quality of Life</b>	Minute with the Mayor (Nassau)
<b>Resiliency</b>	Resilient Jacksonville (Duval)
<b>Transportation</b>	Pedestrian Bridge (Flagler)

## Staff Recommendation

**2023 Regional Leadership Award  
*Representative Cyndi Stevenson***



## Something Interesting That Has Never Been Done Before



## Recommended Action

*Motion:*

*Approve the 2023 Regional Awards of Excellence as presented.*

