

## Turnbull Creek Land Preservation Committee

Jan 23, 2023

Three of the five members were present. The Feb. 28, 2022 minutes were adopted.

NSB Resolution No 63-22 of October 5, 2022 expanded the duties of the Committee to “advisory” and extended the term to August 1, 2023.

NSB staff has taken over the negotiations to purchase properties for the initiative. The North Florida Land Trust is no longer involved.

Assistant City Manager Ron Norbert and City Engineer Kyle Fegley reviewed the engineering summary for Corbin Park. Maintenance of the properties that have been purchased will come from the General Fund.

Staff reviewed the effects of the storm on the Turnbull Watershed and on the Turnbull properties that have been purchased. Staff will research properties listed for purchase that may have been damaged by the storms. They will also research businesses on listed properties that may have been negatively impacted by the storms.

Potential grants and funding sources for the Turnbull Property initiative were discussed including a Federal 75%-25% grant that can be used to clean out portions of the creek that lie within the City. It is possible that State funds could be used for all, or for a portion, of the 25% match. Grants relating to dredging, recreation, resiliency, flooding, conservation and invasive species removal were also discussed.

Methods of opening the water flow were discussed such as Aquatic Organism Passages. If the City can get funding to open the entire Creek and canal system, what will be the most restrictive places for the water flow? Do our existing bridges restrict the flow?

- The FEMA NSB flood map dates to 2017. The city will work with FEMA to create a new map.
- A new watershed study is needed. The last was completed in 1994.
- The City will consider a septic and pollution study of potentially damaging runoff into the watershed. Can volunteers be used for invasive species removal?
- Staff will consider an updated marketing program to promote the successes of the Turnbull Preservation initiative. Photos of the properties will be needed.
- Discussed was installing a didactic on the Turnbull Creek Initiative and the history of the Creek on property purchased at SR 44 and South Walker Drive. There are limitations to the size and type of signage that is allowed.
- Staff will research opening a better view of the Creek and installing a solar powered light on the existing Historical Marker.
- While a tree farm is not permitted on property purchased through the Initiative, a discussion took place about a tree farm that could be purchased (possibly along the watershed) using other funds. The City has a small tree farm now.

A discussion took place regarding impact fees for parks and the environment. Staff was asked if a different formula could be used based on a per capita assessment that would raise more funds for parks and protected lands.

Wildlife corridors and potential grants were discussed related to purchased lands and environmental easements.

The city is in the process of hiring a grant writer. A potential list of grants to research:

- Purchasing conservation easements with grant funds: FY 22 Florida Agriculture Conservation Easement Program <https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/grants>
- Florida Communities Trust: Open Space; Working Waterfronts; Board Grant
- FL Recreation Development; Land and Water Conservation; Recreational Trails; DEP Paddle sports; Trails,
- FL Ag Grants: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Grant-Opportunities>
- Forest Landowner Grants:
- New FL Grants: <https://florida.grantwatch.com/cat/10/environment-grants.html>
- <https://www.usgrants.org/florida>
- <https://grantgopher.com/Florida-Grants/Environment>
- Conservation Innovation Grants FY 2021- Florida
- Federal Programs: <https://www.landcan.org/state-resources/Florida/programs/>