

In July of 2016, Arthur D. Weiss nominated the Weiss Tract to Alachua County Forever (ACF). The ~ 711 acre property is located in the City of Gainesville (City), east of San Felasco Hammock Preserve State Park and west of the GRU Murphree Wellfield, and is an important component of a wildlife connector between these two large undeveloped areas (Exhibit 2). It supports the headwaters for three local creek systems (Blues Creek, Possum Creek, Hogtown Creek), and a portion of Turkey Creek. All four creeks ultimately terminate in sinkholes that recharge the Floridian aquifer. Development of this property would likely increase future flooding issues downstream adjacent to these creek systems since the property is an important water storage area.

The natural communities on the Tract are largely undisturbed and are in good ecological condition with a negligible non-native exotic plant population. Sixty-Three percent of the site is within the 100-year floodplain and 100% of the property is located in the Millhopper Flatwoods Strategic Ecosystem.

The BoCC placed the property on the active acquisition list on November 8, 2016. If acquired, it will be the first Alachua County Forever acquisition with the 2016 Wild Spaces Public Places referendum proceeds. On June 8, 2017 during the General Policy Committee Meeting, the City of Gainesville committed \$1,500,000 to partner with the County on the acquisition of the Weiss Tract (Exhibit 3). On April 20, 2018, the sellers executed a purchase contract to sell the Weiss Tract to Alachua County and the City of Gainesville for \$6,126.93 per acre or approximately \$4,359,500 depending on the surveyed acreage (Exhibit 4). The City shall contribute \$1,500,000 toward the purchase of the Weiss tract in exchange for title to approximately 244 acres of the property in roughly the location shown on the map in Exhibit 5, and the County shall be responsible for contributing the remaining amount (approximately \$2,859,500), as adjusted according to the total number of surveyed acres. Alachua County will hold title to approximately 467 acres. Public recreational use is anticipated on both the City and County Parcels, with County's including a trailhead, passive recreational nature trails, and interpretive displays. Alachua County and City of Gainesville shall be responsible for the management of their respective ownerships.

A boundary survey, parcel split approval, and phase I environmental assessment are the next steps of due diligence that will be initiated after the Contract is executed by both the City and Alachua County. The Weiss Purchase Contract is scheduled to go before the City of Gainesville Commission on June 21, 2018.

Comp Plan Reference:

Acquiring the Weiss Tract fulfills multiple objectives endorsed within the Alachua County Comprehensive Plan. Specify, Policy 6.0 Land Conservation Program within the Conservation and Open

Space Element, states “Establish and maintain a land conservation program for the purchase, preservation, and management of natural areas and open space to complement the regulatory approaches identified in other section of this element.”