

On the Move with the City of Gainesville



City of
Gainesville

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Incorporated in 1869, Gainesville is a diverse, modern city of more than 145,000 neighbors. The city is home to the University of Florida and Santa Fe College, along with robust and extensive health care resources including UF Health, HCA North Florida and Veterans Administration facilities. Our city core is home to a thriving arts and culture scene that leads many to consider our community as Florida's cultural capital, and the Innovation District is home to a growing startup and venture capital ecosystem.

In here and online, you'll find a few of the things your city government has been working on for the past several years to make Gainesville an even better place to live.



Citywide Projects

Vision Zero and the Transformation of Major City Roadways

South Main Street received a refurbishment that turned the $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile industrial corridor southeast of Gainesville's historic downtown into a complete street. The transformation stretched from Depot Avenue to Southwest 16th Avenue and supports the city's Vision Zero strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries, while increasing safe and equitable mobility for all neighbors. Complete Streets is an approach to planning, designing, building, operating and maintaining streets that enables safe access for all people who need to use them, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

The new design makes traffic go more slowly by narrowing the lanes, adding a roundabout and on-street parking, making space for bicycles, and putting in trees and plantings. South Main Street is also the location of Depot Park, two regional bike trails and the Cade Museum. All of this comes together to create a much more livable street for Gainesville and the district known as South Main.

University Avenue will also transform into a complete street over the next few years thanks to an \$8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. As with the South Main Street project, the finished stretch of University Avenue will unfold under the umbrella of Vision Zero. It will bring fresh character and safety measures along this trademark corridor.

The improved section will extend from the University of Florida campus east to Fred Cone Park.





Bike Lane Improvements

Bike lane improvements are part of the Vision Zero strategy and cover the city in all four quadrants. In 2022, the Gainesville City Commission approved roadway design changes that add bike lanes or adjacent bike paths to all new city streets. In addition, when the roads are resurfaced, new bike lanes will be added on existing city roadways wide enough to accommodate them. The changes apply to new and existing streets with posted speeds of 25 mph or greater that handle at least 3,000 cars each day.

Bus Stop Improvements

The city has committed to improving the bus stops that are part of Gainesville's Regional Transit System (RTS). This includes making sure curb ramps conform to the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), while also making repairs and improvements to the associated sidewalks. The project, currently in the planning phase, is expected to begin in early 2024 and is scheduled for completion in early 2025.

Bilingual Signage for City Parks

This is a project that will happen over the next several years in two phases. Forest Park is serving as the prototype for the city's first bilingual park signage, and will roll out soon as part of newly completed renovations. Going forward, all new signs for parks and trails will be in English and Spanish. To improve communications at parks where existing signs are still in use, the city will install bilingual decals over the English-only surfaces.

One Nation One Project

One Nation One Project (ONOP) is a national initiative that began with Gainesville and eight other U.S. cities. The goal of ONOP is to use the arts and culture to promote community healing and well-being. This project unites artists, local governments and community health providers.



**One Nation
One Project
GNV**





Citywide Recognitions

International Downtown Association (IDA) 2023 Downtown Achievement Award of Excellence

The International Downtown Association (IDA) recognized the City of Gainesville with the 2023 Downtown Achievement Award of Excellence. The award honors the city’s resourceful and innovative approach to revitalizing its historic downtown through work performed by the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA), the Department of Sustainable Development and the University of Florida. The Downtown Gainesville Strategic Plan was honored in the category of Planning, Design and Infrastructure. This recognizes transformational approaches to master planning, streetscape improvements, sustainable infrastructure and wayfinding.

Tree City USA for 42nd Consecutive Year

The Arbor Day Foundation has named Gainesville a 2022 Tree City USA®, an honor the City of Gainesville has earned for 42 consecutive years in recognition of its commitment to effective urban forest management.



TREE CITY USA®
An Arbor Day Foundation Program



Gainesville Certified as Bee City USA

The City of Gainesville was certified as an official Bee City USA® to help promote pollinator conservation in our community. Gainesville joins cities and campuses across the country united to improve landscapes for pollinators at a time when bee populations remain threatened by disease, habitat loss, climate change and other factors.

Gainesville Fire Rescue is Nationally Accredited

Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) is nationally accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Gainesville Fire Rescue was initially accredited in 2014 and completed a reaccreditation process in 2019. The department is preparing for review and reaccreditation in 2024.



Gainesville Police Department is Nationally Accredited

The Gainesville Police Department is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations.



Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs is Nationally Accredited



During the summer of 2023, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) was reaccruited by the National Recreation and Parks Association’s Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. PRCA passed all 154 standards and received a 100 percent score.

Public Works Department is Nationally Accredited



In 2022, the Department of Public Works received full accreditation by the American Public Works Association (APWA) for the fourth time. This accreditation formally verifies and recognizes the agency is in full compliance with the recommended management practices set forth in APWA’s Public Works Management Practices Manual.

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Award

The first award for the City of Gainesville was granted on May 31, 1989 for the city’s budget starting Oct. 1, 1988. Since then, the City of Gainesville has received 35 GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards, the second most awards in the State of Florida. The city was most recently honored for its FY 2022-23 biennial budget.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

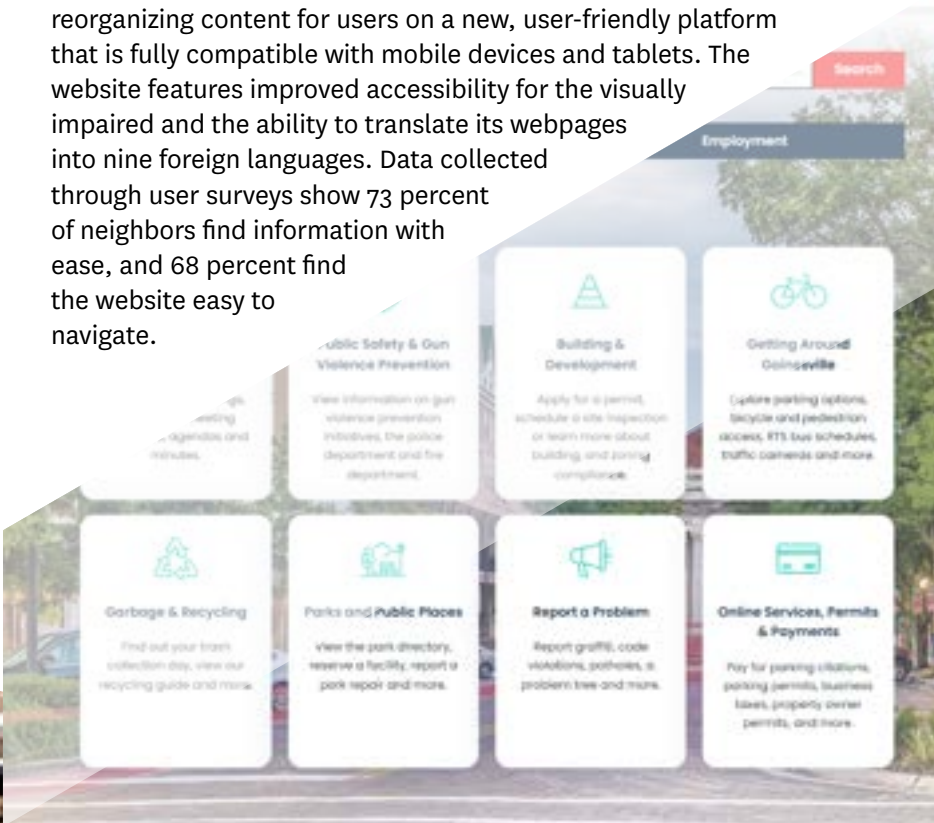
The city was awarded the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association for its FY 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.





**2023
Website of the
Year and People’s
Choice Winner**

The City of Gainesville website has been named both the 2023 Website of the Year, and the People’s Choice Winner, of the 13th annual Digital Government Awards by Granicus, a leading provider of government experience software services and solutions. The city launched its redesigned website in June 2022, refreshing and reorganizing content for users on a new, user-friendly platform that is fully compatible with mobile devices and tablets. The website features improved accessibility for the visually impaired and the ability to translate its webpages into nine foreign languages. Data collected through user surveys show 73 percent of neighbors find information with ease, and 68 percent find the website easy to navigate.



Major Grant Awards

\$500,000 Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant

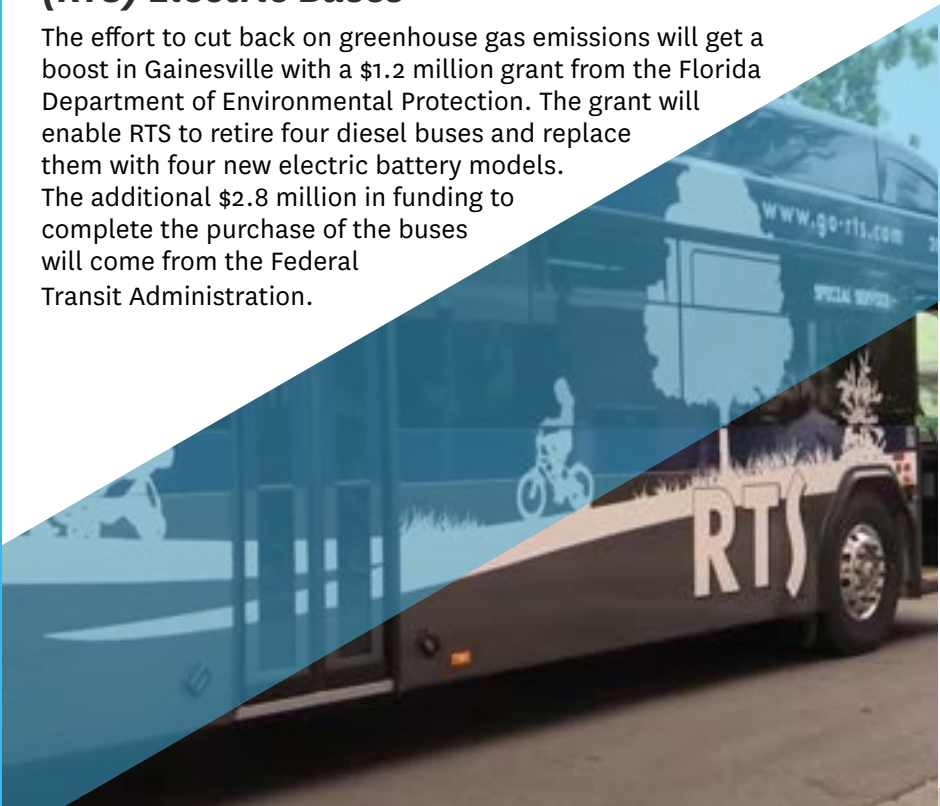
The City of Gainesville and the Gainesville Housing Authority (GHA) have been awarded a \$500,000 Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The joint application was one of 14 chosen nationwide during a highly competitive process, and included a “transformation plan” to support the revitalization of GHA’s Pine Meadows and Lake Terrace properties in east Gainesville near Fred Cone Park.

\$8 million for Safe Streets and Roads

An \$8 million award from the U.S. Department of Transportation will be used to transform part of University Avenue into a complete street offering improved pedestrian and cyclist safety, and accessibility for all users.

\$1.2 million for Regional Transit System (RTS) Electric Buses

The effort to cut back on greenhouse gas emissions will get a boost in Gainesville with a \$1.2 million grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The grant will enable RTS to retire four diesel buses and replace them with four new electric battery models. The additional \$2.8 million in funding to complete the purchase of the buses will come from the Federal Transit Administration.



\$14.5 million for Regional Transit System (RTS) Operations and Capital Projects

The Federal Transit Administration has awarded RTS a grant totaling \$14,481,737 for operating assistance and capital projects to help respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant is distributed between three city fiscal years (FY22, FY23 and FY24) and two types of expense activities: salaries and fuel.

\$2 million for the HOME Investment Partnership Program

The city's Department of Housing and Community Development received an allocation of \$1,968,639 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) to perform four activities that must primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or in other vulnerable populations. These activities include: (1) development and support of affordable rental housing; (2) tenant-based rental assistance; (3) provision of supportive services; and (4) acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units. The project plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in January 2023. This program will be implemented in collaboration with multiple city departments to develop permit ready accessory dwelling unit (ADU) plans and redevelop five city-owned lots with ADUs.

\$32.4 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

The City of Gainesville received \$32,408,804 and as a recipient of this award, the city has substantial discretion in determining the use of funds to best suit the needs of its constituents.

- \$12.3 million for affordable housing
- \$4.9 million for community health services
- \$3.5 million for public safety
- \$1.4 million for community education
- \$1.7 million for homeless services
- \$1.1 million for community assistance programs





District 1 Progress

Cultural Arts Center

1a. The Cultural Arts Center in east Gainesville is the subject of a current feasibility study. The study is expected to be complete in early 2024. No site has been selected at this time, and funding is pending. The proposed center would bring the community together to enjoy performances, experience art and engage in meaningful conversations. These centers are also ideal locations to provide youth programming and host workshops and classes.

Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park

1b. The Clarence R. Kelly Community Center and Park (1701 NE Eighth Ave.) opened in May 2022 following a \$2.3 million renovation and construction project. Funded by the Wild Spaces & Public Places half-cent surtax, the facility was outfitted with a new 3,800 square foot indoor space. The center has two large multipurpose event rooms, a catering kitchen, offices, a game room, activity rooms, a computer lab, a reception area, a lobby and an area for storage. The outdoor area was updated with a new playground, adult fitness equipment, an event lawn, a walking trail, a community garden, a full-sized and lighted basketball court, and attractive plantings and landscaping. An event celebrating these improvements was held as part of the City of Gainesville's month-long Journey to Juneteenth celebration.

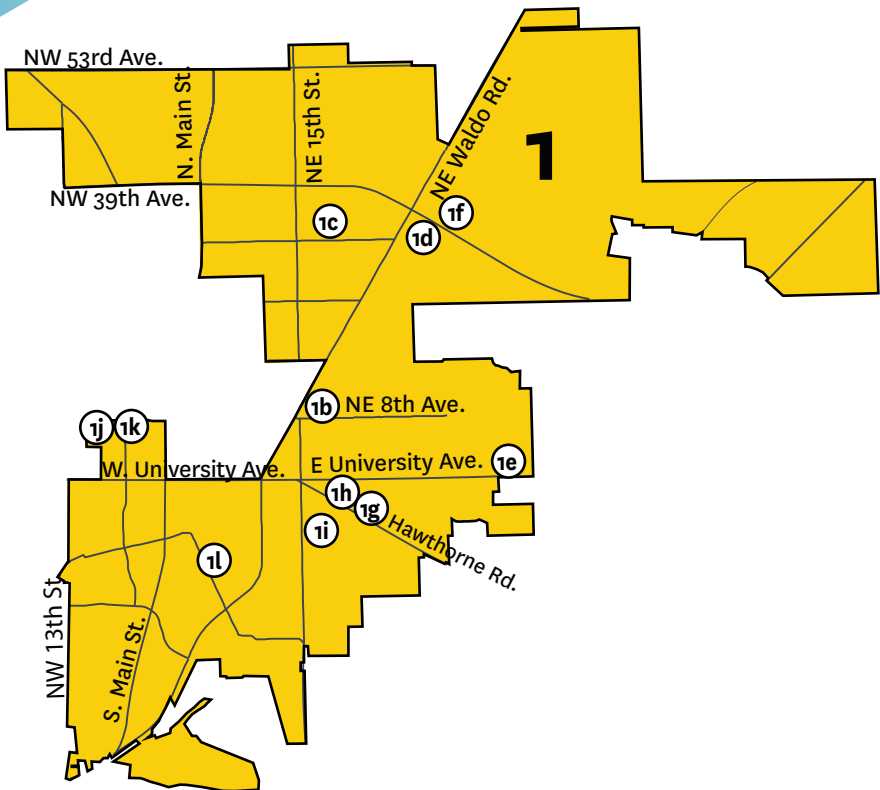


Fig.: District 1 project map

Reimagining of Unity Park

1c. Reimagining of Unity Park (1700 NE 31st Ave.) was mostly completed in 2021. This ground-up rebuild included modern playground equipment and play areas, two basketball courts, tennis courts, picnic tables, a pavilion and grills. Unity Park also has a walking loop with fitness stations and a community garden. The project represents a \$1.1 million investment funded by taxpayer-approved Wild Spaces & Public Places.

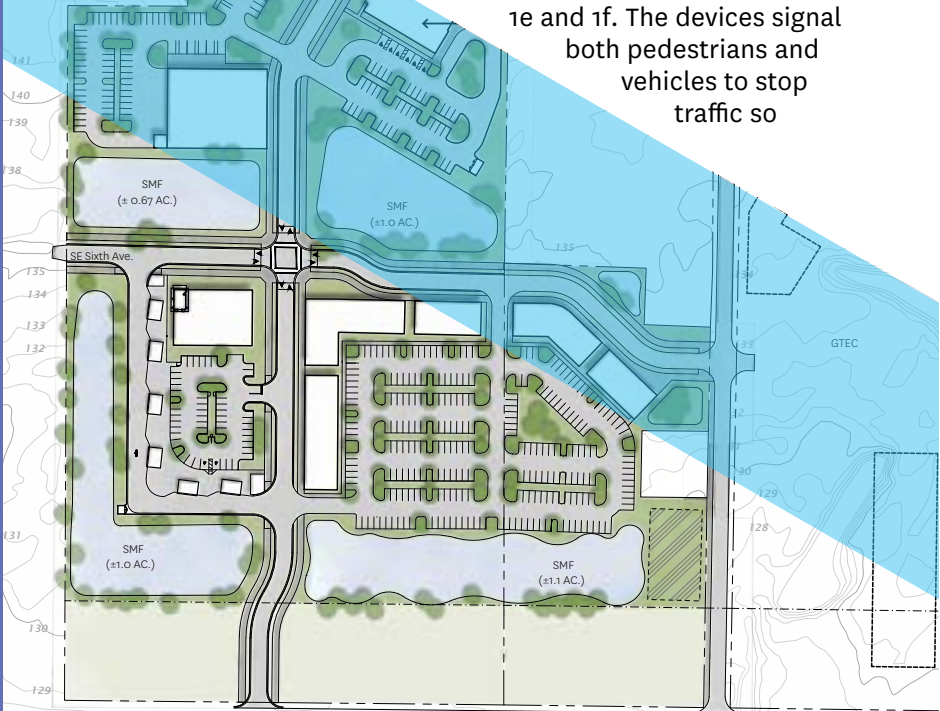
GRACE Marketplace

1d. GRACE Marketplace has received consistent city support for operations, facility usage, and maintenance since opening its doors in 2014. The City of Gainesville owns the GRACE Marketplace campus and, in addition to providing funds for operating expenses, also maintains the facilities.



Pedestrian hybrid beacons (PHBs) installed on East University Avenue and NE 39th Avenue

1e and 1f. The devices signal both pedestrians and vehicles to stop traffic so



Unity Park

people can enter the crosswalks safely. One pedestrian beacon, installed at a new crosswalk between NE 26th Terrace and SE 26th Terrace, is designated in memory of four-year-old Dylan Roberts. Dylan was struck and killed in October 2021 while walking home from Fred Cone Park. Another beacon is already making NE 39th Avenue safer for pedestrians crossing the road near GRACE Marketplace and the soon-to-be-completed Army Reserve Depot. Gainesville will soon have two more PHBs to improve safety across the city. Gainesville has many more crosswalks with rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB). The crossings with flashing lights get the attention of drivers, giving them more time to stop so people waiting can safely walk.

Before



After



Pedestrians have a new safe place to cross East University Avenue (State Road 26), next to Fred Cone Park. FDOT recently activated a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB) to improve safety and increase pedestrian mobility on East University Avenue.

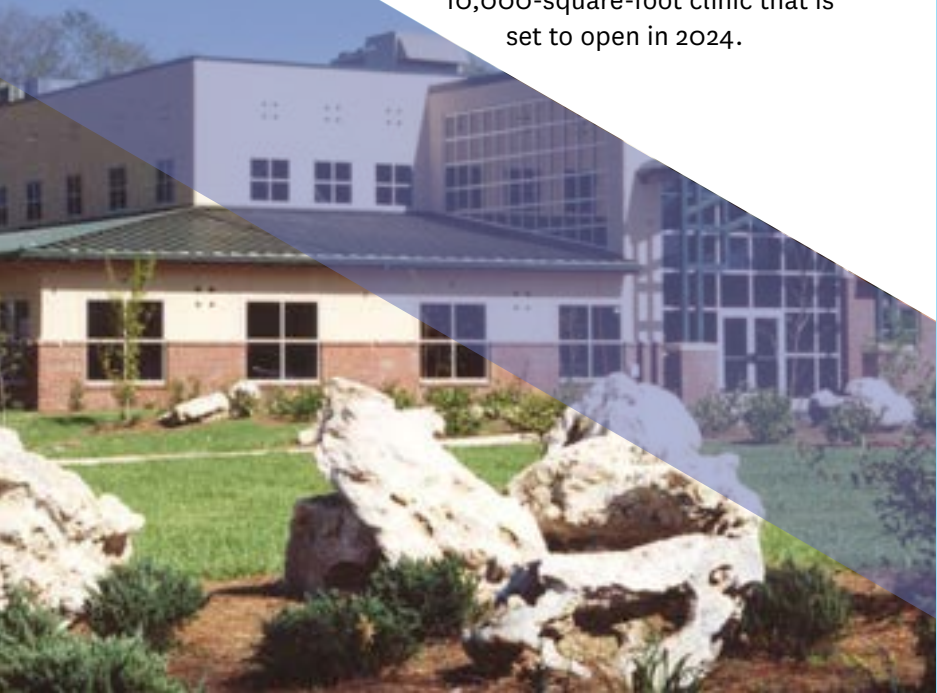
The **Cornerstone Campus and Eastside Health and Economic Development Initiative** is the most visible part of the city's commitment to economic development and community health for neighbors throughout Southeast Gainesville. Located at Southeast 20th Street and Hawthorne Road, it includes:

Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center

1g. The Gainesville Technology Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) at the Cornerstone Campus is a business incubator owned by the city and co-managed by Santa Fe College. It is a place where small businesses can learn and grow. The city is constructing a network of roads, mitigating wetlands, and reviewing the full 34-acre site for future projects we hope will bring private investment in amenities such as a grocery or food hub, mixed-use office development or local shopping and retail.

Eastside Health and Economic Development Initiative

1h. The Eastside Health and Economic Development Initiative is also part of the Cornerstone Campus. This project will turn open land into a bustling health clinic and RTS transit hub. It is a joint effort between UF Health, the City of Gainesville and Alachua County. The city and county have each given \$2.25 million in funding to help build the 10,000-square-foot clinic that is set to open in 2024.





The city is building the road to access the site, and an eastside bus transfer station that will make it easier for neighbors to travel smoothly to and from east Gainesville. The city also is working to bring Gainesville Fire Rescue's Community Resource Paramedicine Program to the location. All of this for the area, plus the addition of convenience and opportunity, is expected to help economic growth in the future.

Heartwood Neighborhood

1i. The Heartwood neighborhood (1717 SE Eighth Ave.) is a subdivision with 34 single-family homes. The Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA) developed the neighborhood on the site of the former Kennedy Homes apartment complex. The vision of Heartwood is to have a mixed-income community with high-quality houses, beautiful design, "green" features and a sense of community.

Homes became available for sale in 2021, with some lots reserved for the city's "Dreams 2 Reality program," to help families buy property for a home of their own. The neighborhood continues to grow, bringing more families an opportunity to enjoy the unique mix of nature, culture and community found only in historic east Gainesville.




A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center

1j. The A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center (1012 NW Seventh Ave.) features the restored home of A. Quinn Jones, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, filled with selected artifacts, photographs, audio content and art. The project, spearheaded by the Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA), came from the community’s desire to honor the accomplishments of Mr. Jones and other local leaders.

Visitors learn about the people from the Fifth Avenue Pleasant Street Neighborhood; their histories, triumphs, and setbacks; and how those events relate to the broader context of our national history.





Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Historic Heritage Trail

1k. The Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street Historic Heritage Trail is a Gainesville Community Reinvestment Area (GCRA) project led by the city as a more than \$1 million companion project to the A. Quinn Jones Museum & Cultural Center. The Historic Heritage Trail will create a physical system of signage and markers in the Fifth Avenue and Pleasant Street neighborhoods to recognize the achievements of people, past and present, in the fields of business, medicine, arts, education and spirituality.

This project, now entering the design phase, will gather, verify and prioritize existing historical research; identify historic and significant sites; and create an overall Interpretive Plan that will form the basis of the trail system.

SE Fourth Street reconstruction

1l. The Southeast Fourth Street reconstruction rebuilt the street from Depot Avenue to Williston Road. The Sweetwater Branch culvert underpass failed during the 2004 hurricane season. Improvements to the road included the addition of bike lanes, sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, and ADA accessibility upgrades. The culvert underpass was replaced, a better stormwater treatment system was added, and the entire area was outfitted with new street lighting and aesthetic improvements.



District 2 Progress

Four Creeks Preserve

2a. Four Creeks Preserve is a joint project with Alachua County that preserves more than 700 acres of land that contribute to the flow of four separate creek systems. Four Creeks Preserve, which is sandwiched between U.S. 441 and NW 43rd Street, is forest and woodlands that have never been developed, and never will be.

SW 62nd Boulevard Connector

2b. The SW 62nd Boulevard Connector will make for easier commutes and neighborhood connections by extending from Newberry Road and the Oaks Mall area to Archer Road and the Butler Plaza area. Using a “complete streets” model, the roadway will consist of two 11-foot travel lanes, seven-foot buffered bicycle lanes on each side, and a 10-foot multi-use path on the east side. The project also includes a bridge over Hogtown Creek and two stormwater ponds.

Before building the connector, the city resurfaced more than one mile of SW 62nd Boulevard. This improved the roadway from just north of SW 20th Avenue to just south of Newberry Road. The work included new paved shoulders, ADA compliant bus stop areas, and mid-block crosswalks with flashing beacons.



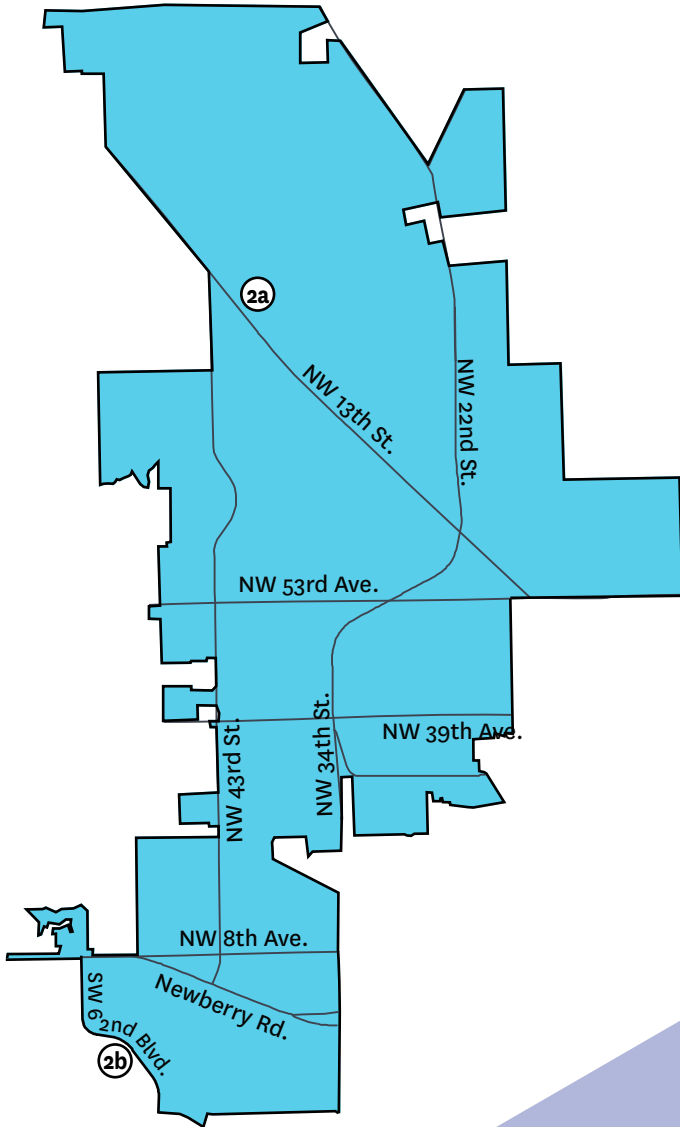


Fig.: District 2 project map

Four Creeks
Preserve



District 3 Progress

SW 62nd Boulevard Connector

3a. The SW 62nd Boulevard Connector is also in D3

SW 43rd Street roadway project

3b. The Southwest 43rd Street roadway project will bring a number of improvements to the stretch of road between Southwest 20th Lane and Southwest 22nd Lane. The work includes roadway resurfacing, the addition of bike lanes, and a southbound to eastbound left-turn bay at Southwest 21st Place. The new construction also will improve traffic safety and flow by limiting Southwest 20th Lane to right-in/right-out turning movements.

Before the expected completion date in 2024, the roadway will get a new length of concrete sidewalk to close the gap on the west side of the roadway between Southwest 20th Lane and Southwest 22nd Lane. The final piece is adding an ADA-compliant bus boarding and lighting area at Southwest 20th Lane.

Forest Park Renovations

3c. Forest Park received a \$3.6 million renovation before reopening in fall 2023, with newly turfed soccer fields, competition quality volleyball courts, two full-size basketball courts and six pickleball courts. Along with the athletic upgrades, the park was outfitted with improved lighting for night games, new bleachers for fans and new benches for teams.

Comfort and convenience factored into the improvements. Bright blue shade structures, a much-needed stormwater management system, and a dog wash station are among the new amenities. The Forest Park transformation was funded by the voter-approved Wild Spaces & Public Places half-cent surtax.

SW 27th Street Trail

3d. The SW 27th Street Trail adds to Gainesville's reputation as a great place to live and experience. This 0.6 mile project connects Williston Road to Southwest 35th Place through a smooth and open multiuse trail. The path passes along Southwest 27th Street, Southwest 40th Place and Southwest 25th Terrace, and was paid for with a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation.

The trail makes it easier for neighbors to walk to nearby destinations and to reach the area bus stops to make use of the Regional Transit System (RTS) and its reliable schedule of public transportation. This project was completed in 2022.

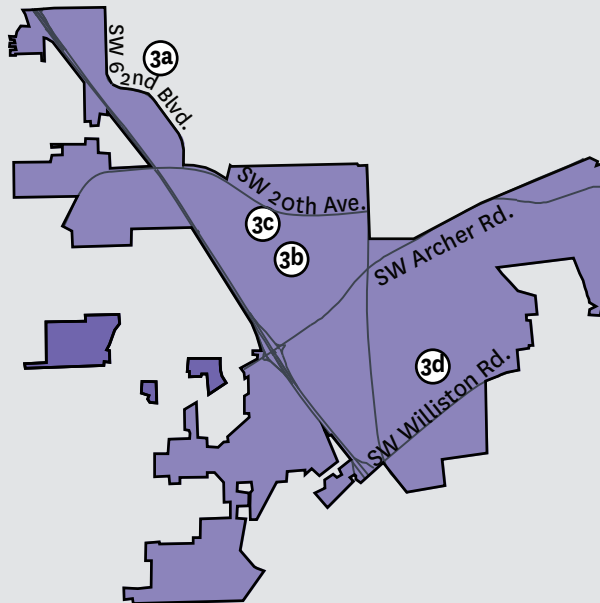


Fig.: District 3 project map



District 4 Progress

Sports Complex at Eighth Avenue and Waldo Road

4a. The Sports Complex at Eighth Avenue and Waldo Road feasibility study has been completed. Funding is pending. The project would transform the Martin Luther King Jr. Multipurpose Center and Citizens Field into a community hub for neighbors, athletics and economic activity. The feasibility study asked residents what they want to see on the 34 acres of city-owned land. Sports and recreational facilities, cultural events and greenspace rank at the top of the list.

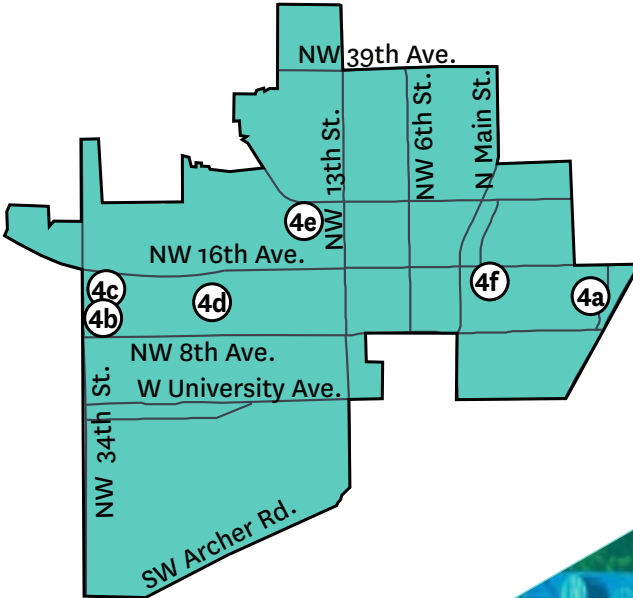
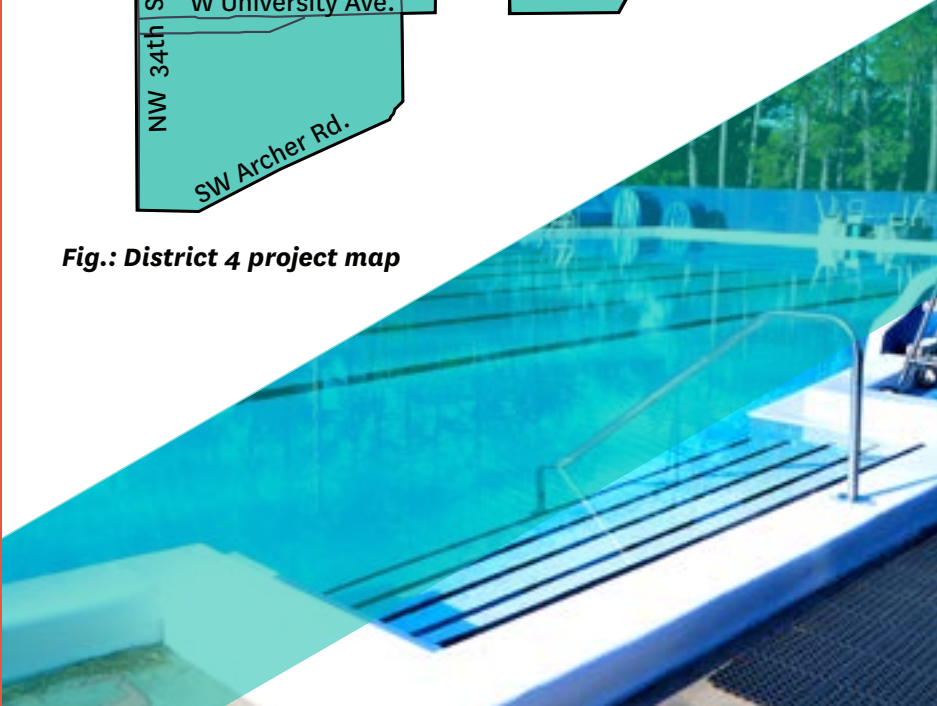


Fig.: District 4 project map





Albert “Ray” Massey/Westside Park Playground

4b. The Albert “Ray” Massey/Westside Park Playground is Gainesville’s first “boundless,” or fully inclusive, playground that enables access for all ages and abilities. Inspired by the adjacent Northwest Eighth Avenue Solar Walk public art installation, the brightly colored playground boasts a space-themed motif. Its largest play feature, the “Space Station,” is designed with ramps and flat surfaces so that visitors requiring mobility supports, such as crutches or wheelchairs, may easily maneuver throughout the sprawling structure.

Completed in 2023 with funding from the voter-approved Wild Spaces & Public Places half-cent surtax, the playground also has swings, slides and spinners designed for care providers to more easily assist those with varying levels of mobility. A colorful walkway at the south end features activity boards to help develop fine-motor skills. This also is the city’s first fully lighted playground for play after sunset in seasons with fewer daylight hours.

H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool

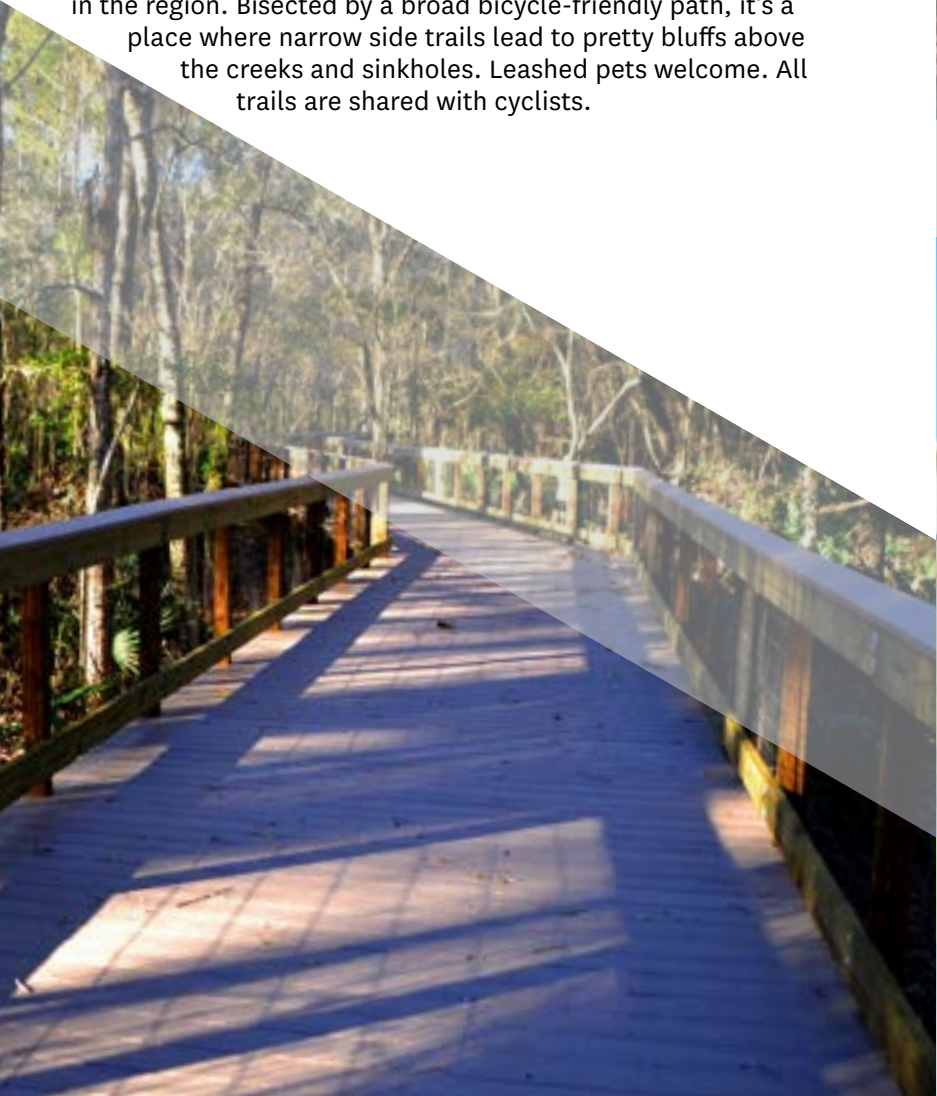
4c. H. Spurgeon Cherry Pool received a \$1.2 million renovation that was completed in 2023. The pool is part of the Albert “Ray” Massey Recreation Center, and is a full-featured aquatics facility. The pool has amenities such as short course lap lanes, a splash pad, one- and three-meter diving boards, diving towers, a disabled access ramp, bathhouse

and showers, aqua slide, professionally trained staff, deck space for sunbathing swim lessons and a picnic area.

Boardwalk at Loblolly Woods Nature Park

4d. The boardwalk at Loblolly Woods Nature Park is an attraction for people who love nature. Protecting 159 acres of lushly forested bottomland along the confluence of Possum Creek and Hogtown Creek, Loblolly Woods Nature Park is an urban gem. The boardwalk repairs, completed for roughly \$400,000 in 2022, start at Northwest Eighth Avenue and extend approximately 1,400 feet north into the park's interior.

At this park—one of ten that make up the City of Gainesville's Hogtown Creek Greenway—spring wildflowers carpet the forest floor and the namesake loblolly pines are some of the largest in the region. Bisected by a broad bicycle-friendly path, it's a place where narrow side trails lead to pretty bluffs above the creeks and sinkholes. Leashed pets welcome. All trails are shared with cyclists.






Northwest 19th Lane Multi-Use Path

4e. The Northwest 19th Lane multi-use path is proof that Gainesville loves its bicyclists! Completed in late 2021, this project added a bike path along the north side of the road, from Northwest 13th Street to Northwest 16th Terrace. Improving the overall connectivity of the city's bicycle network is a priority that supports safety and sustainability.

Tom Petty Park Improvements



4f. Improvements at Tom Petty Park (400 NE 16th Ave.) are a significant upgrade for a 22-acre location that has long served the community—though under a different name. Known as Northeast Park for decades prior to its renaming in 2018, Tom Petty Park is nestled in the northeast corner of central Gainesville. This renovation began in 2022 with new tennis courts, and additional work included better drainage, turf and irrigation for the three softball fields. Visitors may notice the six new shade structures over the existing bleachers and upgraded ADA access as well.

City of
Gainesville

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