



MEMORANDUM

*Tallahassee-Lion County
Planning Department*

To: Wayne Tedder, Director
From: Steve Hodges, Senior Planner
Date: November 10, 2009
Subject: Proposed Apalachee Regional Park Connector Project

Purpose

Staff was requested to analyze potential greenway trails connecting the Apalachee Regional Park to other City and County parks and greenways.

Analysis

As portions of the County's Solid Waste Management Facility (SWMF) reach capacity, these and other undeveloped areas are being converted into the Apalachee Regional Park (ARP). The ARP presently utilizes several portions of the SWMF as an active recreation park with two multi-purpose fields. A new hiking, running, and biking trail system was recently completed by the County's Division of Parks and Recreation within a vegetated buffer area within the SWMF.

As part of the writing of the adopted 2004 Tallahassee – Leon County Greenways Master Plan (GMP), staff investigated potential land-based connections to and from existing and future greenways and parks, including Tom Brown Park, the Lafayette Heritage Trail, the J.R. Alford Greenway, the L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife Environmental Area, and the Daniel B. Chaires Community Park (formerly the Chaires – Capitola Community Park).

As shown in Attachment #1, the GMP identified a number of environmentally sensitive areas for potential greenway land acquisitions and proposed a series of conceptual greenway trail corridors intended to connect as many parks and greenways together as considered feasible at the time the Master Plan was published. Staff reviewed maps and aerial photographs in 2004 to try to establish trail links from the ARP to the Lafayette Heritage Trail, but was not able to at that time establish any land-based or other trail corridors outside of the ARP. A trail was proposed within the ARP in the forested buffer that fronts Lower Lake Lafayette in anticipation of its eventual conversion from a solid waste facility to a regional park. This trail is shown on Attachment #1.

Analysis and Recommendation

Following an additional review of the most recent maps and other digital information available to staff, several options are presented below in Table #1. Each option includes a summary

description, type of trail, potentially affected private properties, length, and estimated cost. These options are shown on Attachment #2.

Table #1: Summary of Options.

Option	Description	Type of Trail	Minimum Number of Potentially Affected Private Properties	Length	Estimated Costs
#1	Land connection west to Lafayette Heritage Trail	Stabilized path (min. 10'W)	34	8076' (1.5 mi)	\$90,000 ¹
#2	Land connection east along U.S. Highway 27 to Chaires Cross Road to the Daniel B. Chaires Community Park (formerly the Chaires – Capitola Community Park)	Paved shared-use path (min. 10'W)	Can potentially all be done in State and County Right of Way	12,967' (2.5 mi)	\$389,000 ²
#3	Blueway trail connecting west to Lafayette Heritage Trail or north to Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission boat ramp at west end of Road to the Lake	Canoe/kayak water trail	Existing		\$45,000 ³
#4	Elevated boardwalk across Lower Lake Lafayette	Wooden boardwalk	None	Min. 2,100'	\$210,000 to \$420,000

Option #1:

This is a stabilized dirt trail similar to the trunk trails that the County's Division of Parks and Recreation is building in the Miccosukee and J.R. Alford greenways. This is a hard-surface trail that is intended to have minimal maintenance requirements. This trail would ideally be located on as much County-owned land as possible, but it would have to cross private lands currently developed as low-density residential areas. The ideal location here would be along two paved

¹ Construction cost only. Does not include any acquisition costs.

² Based on a State of Florida estimate of \$30/LF for a 10' wide paved shared-use paths.

³ Based on a State of Florida estimate for a canoe launch/landing facility.

private roads (E. Windwood Way and Weeping Willow Way) to make the connection to the Lafayette Heritage Trail. This would require trail or public access easements obtained from a minimum of 34 private landowners. Another option for the private road portion of this trail is to offer to take over the road and maintain it as a County road, making it publicly accessible.

Option #2:

This is a paved shared-use path that would cross the existing landfill, as proposed in the adopted Tallahassee – Leon County Greenways Master Plan, to U.S. Highway 27, and then east to Chaires Cross Road/State Highway 154 all the way to the Daniel B. Chaires Community Park (formerly the Chaires – Capitola Community Park). This path can very likely be done all in existing State and County Right-of-Way. There is no paved shoulder along Chaires Cross Road. A wide shoulder exists along U.S. Highway 27 that is usable by bicyclists, but automotive speeds are high along this stretch of U.S. Highway 27, and only expert road and touring cyclists would likely use these shoulders, particularly in the absence of any other alternative.

Option #3:

This is a “blueway” water trail connecting west to Lafayette Heritage Trail or north to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission boat ramp at west end of Road to the Lake. This would be a link in an existing blueway system in Lower Lake Lafayette that is presently maintained by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FFWC). The only construction costs to the County would be a short access trail to the water and a small pier or other canoe or kayak launching facility on the APR side.

Option #4:

This is an elevated wooden boardwalk across Lower Lake Lafayette. It would be a minimum length of 2,100 feet and would likely have to be built to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. It would also have to be raised at some location to allow FFWC airboats and other watercraft to access the L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife Environmental Area to the east. Estimating the cost such a boardwalk is difficult due to several unknown variables, including depth below the lake surface to a stable substrate, but published estimates for similar projects vary from \$100-\$200 a linear foot, depending on labor, cost of materials, and any special needs. This could cost approximately \$210,000 to \$420,000.

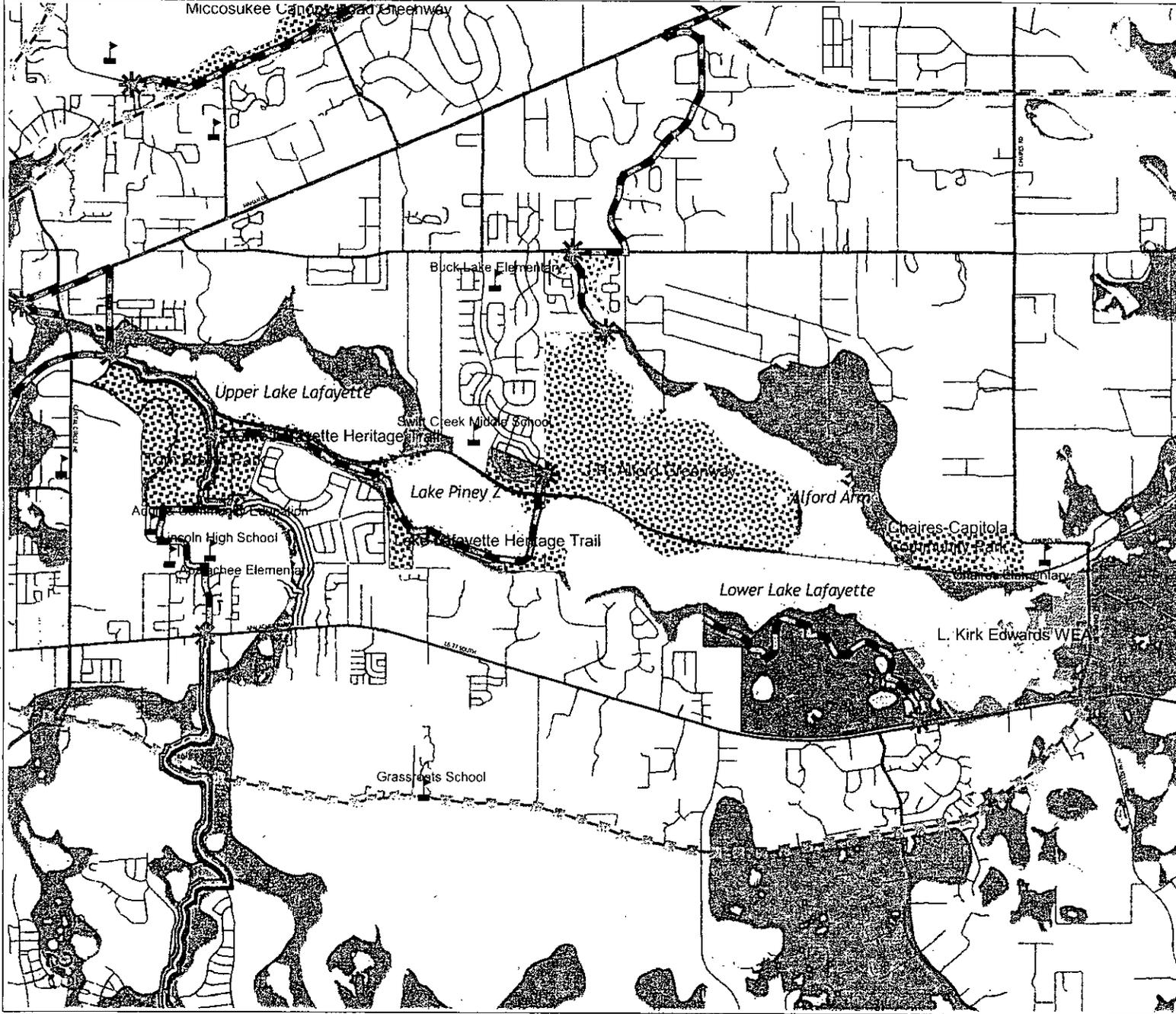
Recommendations

Staff will need authorization to spend additional staff time to work up more detailed cost estimates and to gauge the feasibility of these options. This would include site visits to locate any physical or other constraints and/or opportunities. Staff can then report back to County management for transmittal to the Board as necessary for further direction.

Attachments:

- #1 Map 1: Figure 16 from the Tallahassee – Leon County Greenways Master Plan
- #2 Map 2: Apalachee Regional Park Trail Connection Study w/ Options

Figure 16: Lake Lafayette Greenways



Legend

- Trailhead
- Goose Pond Trail
- Existing Shared Use Path
- Southwood Main Trail
- Proposed Trails
 - blueway
 - shared use
 - walking trail
- Schools
- Schools
- Major Road Names
- Canopy Road
- Major Streets
 - Interstates
 - Federal
 - Major
 - Minor
- Roads
 - Interstate 10
 - Federal
 - Major
 - Minor
 - Residential
 - Railroad
- Water Feature
- City Park
- County Park
- Leon County Landfill
- State Conservation Area
- Proposed Greenway
- City Limits



NOTE: This product has been compiled from the most accurate source data from Leon County and the City of Tallahassee. However, this product is for reference purposes only and is not to be construed as a legal document or survey instrument. Any reliance on the information contained herein is at the user's own risk. Leon County and the City of Tallahassee assume no responsibility for any use of the information contained herein or any loss resulting therefrom. Any parcel data displayed is considered to be in draft form and the Property Appraiser assumes no responsibility for this layer.

Tallahassee - Leon County Planning Department
July 2004

