

William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park

Department & Contact: Community Services — Director Tommy Scott, Tommy.Scott@CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Area: Mid

Location: Edgewater Drive and Port Charlotte Boulevard

Category: Quality of Life

Focus Area(s): Infrastructure and Public Services

Need:

Complete the William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan.

Purpose:

William R. Gaines Jr. was a 1981 graduate of Charlotte High School and a Marine, killed in action while serving with the U.S. component of the U.N. multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut, Lebanon. The goal of the park is to provide a testament to the sacrifices of all veterans and first responders and be a place where neighbors and families can come together to experience the beauty of nature. The William R. Gaines Jr. Foundation is contributing an initial donation of \$500,000 cash and in-kind services.

Objectives:

Complete the William R Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan through redevelopment of the park to include group pavilions (one large, one small), pedestrian and exercise trails, fitness equipment, a tennis court, four pickleball courts, two bocce ball courts, a 2,400 sq. ft. splash pad, restroom, a community building (approx. 600 sq. ft.) and additional parking.

Project Cost Prior Funding:	\$0
Project Cost Prior from Sales Tax:	\$0
Total Project Cost:	\$0
Project Cost Required New Sales Tax:	\$4,500,000
Annual Operating Cost:	\$0

Will the project impact public health and safety? If so, how?

Yes, by providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the public. Parks promote physical activity and can positively impact health and overall wellness of the community.

Will the project foster economic development and create long-term jobs? If so, how?

Yes, improving the park will increase home values and desirability. Completion of the park will create a destination and add to Charlotte County as a tourist destination.

Will the project result in decreased, increased, or no operation and maintenance (O&M) costs?

Increased maintenance cost for playgrounds, splashpad, grounds, and other amenities.

Will sales tax allow for application of grant funds from another entity?

Yes, such as the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program and the Land Water Conservation Fund.

Will the project enable furtherance of phased projects from 2014 sales tax extension?

No, however it will extend the project from the 1998 Sales Tax Extension.

Is this a joint project with another entity?

Yes, partnership with the William R. Gaines Jr. Foundation.

Will the project meet a community obligation to serve a special needs segment of the County's population, such as: low-income, aged, or minorities?

Yes – by providing accessible trails and universal design playground and splashpad for special needs children.

Project to be funded by the 1% Local Option Sales Tax Extension if passed by the voters of Charlotte County

Is the project included in a Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan, or Capital Needs Assessment?

Yes, Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Capital Needs Assessment.

Will the project impact environmental quality of Charlotte County? If so, how?

No.

Will the project improve quality of life in Charlotte County?

Yes, access to parks increases positive effects on health and quality of life for the community.

Is the project state or federally mandated?

No.

Is the project dependent upon or connected with the completion of another project?

No.

PROPOSAL