

# City of South Daytona

## Office of the City Manager

1672 S. Ridgewood Avenue • South Daytona, FL 32119 • 386/322-3014



### MEMORANDUM

To: James L. Gillis Jr., City Manager

From: Becky Witte, Deputy City Clerk

Re: Consideration of approving Resolution No. 2024-14, authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for financial assistance to the Volusia County ECHO Grant Program for improvements to Reed Canal Park.

Date: June 3, 2024

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The County of Volusia provides financial assistance under the Volusia ECHO Grant Program for the encouragement of Environmental, Cultural, Historic, and Outdoor projects that benefit Volusia County.

Reed Canal Park is a destination park for all families living in Volusia County. Reed Canal Park encompasses 30 acres and includes a lake. It features shell hiking trails in the nature portion, as well as a Disc golf course, a multipurpose play field, playground, dog park, pavilion, picnic facilities, and paved paths around the park's developed sections. Fishing and miniature sail-boating are encouraged on the lake within the park.

In October 1975, a Giant Ground Sloth was discovered at the bottom of the lake in Reed Canal Park, now referred to as "The South Daytona Bone Bed." Due to the remains being found 12 feet below the ground, experts were able to identify the other animals that lived around the sloth, including a mammoth, mastodon, and the rare Cuvieronius Elephant that roamed with tapir, capybara, palaeolama, and a glyptodont (a nine-foot armadillo). Along with the sloth, experts also discovered the remains of about 50 other species of animals, including some that are still alive today, such as the deer, bobcat, and raccoon.

Dr. Gordon Edmund, Curator of Paleontology at Canada's Royal Ontario Museum, stated that the skeleton of the Giant Ground Sloth is the best preserved and most complete fossil collection of this species ever found in the history of North America. This impressive piece of South Daytona history can be seen at the Museum of Arts and Sciences in the Prehistory of Florida Gallery.

Reed Canal Park is extremely valuable to our community, not only for the discoveries but also for recreational purposes. At any given time 20-30 children are found playing on the playground while during peak time as many as 60 children can be found on the playground while upwards of 120 individuals can be seen using the other areas of the expansive park. The current dimensions of the playground are 80'x80' and the proposed plan is to expand the playground to 116'x130' and set it back another 9' from the parking lot area.

Therefore, due to the popularity of the park, the playground is in need of replacement which would incorporate the history of the location. The proposed plan for this expanded playground

would be dinosaur-themed. This theme would highlight the history of the area and the interpretive signage will discuss the animals discovered here in Florida and the difference of the animals found in other parts of the United States.

The Reed Canal Park Playground Expansion Project will include the following:

- Accessible playground equipment on top of artificial turf on a poured-in-place foundation
- Swing sets with a saddle seat, netted/tire swings, parent/child swings, baby seat, and a special accessible seat which has become popular over the years
- Picnic tables incorporated throughout the playground area and new benches
- Interpretive signage
- Custom sloth and dinosaur statues
- Shade cover over the playground

Resolution No. 2024-14 authorizes the City Manager to submit an application for financial assistance to the County of Volusia, Volusia ECHO Grant Program which is due June 13th. The attached Resolution also authorizes the City Manager to execute agreements or contracts necessary to implement the project.

If the resolution is approved, staff will submit our application for the replacement of the playground at Reed Canal Park to Volusia County for consideration. We will know around August 2024 if the project is selected for ECHO grant funding. If the project is selected, the grant award will be brought before the City Council for approval in September 2024. Design and procurement will begin shortly thereafter with the amenities being selected in early 2025.

The Volusia ECHO Grant Program requires at least a 50% match contribution by the City. Staff estimates that the entire project will cost about \$1,220,000 to complete. Our match, which will be around \$620,000, will be included in the budget for FY 2024-25 in September. Staff estimates construction beginning in Spring 2025 with completion in early 2026.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH DAYTONA, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VOLUSIA COUNTY ECHO GRANT PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO REED CANAL PARK; PROVIDING FOR MATCHING FUND CONTRIBUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Volusia provides financial assistance under the Volusia ECHO Grant Program for the encouragement of Environmental, Cultural, Historic, and Outdoor projects that benefit Volusia County; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of South Daytona is proposing a renovation of Reed Canal Park to create a historical recreational area designed to be easy to use by those with limitations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the South Daytona desires to authorize the submission of an application for financial assistance to the County of Volusia under the Volusia ECHO Grant Program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH DAYTONA, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** The City Manager of the City of South Daytona is hereby authorized to submit an application for financial assistance to the Volusia County ECHO Grant Program. The grant application is for improvements to Reed Canal Park. The City Manager shall be authorized to execute agreements or contracts as necessary to implement this Resolution.

**Section 2.** The City is committed to providing at least a 50% cash match contribution for the cost of the project which is estimated at this time at \$1,220,000. The City's cash match contribution at this time is \$620,000 for this project.

**Section 3.** That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED ON FIRST AND ONLY READING** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024  
by the City Council of the City of South Daytona, Florida.

**CITY OF SOUTH DAYTONA, FLORIDA**

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William C. Hall, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
James L. Gillis Jr, City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

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Wade C. Vose, City Attorney