



# ALACHUA COUNTY PARKS & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

MASTER PLAN  
FEBRUARY 2023



# Agenda

Purpose & Process

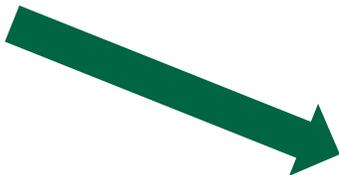
Public Input Summary

Vision

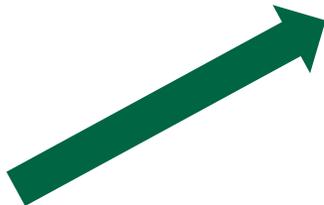
# Master Plan Process



**Input from the  
public**



**Output to the plan**



**Input from the data**



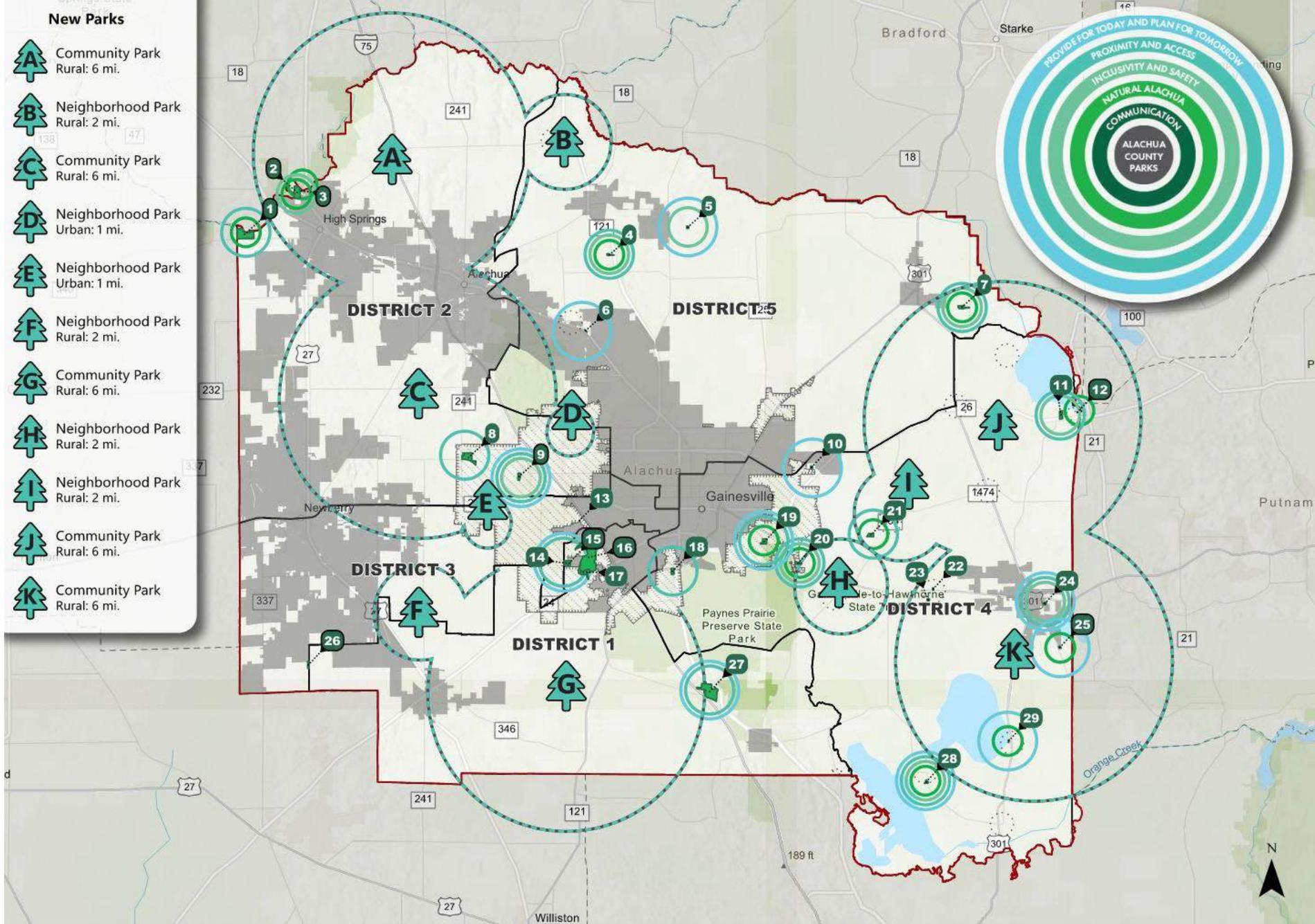
# Public Input Summary

- Public Workshops – May 10, 11, 24 & 25
- Focus Groups – May 10, 19, 24
- Statistically-Valid & Open Link Surveys

# Guiding Principles



# Alachua County Parks Vision





## Provide for Today & Plan for Tomorrow

Parks provide for the needs of current users and respond to future trends.

- To achieve equity, Parks throughout the county are of a consistent quality and meet basic standards.
- Amenities offered respond to the needs of surrounding park users achieved through a community engagement process.
- Amenities planned for future parks respond to trends and forecasting.



## Proximity and Access

All residents have access to opportunities for play and recreation:

- Each resident lives within a close range of either a neighborhood park (1-mile urban or 2-miles rural) or a community park (3-miles urban or 6-miles rural).
- A robust network of trails and pathways connect users with park amenities.
- Parks provide amenities to facilitate multi-modal access.





# Inclusivity and Safety

Parks are safe and welcoming to multicultural users of all ages and abilities:

- Each park provides facilities usable by people of all ages and abilities.
- Each park promotes safe and inclusive spaces for all users.



# Park Equity Standards

## Neighborhood Park

### Size

5-acre min.

### Geographic Level of Service

- Urban: 1-mile
- Rural: 2-miles

### Elements

- Play area
- Sports Court
- Unprogrammed Open Space
- Small Pavilions and Picnic Tables
- Off-street Parking – sufficient for daily use patterns and ADA requirements

## Community Park

### Size

20-acre min.

### Geographic Level of Service:

- Urban: 3-mile
- Rural: 6-miles

### Elements

- Play area
- Sports Fields and/or Sports Courts
- Flexible Open Space
- Mix of Group Pavilions and Small Pavilions
- Restroom Building
- Off-street Parking – sufficient for daily use patterns and ADA requirements



# Natural Alachua

Alachua County residents have access to nature-based recreation:

- Residents have access to nature trails and water-based activities.
- Parks leverage natural assets for environmental education and interpretation



# Communication

Park users are aware of park and programming offerings:

- Residents can easily find and share information about available amenities and upcoming events.
- Partnership between departments and agencies allow for efficient and expanded park programming opportunities.



# Communication Recommendations

- Develop a Parks & Open Space communications strategy in partnership with Communications
- Expand social media marketing and webpage presence
- Develop a brand for Alachua County Parks & Open Space focusing on Master Plan implementation and generating excitement within the community
- Facilitate special events with community-based grassroots organizations
- Improve internal communication between County departments and agencies
- Partner with municipalities within the County to create a comprehensive awareness of parks & open space offerings through all jurisdictions
- Work with Communications Office to build strategy for Parks & Open Space



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