

Foley's Graham Creek Nature Preserve



History of the Site

- City of Foley and Riviera Utilities purchased 484 acres of farmland from Mr. Faust in 2004 for \$5.66 million
- One of the intentions was a water supply from aquifer
- City maintained open fields and farm roads
- 2008
 - City and Riviera Utilities agreed to property usage as park with rights for Riviera Utilities to add water wells in future
 - Master Planning Grant received from ADCNR
 - Habitats Identified & Plant Inventory Conducted
 - Property Named Graham Creek Nature Preserve

Initial Amenities....

- 2009
 - Canoe Launch (ADCNR Grant)
 - Parking Area and Signage (ADCNR Grant)
 - Stan Mahoney Lane



2010.... And it Blossoms

- Pavilion (ADCNR Grant)
- Philomene Holmes Blvd Phase I
- Habitat Management
 - Prescribed Burn
 - Invasive Plant Control
- Trails (Existing Farm Roads)
 - 2 mile
 - 5K
 - 7.5 mile off road bicycle



2011 & 2012..... And Grows

- Butterfly Garden
- Invasive Control Program Expanded
- Restroom Facilities
- Prescribed Burn



2013... And Grows

- Swings
- Disc Golf Course (9)
- 5 Mile Hiking Trail
- Prescribed Burn & Invasive Plant Program
- Memorial Tree Grove
- Geocaching Course



The Present – 2014 Completed

- Nature Explore Classroom & 6 Learning Stations
- Fencing along Stan Mahoney Lane
- Disc Golf Course Expanded (18)
- Trail & Traffic Counters Installed
- Trail Signage Upgrades (2 mile, 5K, & 5 mile) *ER*



The Near Future.....Upcoming 2014

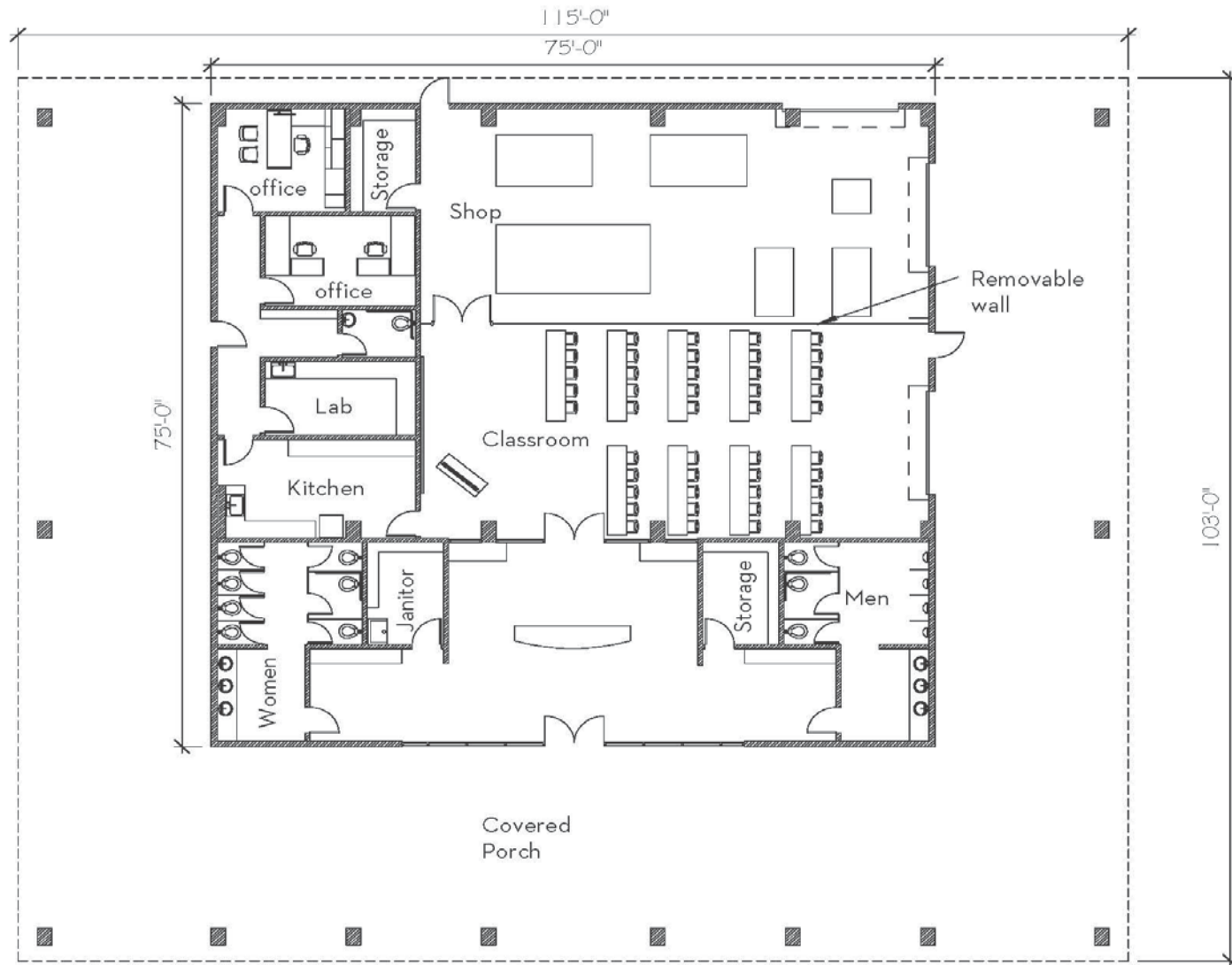
- Mountain Biking Trails (10 miles) by October
- Archery Park (Adult & Youth) by October
- Pave Philomene Holmes Blvd (from Roscoe Rd to park entrance)
- Graham Creek Nature Preserve Master Plan Update
- Gates Repaired



2015 The Future Looks Bright

- Interpretive Center
- Philomene Holmes Blvd Phase II (to Wolf Bay Drive)
- Certified 5K & 10 K Course
- Expanded Trail Signage
- Additional Foot Bridges
- Prescribed Burn
- Invasive Plant Removal
- Dynamic Website





City of Foley Archery Center - Scale: 1/16" = 1'

Foley, AL. | 05/27/2014



GOODWYN | MILLS | CAWOOD

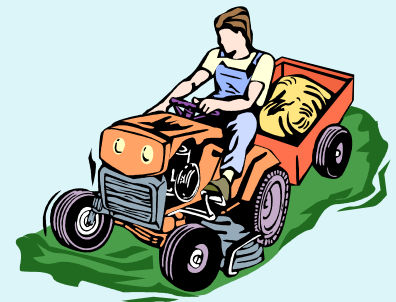
And Beyond.....

- Split Rail Fence Along Wolf Bay Drive
- ADA Walking Trail & Boardwalk from Interpretive Center to Northern Pitcher Plant Bog
- Explore Tree Canopy Ropes Course & Zipline



Maintenance

- Gravel Roadway – Public Works
 - Inspect & Replace Gravel Annually
- Trails & Fields – Public Works
 - 2x/year trimming
 - 1x/month mowing minimum
- Sanitation
 - 1x/week sanitation & recycling pick up
- Habitat Management - Contracted
 - Prescribed Burn Operations
 - Invasive Plant Removal
 - Habitat Assessments
- Restroom Maintenance – Parks Dept.
 - 1x/week restroom cleaning & restocking



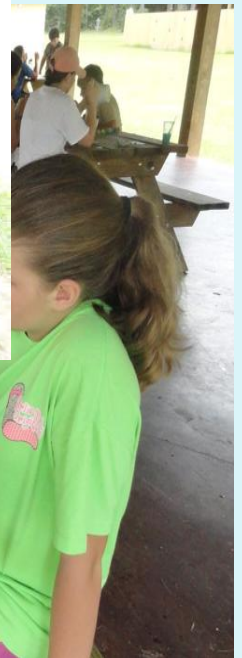
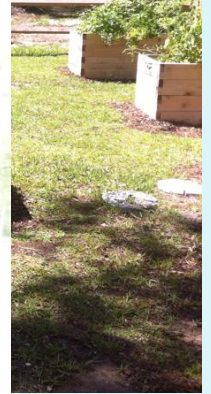
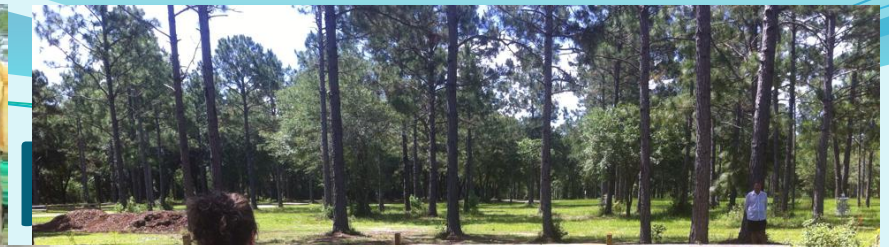
Educational Programs

- 2010 – Field Trips Began with Ecological Themes
- 2011 – Our Wonderful Wetlands (OWW)
 - Funded by Grant through Wolf Bay Watershed Watch
 - 6th Grade Local Students Educated on Wetlands
- 2012 – Our Wonderful Wetlands (OWW)
 - Funded by Grant through Wolf Bay Watershed Watch
 - 6th Grade Local Students Educated on Bug Assessments
 - 5th Grade Local Students Educated on Wetlands
 - Silverhill & Elberta Schools

Educational Programs



- 2013 –
 - Educational Tours - Youth, Seniors & Special Needs
 - OWW Continued with Tree Planting
 - Pioneer Day Camp (Ages 10-14 on Environmental Topics)
 - Grant to Develop Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom and Educational Program for Preschool through High School (Completed September 2013)
 - Curriculum Follows AL Science Course of Study
 - Provided to Schools as Field Trip at NO COST



University Research

- **Mississippi St. - landscape architecture**
- **University of Alabama - groundwater**
- **Iowa State University - forestry**
- **Auburn University –**
 - **Baseline for 3 year study on urbanization effects on a coastal watershed**
 - **Individual research work**
 - **Water Quality**
 - **Invertebrates**
 - **Fish**
 - **Amphibians**
 - **Snakes**

Events



- 2010 – Foley Invitational Cross Country Race
 - Schools from Baldwin & Mobile Counties
 - 4 Races on 5K Course – Labor Day Weekend
- 2011
 - Earth Day Extravaganza
 - Jog the Bog Earth Day 5K Race
 - Foley Invitational

Events

• 2012

- Earth Day Extravaganza
- Jog the Bog for Earth Day 5K Race
- Foley Invitational Cross Country Race
- Creek Crawl Obstacle Race – 5K – 1st Saturday in October
- High School Cross Country Sectionals for State Qualification – November



• 2013

- Earth Day Extravaganza
- STEMM Program Camp with Snook Youth Club
- Foley Invitational
- Cub Scout Day Camp
- CWRC Folks & Blues Festival
- Perseids & the Preserve Campout (August) for Meteor Shower
- Y Get Dirty Race for YMCA (September)
- Creek Crawl Race – 5K & 5 Mile
- Forensics Seminar





GCNP Staff

- Leslie Gahagan – Environmental & Nature Parks Manager
- Jacqueline Trimble – Environmental Assistant - Educational Programs Director & Events Coordinator
- Temporary Part Time Parks Ranger – Maintenance of Park Areas (Mowing, Weedeating, Trimming & Habitat Management), Security, Visitor Support & Assistance with Educational Programs & Events
- Summer College Internships – Assist with all Programs
- Temporary Easter Seals Employee – Assist Parks Ranger

GCNP as Venue for Events

- Ecotourism
- Community Events
- Weddings
- Family/Church Gatherings
- Meetings
- Workshops/Seminars
- *Sports Competitions (Woodland Venue)*



Don Staley



- Executive Director Sports for the COF
- Former Executive Director of the Tuscaloosa Sports Foundation, who was instrumental in the development of the TSF and bringing AHSAA Super Six Football Championship to Tuscaloosa
- Head Soccer Coach at UA from 1993-2008
- 32 years experience in sports tourism event operations





ASA Archery



ASA Archery

- February 2016 (3 Day Competition)
- Competition at Graham Creek
- 12 Ranges (along trails) in wooded areas
- 3D targets installed at defined distances
- Event vendors at Interpretive Center
- Archers estimated at 1500 (all ages)
- Spectators estimated at 2000 (families)
- Economic Impact – Estimated at \$1.2 million

Other future events at GCNP

- College Cross Country Races
- Disc Golf Tournaments
- Mountain Biking Races
- USATF Certified Races
- Other Archery Competitions





Questions?

**For further information on
Graham Creek please contact:**

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