

Capital Project Fact Sheet

Project Name:

Andy James Wetland Reserve

Project Overview:

A new 95 acre nature park/wetland reserve that houses the headwaters of the Bon Secour River will increase our cities resilience to extreme weather, flooding, and climate variability. It will provide habitat to ecologically significant flora and fauna and will provide our citizens access to open green space and natural resources for outdoor recreation opportunities. This is Phase I for the project.

Location: South end of Barner Road Foley, AL 36535

Project Scope:

Phase I includes fencing for security, entrance and security signage, wetland mats for treatment and habitat construction. The fencing will be installed by staff and is estimated at \$5000. The signage is estimated at \$5000. The wetland mats, including mats, pots, plants, delivery, installation and one year of maintenance is quoted at \$5000. The habitat construction includes multiple bird boxes and an osprey tower at \$1000.

Project Budget:

- \$25,000 – Phase I

Timeline:

- Phase I
 - Projected Start Date: April 2025
 - End Date: August 2025
- Phase II
 - FY26
 - Trail, Parking & Driveway
- Phase III
 - FY27
 - Pavilion & Additional Signage

Key Stakeholders:

- Owner: Leisure Services/Nature Parks
- Primary Contact: Leslie Gahagan
- Work Conducted with Staff

Objectives/Goals:

- Expand the City of Foley's Nature Parks Network with the addition of a new nature park/wetland reserve.
 - Green space for outdoor recreation
 - Hiking trails
 - Native habitats for observing flora and fauna
 - Increases city resilience to extreme weather and climate variability
- Install fencing and entrance signage so that citizens can locate the park entrance and to keep trespassers/joyriders off of the property.
 - Improves aesthetics
 - Protects native wildlife and juvenile plant species that were planted as part of the headwater wetland restoration
- Install floating wetland mats in the pond at south end of the site.
 - Improve water quality
 - Create habitat for aquatic species
 - Develop wetland plant gardens to be used as needed for other city projects
 - Use as educational exhibits for future field trips/tours
- Partner with Riviera Utilities to install osprey platform on site.
 - Provides habits for a federally protected migratory bird species
 - Can be used as an educational exhibit for future tours/fieldtrips
 - Supports the Nature Parks Departments core values of conservation and education

Risks:

- Damage to the grounds, plants, and habitat due to trespassers and joyriders.
- Illegal dumping.

Benefits:

- 95 acres of green space and natural landscapes for citizens to recreate in
- Increases city resilience with the preservation ecologically significant habitats in an area of the city that is facing rapid urban expansion
- Provides an additional opportunity for our citizens to access Alabama's natural resources

- Is a great example of how grant funds were used to improve habitat, restore ecological value, improve water quality, and reduce downstream flooding all while providing a useable amenity to our city and citizens
- A plant source for city low impact development projects.
- Volunteer projects to plant native species and build and install bird houses of various types

Headcount:

- Maintenance of the park will fall under existing Park Rangers and Sustainability Coordinator
- If use of the area increases, an additional full time Park Ranger I may be needed to handle the additional maintenance for all the added park areas.

Maintenance:

- Estimated maintenance costs for Phase I will include supplies and small tools and increased wear on equipment like mowers and weed eaters. Anticipated increase to budgets total \$2500.