

Wolf Creek Park Trails & Pavilion

The City of Foley would like to propose continued improvements at Wolf Creek Park to include a boardwalk and pavilion with interpretive signage. Previously the City received grant assistance from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for the development of this park's canoe launch, fishing pier and small picnic pavilion. The nature park will continue to serve lower Baldwin County residents, winter visitors and tourists.

The property is located at the end of Hance Lane off of Wilson Road. The canoe/kayak launch area is located on a secluded cove off the east bank of Wolf Creek. The fishing pier is located on the main channel of Wolf Creek. The City envisions this community park to also include a raised boardwalk from the canoe launch to the fishing pier, conversion of the old pole barn to a large covered interpretive area with signage and a small trail along the eastern section of the property.

The City of Foley is seeking assistance from the 306A Public Access Improvement Grant to design and construct a raised boardwalk with rails from the canoe launch north through the wooded wet area for approximately 165 feet then turn west for approximately 175 feet landing under the existing pole barn. The boardwalk would be in wooded wetlands, but not over waters and would be handicap accessible. Total length of the boardwalk would be about 340 feet at a cost of \$45,000. The existing old pole barn would be re-developed into a pavilion with interpretive and picnic areas. This would include reconstruction of the roof to meet current building codes and the installation of a concrete slab under half the roof area. The area would be used as an interpretive area demonstrating wetland characteristics through signage. The restoration of the pole barn to a pavilion area would be at a cost of about \$35,000. A small trail of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile would be cleared, mulched and marked from the parking area westward through the wooded area to Wilson Road and back to the parking area. The cost to develop and mark the trail would be about \$10,000. Signage would be incorporated along the boardwalk, interpretive area and trail head at a cost of about \$10,000. The City of Foley requests grant funding in the amount of \$50,000.00, which the City shall match with \$5,000 in kind services and \$45,000 cash for a total project value of \$100,000.

The goal of this park development is to encourage preservation of natural areas for the community's enjoyment. As the City adds amenities to this park, visitor usage will increase. Currently people visit the park for bird watching, fishing and kayaking. With the addition of trails, the City anticipates more walkers, bird watchers and picnickers.

Leslie Gahagan will be the liaison for the project with the City. The design and plans will be the first phase commencing in October. Construction of the boardwalk, pole barn restoration and trail development will follow during the months of November through March. Signs will be developed by April with installation by May 2015. Completion of the project would likely be June 2015. In conclusion, the City of Foley would appreciate consideration for the 306A Public Access Improvement Grant for the continued development of Foley's Wolf Creek Park.