



Bayshore Gateway Triangle CRA • Bayshore Beautification MSTU  
Haldeman Creek MSTU

Haldeman Creek MSTU Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENDA

April 1, 2024

3:30 PM

3299 Tamiami Trail E 3rd Floor BCC Chambers, Naples, Florida 34112

Chairman Roy Wilson, Vice Chair Robert Wopperer

Jacob Dutry van Haefen, Bill Robbins, Bob Bynum

1. **Call to order and Roll Call**
2. **Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**
  - a. Adoption of Agenda (**Action Item**)
3. **Public to be Heard (Non-Agenda Items)**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. November 6, 2023, Minutes (Attachment) (**Action Item**)
5. **Community / Business – Presentations**
6. **Old Business**
  - a. Derelict Boat in Haldeman Creek Update (Attachment)
  - b. Marker 16 Replacement Update
  - c. Bathymetric Survey Scope Draft (Attachment)
  - d. Draft Ordinance (Attachment)
7. **New Business**
  - a. Millage Neutral or Tax Neutral (**Action Item**)
  - b. Appointment of Chair
  - c. Appointment of Vice Chair
  - d. MSTU Residents Informational dissemination discussion
8. **Staff Report**
  - a. Financials- (Attachment)
9. **Correspondence and Communication**
  - a. Homeless Camping Bill Article (Attachment)
  - b. Sidewalk to Shelter Article (Attachment)
10. **Public Comment**
11. **Staff Comments**
12. **Advisory Board General Communications**
13. **Next meeting date:**
  - a. TBD
15. **Adjournment**



## November 6, 2023 meeting minutes

### **HALDEMAN CREEK MSTU MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

The meeting of the Haldeman Creek MSTU Advisory Committee was called to order by Roy Wilson at 2:30 p.m. at 3299 Tamiami Trail E, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor BCC Chambers, Naples, FL 34112.

1. **Roll Call:** Roy Wilson, Chairman, Bill Robbins, Jacob Dutry Van Haeften, Robert Wopperer; Greg Oravec, CRA Director, Shirley Garcia, Program Manager
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Roy Wilson.
3. **Adoption of Agenda:**  
Bill Robins made the Motion to approve the agenda as written.  
Robert Wopperer Second the motion. Approved unanimously.
4. **Public to be Heard:** None.
5. **Approval of Minutes for May 8, 2023:**  
Jacob Dutry Van Haeften: Motion to approve the minutes as written.  
Robert Wopperer: Seconds the motion. Approved unanimously.
6. **Community/Business – Presentations:** None
7. **Old Business:**
  - a. **Humistonn and Moore, Matt Goddard, Project Manager via Zoom**  
**Roy Wilson:** Regarding the letter from September 25, we have your analysis whether or not we had more debris and filling of Haldeman Creek after Irma, but now we have Ian. I would like to see recommendations in layman's terms or somebody explaining what is in the reports. I didn't know back then what it told me other than I did not see a red flag saying we had a problem you need to deal with.  
  
**Matt Goddard:** The determination at the time of the September 25 letter was taking the information we had and realizing we didn't have enough information. It wasn't a recommendation but just a quick summary.  
  
**Greg Oravec:** By Ordinance #2660, we were created for the purpose of maintenance dredging and the maintenance of navigation channel markers. That is your mission. Help me understand how you want to effectuate that purpose. The

last time we dredged was in 2006-2007. How often have we been doing the surveying of the channels – one time. That’s really not on a frequency necessary to really know what’s going on. We need a professional opinion/recommendation from Matt to be running it on a useful interval and have a level of service standards. And it’s up to the MSTU to make a recommendation to the DCC on what should be done on what basis and how much will it cost. You should have good baseline information, navigation channel markers and the do’s and don’ts, and a good map. The 2019 report is aging out as far as usefulness and not reliable. If the main channel is your number one priority, I would want to hear from Matt the magnitude and what it would cost to do that in today’s market and compare it to your budget. Your secondary priority is the finger channels.

**Bill Robbins:** It’s never been clear in the surveys what needs to be done. A question I have is what is 8,000, 10,000, or 15,000 cubic yards throughout the entire extent of the area? Can we get a professional say that at a certain amount it would be time to work it over?

Further discussion with regard to:

- Too shallow along the sides and near boat ramps
- Large boats
- Large rocks that cannot be removed

**Matt Goddard:** Overall it’s not that bad. You have hot spots where there is settlement/infill. There may be issues in the canals in certain spots and some canals do not have issues. They change from canal to canal. The elevation on the East side of the bridge is different from the West side.

Further discussion with regard to:

- Hurricane events that causes different area problems
- Dredge depths that are different for each canal
- Overall costs
- Decisions based on intelligent recommendations based on facts to the BCC
- Permit is still good from the Army Core of Engineers; need expiration date updated
- Property owners getting their own permit to piggyback
- Started in 2019 but was set aside before the second phase
- Once dredging is finished, there could be have a life expectancy for 50 years

**Greg Oravec:** Matt will receive in writing a request for opinion on the following: (1) what does it take for a property owner to dredge adjacent to their dock and seawall; (2) as a part of a county project in the Haldeman MSTU, can a property owner piggyback on our permit – can the dredging of the dock and seawall areas be done under our permit at that time or does it have to be separate? (3) Give us a monthly report on the status of the permit.



**Roy Wilson:** To move forward we get a baseline survey updated and then get the gears rolling to ask for bids. It still gets back to where we are today and how do we move forward.

**Al Schantzen:** The mechanical dredge is the way to go. The suction dredge that they used back in 2007 they could never keep enough water in the pipe to remove all the silt. Another is using a drone to fly over which would eliminate manpower.

**Roy Wilson:** We would allow the bidder to choose his own method. Motion for staff to prepare the request for bid to do cross sections that match the end of the dredge cross session of Haldeman Creek to indicate depths.

**Bill Robbins:** Seconds the motion.  
Approved unanimously.

7. b. Draft Ordinance HC Obstructions

**Shirley Garcia:** Is handling the writing of any changes.

**Roy Wilson:** Makes motion of the letter to the County Commissioners saying Haldeman Creek MSTU supports this change.

**Bill Robbins:** Seconds the motion. Approved unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Advisory Committee Application, William Robert Bynum

b. Advisory Committee Application, Greg Orick

Voting was done and William Robert Bynum was chosen for the addition to the Board.

Jacob Dutry Van Haefen: Motion made for Mr. Bynum to fill the vacancy.

Bill Robbins: Seconds the motion. Approved unanimously.

c. 2024 Meeting Calendar

Change made with meetings to be held at 3:30 p.m. Next meeting date is Monday, February 5.

9. Staff Report – October Financials

**Greg Oravec:** The BCC honored this advisory board's recommendation and so your mileage rate stayed neutral.

**Shirley Garcia:** Tasked with getting another bathymetric survey, I would need at least a couple of months to get that in place and look at who is on the contract so we might be able to award somebody. Then bring back an update on that with an amount and an action item.

**Greg Oravec:** I want to get some of these baselines definitively addressed for you in one





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place so that you can always consult them from here forward. (Roy Wilson would like to meet with Greg on this.)

**10. Correspondence and Communication**

- a. International Coastal Clean-up, 9-16-2023 informational flyer was provided.
- b. Operation Medicine Cabinet Drop-Off Sites informational flyer was provided.

**11. Public Comments**

**12. Staff Comments**

**13. Advisory Board General Communications**

**14. Next Meet Date**

Monday, February 5, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

**15. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

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Roy Wilson, Chairman



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# Memorandum

Item 6a

To: Haldeman Creek Advisory Committee

From: Shirley Garcia, Program Manager

Subject: Bathymetric Scope of Services Draft

Date: April 1, 2024

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**Background & Analysis:** Derelict Sail Boat abandoned in the Creek

**FWCS21OFF025512** Collier 26 Green FL5755KD PHR26305M81D Parker-Dawson Sailboat  
26 07.4350

**N 81 46.7610 W** Haldeman Creek

**FWC22ON0078774** Collier 25 White FL3051NE 2KL70525M84K Kelt Marine Sailboat 26 8.0786 N 81 47.5401 W Naples Bay

**FWC23ON0013625** Collier 11 Red FL8515SW YAMA1691I021 Yamaha Motor Corp

**Personal**

**Watercraft**

**26 19.3384**

**N 81 50.3860 W** Canal

**FWC23ON0015632** Collier 42 White DO526359 124 Asp Cabin Motorboat 26 7.9350 N 81 47.3880 W Naples Bay

Let me know if you have any questions,

Jennifer

Jennifer Tyler, **F.C.C.M.**

Assistant Administrator

Derelict Vessel Program

Division of Law Enforcement

Boating and Waterways Section

620 South Meridian Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

Office: (850) 617-9527

[Jennifer.Tyler@MyFWC.com](mailto:Jennifer.Tyler@MyFWC.com)

**Status:** The Sailboat was removed from Haldeman Creek through the FWC Derelict Boat Grant Program

To: Haldeman Creek Advisory Committee

From: Shirley Garcia, Program Manager

Subject: Bathymetric Scope of Services Draft

Date: April 1, 2024

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**Background & Analysis:** 2019 Bathymetric Survey Scope of Work

This Scope of Work is proposed in two phases. Under Phase 1, H&M will utilize our survey sub-consultant, Sea Diversified, Inc. (SDI) to collect survey data based on the previous survey scope and dredging template of 2006 and 2007. Upon receipt of the survey data, H&M will process the data to determine volumes and exhibits of any potential dredging based on the previous dredging plans.

Task 1 will provide an analysis of survey data and volumes of potential dredging areas. This will allow for discussions to move forward with permitting if dredging is required. The analysis will be provided as a draft for stakeholders' consideration of cost and time

Task 2 under Phase I will include meetings with the Local, State, and Federal Agency staff for review of the proposed project requirements and staff support.

**PHASE I**

**Task 1- Bathymetric Survey and Data Review**

- a) An updated bathymetric survey following the survey scope of the 2006/2007 dredging. This will allow H&M to assess the volumetric changes since the post-construction survey of 2007.

The survey will be performed by SDI in an accurate and timely manner. Their proposal is attached for reference.

**Recommendations:**

**New Scope of Services Draft**

Water Level Analysis ›  
Data & Analysis of Volumes of Potential Dredge Areas ›  
Topographic Survey ›  
Seawall Structural Assessments ›  
Stormwater Inlets and Outfall Condition Assessments ›  
GIS Geodatabases & Mapping ›  
Long Term 10 & 30 Year Planning

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-\_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 09-08, AS AMENDED, WHICH REGULATES AND CONTROLS LITTER, WEEDS, AND EXOTICS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF COLLIER COUNTY, BY PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS: DECLARATION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE; PROCEDURES FOR MANDATORY LOT MOWING PROGRAM; AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR A CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY SECTION; AN INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES SECTION; AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE SECTION.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, establishes the right and power of counties to provide for the health, welfare and safety of existing and future residents of the County by enacting and enforcing zoning regulations necessary for the protection of the public; and

**WHEREAS**, at the June 25, 2013, Board of County Commission meeting, the Board directed that certain amendments be made to Ordinance Number 05-44, as amended, specifically adding a prohibition on obstruction of free passage in the streets, alleys, or waterways of Collier, and making adjustments to the mandatory lot mowing program relating to removal from the program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA that:**

**AMENDMENTS TO DECLARATION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE SECTION**

Section Eleven, "Declaration of Public Nuisance," of Ordinance Number 09-08 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**SECTION ELEVEN:**           Declaration of Public Nuisance

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7. Any obstacle, vegetative or debris, organic or inorganic, which obstructs free passage or presents a potential hazard to the free passage of vessels in the waterways within the Haldeman Creek MSTU Boundary or abutting the Haldeman Creek boundary is hereby prohibited and declared a public nuisance. Exhibit A- Haldeman Creek Boundary Map Attached, this includes improved or unimproved properties.

## **AMENDMENTS TO PROCEDURES FOR MANDATORY LOT MOWING PROGRAM SECTION**

Section Nineteen, "Procedures for Mandatory Lot Mowing Program," of Ordinance Number 05-44 is hereby amended to read as follows:

### **SECTION NINETEEN Procedures for Mandatory Lot Mowing Program**

1. Inclusion in mandatory lot mowing program. If a public nuisance is determined to exist three or more times after July 15, 2001, ~~on a particular lot or parcel of unimproved property~~ any lot or parcel subject to this ordinance while under the same ownership, then at the discretion of the County Manager or his/her designee, such property will be placed in the Mandatory Lot Mowing Program, as set forth below.

2. Exemption from lot mowing program. Individual property owners of record whose real property is included in the County's mandatory lot mowing program may request an exemption from inclusion in the program by submitting to the County Manager, or his designee, a signed written agreement, acceptable to the County, covenanting that the property owner will maintain the property so that the height of any grass, weeds, or otherwise regulated vegetative matter will not constitute a public nuisance or exceed eighteen inches in height. In addition, the property owner must provide a letter of credit, contract agreement, escrow agreement, or some other surety with a mowing company that is acceptable to the County. The surety provided may vary but must remain in effect throughout the property owner's ownership of the property(s). The agreement must also include a provision of understanding by the owner that should he/she fail to keep the contract agreement and ensure no violation of this Ordinance exists on the property(s), the agreement approved by the County will become null and void. In that event, the property owner would be provided written notice that the lot mowing program exemption would be revoked by a date certain and the property would be placed in the Mandatory Lot Mowing Program, and not be entitled to any

further exemptions so long as the property is owned by the same property owner(s). The County Manager or designee may remove a lot or parcel enrolled in the Mandatory Lot Mowing Program if it is determined that the lot or parcel has been kept in compliance with this ordinance for three or more consecutive months.

**CONFLICT AND SEVERABILITY SECTION**

In the event this Ordinance conflicts with any other ordinance of Collier County or other applicable law, the more restrictive shall apply. If any court of competent jurisdiction holds any phrase or portion of this Ordinance invalid or unconstitutional, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remainder portion.

**INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES SECTION**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Laws and Ordinances of Collier County, Florida. The sections of the ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such, and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section,” “article,” or any other appropriate word.

**EFFECTIVE DATE SECTION**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the Department of State.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Collier County, Florida, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

ATTEST:  
CRYSTAL KINZEL, CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

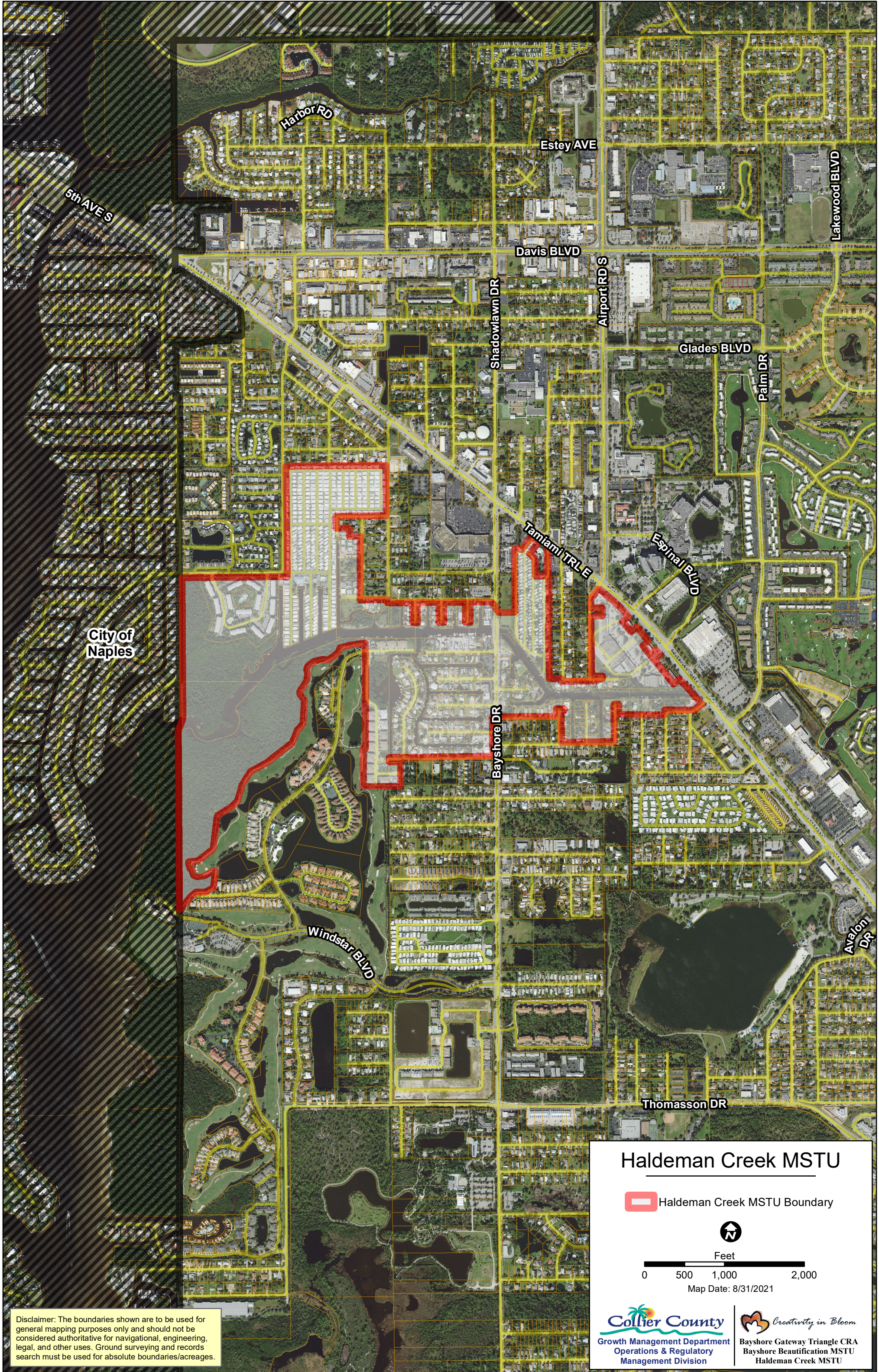
BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, Deputy Clerk

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, CHAIRMAN

Approved as to form and legality:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant County Attorney





City of Naples

### Haldeman Creek MSTU

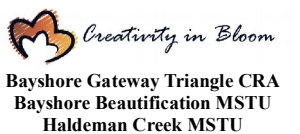
 Haldeman Creek MSTU Boundary



Feet

0 500 1,000 2,000

Map Date: 8/31/2021



Disclaimer: The boundaries shown are to be used for general mapping purposes only and should not be considered authoritative for navigational, engineering, legal, and other uses. Ground surveying and records search must be used for absolute boundaries/acreages.



AMENDED EXHIBIT "A"

THE HALDEMAN CREEK DREDGING MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTIONS 11,12,13 & 14, TOWNSHIP 50 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A POINT, BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 50 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, WHICH IS ALSO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 118 OF THE NAPLES GROVE AND TRUCK COMPANY'S LITTLE FARMS NO.2 AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 27 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA;

THENCE N.00°17'52"E. FOR 30.00 FEET TO THE SOUTH REMAINDER OF LOT 23 OF EASTGATE SUBDIVISION;

THENCE N.89°55'08"W. ALONG SAID SOUTH REMAINDER FOR 140.47 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF PETERS AVENUE, 60' RIGHT-OF-WAY;

THENCE N.00°24'57"E. ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR 757.17 FEET;

THENCE N.89°51'30"E. FOR 138.91 FEET;

THENCE N.00°17'52"E. FOR 100.34 FEET;

THENCE S.89°49'58"W. FOR 138.71 FEET TO THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF SAID PETERS AVENUE;

THENCE N.00°24'57"E. ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, FOR 117.09 FEET TO THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT- OF-WAY LINE OF PETERS AVENUE PER FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP FOR U.S.41 (SECTION 03010-2554);

THENCE N.38°43'06"E. ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR 138.27 FEET;

THENCE S.82°04'47"E. ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR 23.32 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF U.S.41;

THENCE S.51°26'20"E. FOR 122.96 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE;

THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY 363.97 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A NON-TANGENTIAL CIRCULAR CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 1773.76 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 11°45'25" AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD WHICH BEARS S.45°33'37"E. FOR 363.33 FEET TO THE END OF SAID CURVE;

THENCE S.51°32'44"W. FOR 95.59 FEET;

THENCE S.38°27'16"E. FOR 165.00 FEET;

THENCE N.51°32'44"E. FOR 96.00 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF U.S.41;

THENCE S.38°27'16"E. ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR 243.00 FEET;

THENCE S.51°32'44"W. FOR 96.00 FEET;

THENCE S.38°27'16"E. FOR 166.00 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE;

THENCE NORTHERLY 55.97 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A NON-TANGENTIAL CIRCULAR CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 100.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 32°04'14" AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD WHICH BEARS N.35°30'38"E. FOR 55.25 FEET TO A POINT OF REVERSE CURVATURE;

THENCE NORTHERLY 45.76 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A CIRCULAR CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 100.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 26°13'14" AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD WHICH BEARS N.32°35'08"E. FOR 45.37 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF U.S. 41 AND THE END OF SAID CURVE;

THENCE S.38°27'16"E. ALONG SAID WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE FOR 77.24 FEET;

THENCE S.51°32'44"W. FOR 93.00 FEET;

THENCE CONTINUE S.51°32'44"W. FOR 5.00 FEET;



THENCE S.38°23'58"E. FOR 404.47 FEET;  
THENCE N.51°36'02"E. FOR 98.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. 41; THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.38°23'58"E. FOR 128.47 FEET, TO A POINT LYING ON THE NORTH SIDE OF A DRAINAGE EASEMENT DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 28, PAGE 193 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. 41, S.38°23'36"E. FOR 190.55 FEET TO A POINT LYING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF A DRAINAGE EASEMENT DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 28, PAGE 193 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. 41, S.38°23'36"E. FOR 59.24 FEET; THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.50°49'31"W. FOR 131.60 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°35'01"W. FOR 353.34 FEET;  
THENCE S.00°00' 20"E. FOR 60.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°41'20"W. FOR 420.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.87°26'59"W. FOR 22.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°56'20"W. FOR 135.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF DOMINION DRIVE;  
THENCE N.00°03'40"E. FOR 128.12 FEET;  
THENCE S.89°36'10"W, FOR 59.99 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF DOMINION DRIVE;  
THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.00°03'40"W. FOR 474.69 FEET;  
THENCE S.89°52'50"W. FOR 294.56 FEET ALONG THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF ARECA AVE. AS DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION OF BLOCK F, SABAL SHORES AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 40 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA;  
THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY S.89°52'50"W. FOR 350.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.00°00'00"E. FOR 351.01 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE;  
THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 41.90 FEET ALONG THE ARC OF A NON-TANGENTIAL CIRCULAR CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 39.83 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 60°16'34" AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD WHICH BEARS N.29°55'35"E. FOR 40.00 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE;  
THENCE NORTHEASTERLY 42.08 FEET, ALONG THE ARC OF A NON-TANGENTIAL CIRCULAR CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 40.17 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 60°01'13" AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD WHICH BEARS N.29°55'35"E. FOR 40.18 FEET;  
THENCE S.89°52'50"W. FOR 100.00 FEET;  
THENCE S.00°00'00"E. FOR 89.89 FEET;  
THENCE S.89°51'30"W. FOR 700.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EASTERLY RIGHT-OF- WAY OF BAYSHORE DRIVE;  
THENCE CONTINUE S.89°51'30"W. FOR 100.00 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF BAYSHORE DRIVE;  
THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.00°00'00"E. FOR 469.63 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE;  
THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, SOUTHWESTERLY 39.20 FEET, ALONG THE ARC OF A TANGENTIAL CIRCULAR CURVE TO THE RIGHT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 25.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 89°50'27" AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD WHICH BEARS S.44°55'13"W. FOR 35.31 FEET, TO A POINT ON THE NORTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF LAKEVIEW DRIVE AS SHOWN IN GULF SHORES SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 50 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA;  
THENCE S.89°50'27"W. FOR 1,261.33 FEET;  
THENCE S.00°13'02"E. FOR 60.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°50'27"E. FOR 140.26 FEET;

THENCE LEAVING SAID LINE S.00°07'36"E. 303.98 FEET;  
THENCE S.89°35'14"W. 139.78 FEET TO A POINT LYING ON THE BOUNDARY OF TRACT B, OF  
WINDSTAR SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGES 12-15 OF THE PUBLIC  
RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND CONTINUING ALONG SAID PLATLINE FOR  
THE NEXT (4) CALLS;

1. THENCE S.89°36'06"W. 330.45 FEET;
2. THENCE N.00°13'07"W. FOR 462.83 FEET;
3. THENCE S.89°35'11"E. FOR 30.47 FEET;
4. THENCE N.00°13'07"W. FOR 1,335.47 FEET;

THENCE LEAVING SAID PLATLINE, S.82°00'10"W. FOR 156.35 FEET ALONG THE EASTERLY  
LINE OF A PARCEL OF LAND AS DESCRIBED IN O.R. BOOK 2754, PAGE 2850 OF THE PUBLIC  
RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA FOR THE NEXT (42) CALLS;

1. THENCE S.76°41'21"W. FOR 164.00 FEET;
2. THENCE S.22°49'49"W. FOR 61.06 FEET;
3. THENCE S.50°27'04"W. FOR 101.55 FEET;
4. THENCE S.58°51'50"W. FOR 56.28 FEET;
5. THENCE N.84°40'34"W. FOR 72.34 FEET;
6. THENCE S.76°07'47"W. FOR 113.00 FEET;
7. THENCE S.54°05'36"W. FOR 90.85 FEET;
8. THENCE S.25°09'38"W. FOR 25.65 FEET;
9. THENCE S.17°03'56"W. FOR 23.41 FEET;
10. THENCE S.11°01'23"E. FOR 55.54 FEET;
11. THENCE S.04°20'38"W. FOR 94.75 FEET;
12. THENCE S.32°14'25"W. FOR 159.05 FEET;
13. THENCE S.07°38'14"E. FOR 34.43 FEET;
14. THENCE S.35°32'27"E. FOR 94.54 FEET;
15. THENCE S.03°16'57"W. FOR 292.24 FEET;
16. THENCE S.42°37'09"W. FOR 111.02 FEET;
17. THENCE S.20°33'59"W. FOR 99.26 FEET;
18. THENCE S.21°22'23"W. FOR 71.83 FEET;
19. THENCE S.52°12'31"W. FOR 408.66 FEET;
20. THENCE S.62°28'18"W. FOR 230.33 FEET;
21. THENCE S.30°40'44"W. FOR 192.53 FEET;
22. THENCE S.17°19'34"W. FOR 219.43 FEET;
23. THENCE S.44°20'44"W. FOR 94.89 FEET;
24. THENCE S.58°45'28"W. FOR 215.33 FEET;
25. THENCE S.05°21'48"W. FOR 42.63 FEET;
26. THENCE S.06°59'10"W. FOR 376.44 FEET;
27. THENCE S.52°38'49"W. FOR 245.54 FEET;
28. THENCE S.87°24'12"W. FOR 105.57 FEET;
29. THENCE S.50°11'00"W. FOR 11.53 FEET;
30. THENCE S.11°39'26"E. FOR 79.74 FEET;
31. THENCE N.67°33'55"E. FOR 13.98 FEET;
32. THENCE S.21°04'35"E. FOR 104.77 FEET;
33. THENCE S.70°16'20"E. FOR 48.32 FEET;

34. THENCE N.79°53'45"E. FOR 98.25 FEET;  
35. THENCE N.59°11'08"E. FOR 124.42 FEET;  
36. THENCE S.59°51'49"E. FOR 22.11 FEET;  
37. THENCE S.06°34'37"W. FOR 208.89 FEET;  
38. THENCE S.61°36'29"W. FOR 112.07 FEET;  
39. THENCE S.89°30'13"W. FOR 119.20 FEET;  
40. THENCE S.51°13'33"W. FOR 86.86 FEET;  
41. THENCE S.35°33'53"W. FOR 84.64 FEET;  
42. THENCE S.43°47'56"W. FOR 135.55 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SECTION 14,  
TOWNSHIP 50 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST, ALSO BEING THE WEST LINE OF TRACT B OF  
WINDSTAR SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 14, PAGES 12-15 OF THE PUBLIC  
RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA.  
THENCE N.00°12'53"W. FOR 203.32 FEET;  
THENCE N.00°09'12"W. FOR 643.41 FEET;  
THENCE CONTINUE N.00°09'12"W. FOR 1,391.07 FEET;  
THENCE LEAVING SAID SECTION LINE AND WESTERLY LINE OF SAID TRACT B, N.14°45'47"E.  
FOR 199.17 FEET;  
THENCE N.00°06'21"E. FOR 427.72 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF A PARCEL OF LAND  
DESCRIBED IN O.R. BOOK 3001, PAGE 2697 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY,  
FLORIDA;  
THENCE N.00°43'42"W. FOR 1,295.38 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY OF  
MARLIN DRIVE;  
THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, N.89°31'33"E. FOR 1,305.55 FEET TO A POINT ON THE  
EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF PALM STREET THE POINT ALSO BEING ON THE WEST LINE OF  
NAPLES LAND YACHT HARBOR, A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN O.R. BOOK 714, PAGE 1710  
OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA;  
THENCE ALONG SAID WEST BOUNDARY LINE, N.00°38'25" W. FOR 1,374.49 FEET TO THE  
NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID NAPLES LAND YACHT HARBOR;  
THENCE ALONG SAID NORTH BOUNDARY LINE, N.89°33'52"E. FOR 1,247.66 FEET TO THE  
NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID NAPLES LAND YACHT HARBOR;  
THENCE ALONG THE EAST LINE OF NAPLES LAND YACHT HARBOR, S.00°33'08"E.  
FOR 616.83 FEET;  
THENCE S.89°32'43"W. FOR 623.36 FEET;  
THENCE S.00°35'47"E. FOR 166.00 FEET;  
THENCE LEAVING THE BOUNDARY OF NAPLES LAND YACHT HARBOR, N.89°32'43"E. FOR 150.81  
FEET;  
THENCE S.00°35'07"E. FOR 100.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°19'24"E. FOR 159.27 FEET TO THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF ARBUTUS  
DRIVE;  
THENCE S.00°35'47"E. FOR 783.37 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°20'03"E. FOR 340.51 FEET;  
THENCE S.00°40'49"E. FOR 37.20 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°25'10"E. FOR 19.80 FEET;  
THENCE N.00°01'54"E. FOR 1.52 FEET TO A POINT BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 37,  
DEMERE LANDING SUBDIVISION AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 4, PAGE 14 OF THE PUBLIC  
RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA, A POINT ALSO BEING ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-  
WAY LINE OF BECCA AVENUE;  
THENCE S.89°59'03"E. FOR 297.97 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE;

THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY S.00°06'52"E. FOR 252.07 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°53'08"E. FOR 60.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.00°06'52"W. FOR 251.93 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF BECCA AVENUE;  
THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.89°59'03"E. FOR 270.00 FEET;  
THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.00°06'52"E. FOR 252.07 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°53'08"E. FOR 60.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.00°06'52"W. FOR 251.93 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF BECCA AVENUE;  
THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.89°59'03"E. FOR 270.00 FEET;  
THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.00°06'52"E. FOR 252.07 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°53'08"E. FOR 60.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.00°06'52"W. FOR 251.93 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF BECCA AVENUE;  
THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.89°59'03"E. FOR 270.00 FEET TO A POINT ALSO ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF BAYSHORE DRIVE;  
THENCE S.37°24'59"E. FOR 165.01 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF BAYSHORE DRIVE, ALSO BEING THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 121 OF NAPLES GROVE AND TRUCK COMPANY'S LITTLE FARMS NO. 2, AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 1, PAGE 27 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA;  
THENCE N.89°53'08"E. FOR 193.85 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF A PARCEL OF LAND DESCRIBED IN O.R. BOOK 2983, PAGE 379 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND WILL CONTINUE TO RUN ALONG SAID BOUNDARY FOR THE NEXT (19) CALLS;  
1. THENCE N.00°06'52"W. FOR 799.75 FEET;  
2. THENCE N.89°57'01"E. FOR 44.86 FEET;  
3. THENCE N.00°06'20"W. FOR 10.38 FEET;  
4. THENCE S.64°07'22"E. FOR 45.88 FEET;  
5. THENCE N.38°09'22"E. FOR 205.26 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S.41;  
6. THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.51°50'39"E. FOR 115.49 FEET;  
7. THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.38°09'32"W. FOR 190.01 FEET;  
8. THENCE S.51°50'42"E. FOR 89.71 FEET;  
9. THENCE S.00°53'09"E. FOR 220.16 FEET;  
10. THENCE N.88°53'51"E. FOR 147.79 FEET;  
11. THENCE N.01°06'06"W. FOR 100.00 FEET;  
12. THENCE S.51°50'11"E. FOR 10.78 FEET;  
13. THENCE N.01°06'09"W. FOR 245.43 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S.41;  
14. THENCE ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.51°50'34"E. FOR 15.05 FEET;  
15. THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, S.00°42'52"E. FOR 653.02 FEET;  
16. THENCE S.89°58'17"W. FOR 4.98 FEET;  
17. THENCE S.00°42'52"E. FOR 291.22 FEET;  
18. THENCE N.89°55'57"W. FOR 9.98 FEET;  
19. THENCE S.00°42'55"E. FOR 672.72 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°49'00"E. FOR 145.13 FEET;  
THENCE S.00°19'20"E. FOR 30.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°49'00"E. FOR 450.63 FEET;  
THENCE N.00°19'20"W. FOR 30.00 FEET;  
THENCE N.89°39'34"E. FOR 80.61 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL DESCRIBED HEREIN.

CONTAINING 12,531,371.91 SQUARE FEET OR 287.681 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS OF RECORD.

## Fund 1631 Haldeman Creek MSTU

Fund / Comm Item	BCC Adopt Budget	Tot Amend Budget	Commitment	Actual	Available
<b>Grand Total-Fund/CI</b>			<b>8,912.50</b>	<b>185,109.49-</b>	<b>176,196.99</b>
<b>1631000000 HALDEMAN CREEK MSTU</b>			<b>8,912.50</b>	<b>185,109.49-</b>	<b>176,196.99</b>
<b>REVENUE Sub Total</b>	<b>1,245,100.00-</b>	<b>1,253,512.50-</b>		<b>190,676.69-</b>	<b>1,062,835.81-</b>
<b>REVENUE - OPERATING Sub-Total</b>	<b>210,900.00-</b>	<b>210,900.00-</b>		<b>190,676.69-</b>	<b>20,223.31-</b>
311100 CURRENT AD VALOREM TAXES	207,500.00-	207,500.00-		178,005.14-	29,494.86-
335190 STATE REVENUE-OTHER				538.82-	538.82
361170 OVERNIGHT INTEREST				9,463.44-	9,463.44
361180 INVESTMENT INTEREST	3,400.00-	3,400.00-		2,522.43-	877.57-
361320 INTEREST TAX COLLECTOR				146.86-	146.86
<b>CONTRIBUTION AND TRANSFERS Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,034,200.00-</b>	<b>1,042,612.50-</b>			<b>1,042,612.50-</b>
486600 TRANSFER FROM PROPERTY APPRAISER					
486700 TRANSFER FROM TAX COLLECTOR					
489200 CARRY FORWARD GENERAL	1,044,800.00-	1,044,800.00-			1,044,800.00-
489201 CARRY FORWARD OF ENCUMB AMT BY ADC CODE		8,412.50-			8,412.50-
489900 NEGATIVE 5% ESTIMATED REVENUES	10,600.00	10,600.00			10,600.00
<b>EXPENSE Sub Total</b>	<b>1,245,100.00</b>	<b>1,253,512.50</b>	<b>8,912.50</b>	<b>5,567.20</b>	<b>1,239,032.80</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>47,800.00</b>	<b>56,212.50</b>	<b>8,912.50</b>	<b>763.76</b>	<b>46,536.24</b>
631400 ENGINEERING FEES	10,000.00	18,412.50	8,412.50		10,000.00
634970 INDIRECT COST REIMBURSEMENT	700.00	700.00	350.00	350.00	
634980 INTERDEPT PAYMENT FOR SERV	11,800.00	11,800.00			11,800.00
634999 OTHER CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	25,000.00	25,000.00			25,000.00
645100 INSURANCE GENERAL	300.00	300.00	150.00	150.00	
649030 CLERKS RECORDING FEES ETC				263.76	263.76-
<b>TRANSFER CONST</b>	<b>7,700.00</b>	<b>7,700.00</b>		<b>4,803.44</b>	<b>2,896.56</b>
930600 BUDGET TRANSFERS PROPERTY APPRAISER	1,700.00	1,700.00		743.34	956.66
930700 BUDGET TRANSFERS TAX COLLECTOR	6,000.00	6,000.00		4,060.10	1,939.90
<b>RESERVES</b>	<b>1,189,600.00</b>	<b>1,189,600.00</b>			<b>1,189,600.00</b>
991000 RESERVE FOR CONTINGENCIES	800.00	800.00			800.00
993000 RESERVE FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,188,800.00	1,188,800.00			1,188,800.00

Advertisement

Item 9a

## DeSantis signs homeless camping bill

\$30M appropriation isn't sufficient, advocates say

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Ana

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### Goñi-Lessan

Tallahassee Democrat USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

At a Wednesday bill signing, Gov. Ron DeSantis and top Republicans in the Florida Legislature highlighted that their anti-public camping bill would provide what are known as “wraparound services,” including mental health care, for the state’s homeless population.

The legislation requires municipalities to designate a specific public space for camping and sleeping, if the shelters are full, with approval from the Florida Department of Children and Families. They must include security, behavioral health services and bathrooms with running water.

But critics say the state’s \$30 million appropriation for the measure isn’t enough.

DeSantis signed “Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping” (HB 1365) in Miami Beach, saying “it will help maintain and ensure that Florida streets are clean and that Florida streets are safe for our residents.”

“What we’re saying is, we can do better,” said Sen. Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, who also spoke at the press conference. “We can synergize, we can put everybody in one place, not just the homeless, but we can put the not-forprofits and those that are helping in one location.”

But Megan Sarmiento, an outreach program manager for the Florida Harm Reduction Collective in Tampa, said \$30 million isn’t enough for the kind of outreach the state’s Republican leaders are talking about.

“We’re going to need so much more funding if we’re going to build up these resources,” she said. “Even now, how the system is, we are finding people on the streets and are unable to link them to care because of the lack of resources, including housing and detox.”

### Governor returns to Miami Beach for homeless bill signing

This is the governor’s third appearance in Miami Beach since Feb. 5. At the event, Mayor Steven Meiner called Florida the “law and order state” and Miami the “law and order city.”

House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, was in attendance, as was the bill’s sponsor, Rep. Sam Garrison, RFleming Island, in line to be Florida House speaker in 2026-28.

Garrison earlier told the USA TODAY Network that the state has allocated \$30 million – \$10 million more than the previous year – for what are known as “continuums of care” to prepare for the law. Garrison calls the state funding an “investment” into new state standards.

Continuums of care are the regional bodies that coordinate housing and services for homeless people.

“We’re going to make a real big difference in the lives of Floridians and those who have mental health issues, those who are homeless for economic reasons, or those who are suffering from substance abuse as well,” said Martin, who sponsored the Senate version of bill.

Sarmento works in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties, which in 2023 ranked third and fourth in the number of homeless people, according to the Florida Department of Health. Currently in Hillsborough, there is only one detox facility that takes people without insurance, and it’s always full, she said.

### **‘Resources are either scarce or not allowed,’ advocate says**

“I think the idea of providing wraparound services is great, but the two services that people want the most, detox and medications for opioid use disorder, those resources are either scarce or not allowed,” Sarmento said.

Rep. Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando, responded to the new homeless camp law. In a statement, she said the state should focus on decreasing property insurance rates and affordable housing.

“This law is going to make a bad situation worse and we should be focused on addressing the environment that creates homelessness, not punish people who have fallen into those circumstances,” she said.

The conservative, Texas-based Cicero Institute, a policy research group, has been advocating for states to adopt restrictions like the new Florida law.

Republican megadonor and billionaire tech entrepreneur Peter Thiel has promoted the idea, along with Joe Lonsdale, a tech investor who hosted a Texas fundraiser for DeSantis during his nowsuspended presidential campaign.

DeSantis said the law was Florida’s way of preventing cities looking like San Francisco, a city he has criticized for its “leftist policies” and for allowing parks and sidewalks “to be overwhelmed with tent cities and homeless encampments.”

“These are difficult issues, but you should not be accosted by a homeless, like we see,” DeSantis said at the press conference. “You should be able to walk down the street and live your life.”

*Ana Goñi-Lessan, state watchdog reporter for the USA TODAY Network – Florida, can be reached at [agonilessan@gannett.com](mailto:agonilessan@gannett.com).*

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# Sidewalks to shelters

Florida cities, counties trying to get ready for homeless camping law



Ana Goñi-Lissan Tallahassee Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

**F**or Stephanie Bennett, home is a tent in the woods. • It's there, near a set of railroad tracks in the city of Tampa, that the 41-year-old has lived for the last eight years. • Not too long ago, an outreach worker and the cashier at the nearby 7-Eleven told her about a new law coming, one that would make it illegal for her to live in her tent. • That legislation – “Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping” (HB 1365) – was signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday in Miami Beach. • It will prohibit local municipalities from allowing people to camp or sleep on public property as of its Oct. 1 effective date. • “Florida will not allow homeless encampments to intrude on its citizens or undermine their quality of life like we see in states like New York and California,” he said in a statement.

See HOMELESS, Page 4A

New legislation signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis will prohibit local municipalities from allowing people to camp or sleep on public property as of its Oct. 1 effective date. GETTY IMAGES





The Area Housing Commission has "Campsite Shelter Removal" notices posted at the Jones Swamp homeless camp off North Navy Boulevard in Pensacola on Feb. 21. GREGG PACHKOWSKI / GREGG@PNJ.COM

## Homeless

Continued from Page 1A

"The legislation I signed today upholds our commitment to law and order while also ensuring homeless individuals have the resources they need to get back on their feet," DeSantis said.

The legislation requires municipalities to designate a specific public space for camping and sleeping with approval from the Florida Department of Children and Families that includes security, behavioral health services and bathrooms with running water.

If they don't, the law allows businesses and residents to hold the local government accountable in court.

Its proponents view it through the lens of compassionate conservatism, pointing to decades of funding for efforts that they say haven't helped reduce the homeless population by attacking the root causes, including poverty, mental health and substance use disorder.

Critics, meantime, have said the legislation will create forced internment camps, shoving homeless people into fenced villages where they will be neither seen nor heard.

"When they told me about this law, I went and told everybody," Bennett said. "I was like, 'Yo, they're trying to pass a law where they're going to make it illegal for us to put our tents up. We're not going to be able to have tents, and they're going to force us into their camps.'"

Across Florida, under the looming threat of potential civil suits, local governments and what are called "continuations of care" are looking at ways to comply — with varying responses.

One county is looking to open an overnight shelter. A city in the Panhandle is hiring a consultant. And a rural continuum of care with one of the highest unsheltered rates in the country has heard nothing from the six counties that it serves.

While the state upped the budget for the continuums of care, the regional bodies that coordinate housing and services for homeless people, advocates for the homeless are wondering if counties and cities will pay for the expansion in services. If there are any.

Bennett believes the support she would get at the camp won't be enough to help her.

"What is keeping you homeless, that is the issue that they need to address. The why, not the aftermath," Bennett said. "Don't just leave us this way, find out why, and help us."

Rep. Sam Garrison, R-Fleming Island, said that was the intent of the bill, to connect the chronically homeless with mental health treatment. He called the new initiative "the Florida model."

"That was the way we tried to address that issue and making sure there was accountability, while also not putting the burden exclusively on the person who's sleeping on the side street," said Garrison, who is in line to be Florida House speaker in 2026-28.

### Some say jail is better alternative

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) counted 18,815 year-round shelter beds in emergency, safe haven and transitional housing in Florida. That same year, the state had 30,756 people experiencing homelessness, with 15,482 people unsheltered.

The part of the law that requires mu-



A homeless man looks for shelter in Tampa on Aug. 30, 2023, after Hurricane Idalia made landfall. MIGUEL J. RODRIGUEZ CARRILLO/GETTY IMAGES

municipalities to create designated camp sites is only triggered if there aren't enough shelter beds.

"The current status quo of living under an underpass, or on your own somewhere without even a modicum of sanitation, or security, or access to mental health or substance abuse services just isn't going to work," Garrison said.

Megan Sarmento, an outreach program manager for the Florida Harm Reduction Collective in Tampa, said many of the homeless people she works with distrust DCF, the agency in charge of monitoring the encampments. Some of them have lost their children or have been incarcerated because of DCF, she said.

"I feel like: these services need to be voluntary rather than kind of forced, because as soon as somebody feels forced to do something, especially among this population that's found this independence and freedom, then that linkage to care doesn't work," she said.

While the legislation requires 24-hour security at the encampment, Bennett predicted unsheltered people would rather head to a jail cell than risk their safety and camp with people they don't know.

The new law includes an exemption for "fiscally constrained" counties from the requirements of the public camping area if the county can show compliance would "result in fiscal hardship."

Bennett doesn't trust the state or local governments will be able to monitor the camp and offer the support she needs. Bennett said she has untreated bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. She said she would need wrap-around services, including self-sufficient skills training and someone to help her sign up for disability.

But "it's like the system has ADD (attention deficit disorder)," she said. "We've gotten started, and we've gotten through one step, but then oh, whoops, the system's dropped us. By the time they pick us back up again, we've got to start over, or we've got some other issue."

There were 29 "fiscally constrained" counties in Florida in 2023, according to the state's Department of Revenue. Most are rural and in north Florida or the interior of South Florida.

Brenda Gray and a staff of five other people lead the continuum of care for six of those counties. Gray, the executive director of Heartland Coalition for the



Leon County Commissioners approve multiple initiatives to fight homelessness. Eleven intersections will be decorated with new blue signs encouraging organizational donations. PHOTO FROM BRIAN WELCH'S FACEBOOK PAGE

Homeless, coordinates services for the homeless in DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee counties.

In 2023, the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development found Hardee, Hendry and Highlands counties had the second-highest rate of homelessness in the nation.

Homelessness includes couch surfing, families doubling up in the same apartment, sleeping in a car, living in a hotel or staying at the shelter. But a little over 88% of all the homeless people in these three counties are unsheltered, according to the report.

Gray said the funding the agency gets to help people find housing is from federal and state dollars. None of the counties contributed to the \$723,463 the agency got in grants in fiscal year 2023 (July 1-June 30).

In 2022, the number of homeless people in all six counties totaled 609.

A few weeks ago, Gray had a single mother with children looking for a place to live.

She could put them in a hotel for a week, but that could be over \$1,000.

"The mother just can't ... find a place she can afford," Gray said. "I know nine times out of 10 the landlord's going to say 'I want first, last and security.' OK, I can handle that, but what happens after that? She can probably only afford one more month, so she's in that place for four months, and then she's back homeless again."

She added: "That's crazy. What do you do?"

### What are governments doing?

In the early days of the legislative session that ended March 8, Gray asked each county she serves what they were planning on doing. Her organization does not have land for a designated encampment site. As of earlier this week, she had not heard back from any of the six counties, she said.

A spokesperson for Highlands County said the county started community-wide discussions with local stakeholders during the spring to address the increasing unsheltered population, including expanding access to mental health care.

The City of Orlando is currently looking at facilities for an emergency overnight shelter, said spokesperson Ashley

Papagni.

The city will be partnering with the Homeless Services Network of Central Florida, the lead agency designated by the federal government to address homelessness for Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties, according to its website.

The shelter would not require criminal background checks, credit checks or income verification, program participation, sobriety or identification, Papagni said, and it would be open 24 hours a day so residents do not have to leave during the day.

In February, the Homeless Services Network's CEO said she was concerned about the future law and worried about who would pay for the new encampments.

"And without funding available, many jurisdictions are not going to have a viable way to fulfill those requirements," Martha Are told WMFE, the NPR affiliate in Central Florida. "If they do not have the funding to make one of these locations happen, they will find themselves in a position where all they can do is relocate people out of the community — or arrest them."

Leon County isn't planning to change its operations and policies under the new law, said its spokesperson, Mathieu Cavell. That's because, he explained in a memo, the capital county is already in compliance with the law and already has a number of ongoing partnerships, initiatives and funds invested to combat homelessness.

In Pensacola, the city is hiring "housing first" homelessness consultant Jon DeCarmine, the executive director of GRACE Marketplace in Gainesville.

GRACE Marketplace is a low-barrier shelter and support services center that works to help people experiencing homelessness find a permanent place to live.

"How we also adhere to this new legislation is going to have to be a collective effort between us in the county, but we're not going to be able to do that alone," Pensacola Mayor D.C. Reeves said this month.

The state has allocated \$30 million — \$10 million more than the previous year — for continuums of care to prepare for the law. Garrison calls the state funding an "investment" into new state standards.

Some local governments have turned a "blind eye" to the homeless and "shrug their shoulders," he said.

"We're not going to tell you necessarily how to do it, but we're going to say no matter what, these public spaces have to be protected," Garrison said.

At a press conference last week, DeSantis said "the Florida model" is a way to keep cities from looking like San Francisco, a city that he had previously said "collapsed because of leftist policies."

He hinted at the potential of the state helping local governments with mental health support, but stood firm against permitting cities and counties to let people live in public parks and on streets.

"We're basically saying in the state of Florida, a municipality or county is just simply not allowed to embrace San Francisco-style policies," DeSantis said last Friday. "You can make other choices, but you can't make that choice. Why? Because every time that choice has been made, the result has been destructive."

Ana Coñil-Lessan, state watchdog reporter for the USA TODAY Network — Florida, can be reached at [agonilesan@gannett.com](mailto:agonilesan@gannett.com).



# Observations from Haldeman Creek

Item 12a



Overgrown Vegetation in the waterway



Vegetation in the water



Deteriorating Dock



Code Case initiated for Tree Removal