



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Community Input Sought for Southwest Greenways and Debbie Lightsey Nature Park Project

Online Public Engagement Activities begin June 21, 2020

Tallahassee, FL The Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency (Blueprint) is seeking input on the design of the Southwest Greenways and Debbie Lightsey Nature Park Project by gathering feedback from the community on the conceptual design elements of the project. All engagement activities will be hosted online during the week of June 21-27. The temporary suspension of open-meeting gatherings has led to the use of virtual platforms to help Blueprint inform the community about the project and collect input on the proposed amenities.

Activities and materials available throughout the week at <http://blueprint2000.org/debbie-lightsey-nature-park/> include conceptual design layouts to familiarize the public with the project, a video presentation that includes an aerial "tour" of the project, an interactive survey to collect the community's vision for the park, and live chat opportunities to submit questions to the project team in real time.

This project will create 6.5 miles of greenways in the southwest area of our community. It will also develop a passive park within a 113-acre natural area, complete with bike and hiking trails, picnic areas, boardwalks, and birdwatching overlooks situated on the east side of Capital Circle Southwest, south of Jackson Bluff Road. These ideas build upon the 2016 concepts developed by members of the local chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects as a volunteer, community project.

The survey seeks community input on future amenities at both the greenway and the park. It takes approximately five minutes to complete and is available starting June 21, 2020, and will close at the end of the day on June 27, 2020. To participate in the survey, go to <http://blueprint2000.org/debbie-lightsey-nature-park/>.

Blueprint endeavors to build projects the community envisions, your input will help shape the look and function of these beautiful, natural areas. Log on today and share your thoughts!

Initial outreach efforts for this project included multiple stakeholder meetings and one public meeting, all held in 2016. In 2017, the Intergovernmental Agency Board of Directors (the City and County Commissions sitting as one body) directed staff to proceed with the design and construction of the

greenway and park using funding from the 2020 sales tax revenue. Design and permitting are scheduled to be completed in early 2021, to be followed by construction.

These engagement activities are provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require translation services (free of charge) or have any questions about the project should contact Junious Brown, Project Manager, at 850.219.1060, or via email at Junious.Brown@blueprintIA.org.

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About the Southwest Greenways and Debbie Lightsey Nature Park: Previously known as the “Delta Industrial Site,” the area’s importance to the native wildlife and water quality was recognized by the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency in 2006 when the 113-acre site was purchased for stormwater treatment and wetland mitigation associated with the Capital Circle Northwest/Southwest roadway project. Additional proposed connections in the project include the Golden Aster Trail off Longleaf Road and the Lake Munson Spur Connection just south of Lake Henrietta.

Former City Commissioner Debbie Lightsey, the longest-serving commissioner in City history, served from 1989 until she retired in 2010. The commission unanimously voted to name the site after her in 2012 to recognize her service to the community and dedication to protecting the local environment.