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Communications

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## PRESS RELEASE

### City seeks public input for grant-funded improvements to Howell Branch Preserve

**WINTER PARK, FL, an internationally recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies (June 14, 2022)** On **Tuesday, June 21, at 5 p.m.**, a public meeting to discuss potential grant-funded improvements to the over 90 acres of the city-owned [Howell Branch Preserve](#) property will be held at the Winter Park Community Center located at 721 W. New England Ave.



In 2015, the city requested funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to purchase 43.4 acres of wetlands and floodplain contiguous to the existing city-owned 50 acres of wetlands. In 2017, \$2 million in FDEP funding was approved and the city acquired the 43.4 acres of land. This grant funding was also allocated to:

- Treat and maintain the invasive vines on the purchased parcels.
- Increase recreational activities such as bird watching and fishing.
- Install a small canoe and kayak launch.
- Install trails.



Hired by the city, [Dix-Hite Landscape Architects](#) has conducted a series of meetings to develop a conceptual plan within the FDEP grant requirements for the property. These plans may include trails at grade, boardwalks and bridges, if needed, as well as a canoe/kayak launch and interpretive signage.

Meetings with stakeholders and residents began in April 2022. Input from the meetings will be used to create grant-funded concepts that will be presented to the City Commission in August. Pending approval, improvements should begin by October.

For more information regarding the Howell Branch Preserve project, please access [cityofwinterpark.org/hbp-project](http://cityofwinterpark.org/hbp-project) or email [kthompson@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:kthompson@cityofwinterpark.org).

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