

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2024-248

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: March 26, 2024

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, F, TEU

Date of Analysis: March 28, 2024

Type of Action: Authorization of grant application; authorization to execute grant agreement; expression of willingness to amend the Capital Improvement Plan to include a grant-funded project; designation of oversight agency; request for one-cycle emergency passage

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes the administration to apply through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for a grant from the federal government's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance and Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Partnership Challenge Program to fund the acquisition of a parcel of property adjacent to Naval Station Mayport for use as public recreational land and to protect the military installation from future incompatible development. It authorizes execution of grant agreements among the City, FDEP and the federal government for the grant. The bill expresses the Council's willingness to amend the 2024-28 Capital Improvement Plan to incorporate this land acquisition project should the grant be received. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services is designated as the oversight agency for the project. Emergency approval on one cycle is requested.

Background Information: The federal government has financial assistance programs to assist local governments to purchase property in the vicinity of military bases to be preserved from development incompatible with the mission of the base and to be used for passive recreational purposes. The City and the U.S. Navy have identified 57 acres of property in 2 parcels for acquisition adjacent to the southwest corner of Naval Station Mayport on the west side of State Road A1A, straddling Sherman Creek. The acquisition price from a willing seller is \$1.25 million. Should the City be successful in the grant application, the City will pay half the cost (\$625,000) for the acquisition and be reimbursed by the grant. The U.S. Navy will pay the other half of the acquisition cost. When the REPI reimbursement grant is received, the City will use those funds for development of the property for passive recreation uses, including a parking lot, nature trails, picnic area and a canoe/kayak launch.

Policy Impact Area: Recreational development; military installation protection

Fiscal Impact: The bill authorizes a grant application for \$625,000 from the REPI program to acquire the parcel (with an equal amount provided by the U.S. Navy) and to develop it with the reimbursed funds.

Analyst: Clements