

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-488

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

Date of Introduction: August 8, 2023

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

Date of Analysis: August 10, 2023

Type of Action: Appropriation; CIP amendment; fund carry-over authorization

Bill Summary: The bill appropriates \$350,000 from the Neighborhood Enhancement Trust - Pari-Mutuel Account to a capital expenditure account to pay the cost of connecting the new restroom facilities at the Jacksonville Arboretum and Botanical Gardens to the JEA water and sewer system and to install a sewer lift station. The funds are authorized to carry-over to FY24. The bill amends the 2023-2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to reflect the addition of the new project.

Background Information: The Jacksonville Arboretum on Millcoe Road near the intersection of I-295 and Monument Road is becoming increasingly popular with visitors as its facilities, trails, gardens, and events are continually improved. Attendance has increased to 140,000 annually, which is straining the capacity of the holding tank at the restroom facility, causing the tank to have to be pumped out weekly at a cost of \$600 per service. This bill will appropriate \$350,000 in revenue received from the Best Bet poker room to pay for installation of a sewer lift station and the connection of the restroom building to JEA water and sewer service. The Neighborhood Enhancement Trust Fund was created in 2013 when the Best Bet poker room, at the time the largest poker room in Florida, opened its facility on Monument Road near Atlantic Boulevard. Pursuant to state law, the City receives a portion of the state's admission tax on pari-mutuel betting facilities and the City created the trust fund to be used for capital improvements within 5 miles of the facility. The poker room is located approximately 1.9 miles from the arboretum.

Policy Impact Area: Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens capital improvements

Fiscal Impact: The bill appropriates \$350,000 from the Neighborhood Enhancement Trust - Pari-Mutuel Account for the project.

Analyst: Clements