

REVISION

Consent – Parks & Recreation

Item 7.5.1. SUBJECT: Request Approval of Letter Authorizing Trust for Public Land to Conduct Research and Services Related to Parks & Recreation Department Funding

The letter to Trust for Public Land was revised to include the word “regional” in front of “parks” in the first and third paragraph.



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

McPherson Governmental Campus

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2324

District 1 - Craig Curry, Commissioner
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Commissioner
District 3 - Matt McClain, Vice Chair
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Chairman
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Commissioner

February 17, 2026

Pegeen Hanrahan, P.E.
Associate Director of Conservation Finance
1834 Hermitage Blvd., Suite 100
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Ms. Hanrahan:

By this letter, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners requests technical advice and assistance from Trust for Public Land in connection with our efforts to develop and sustain reliable, ongoing funding sources for land and water conservation, [regional](#) parks and outdoor recreational opportunities, and protection of equestrian, agricultural and forestry lands.

As part of your advice and assistance, we understand you may conduct feasibility research, conduct public opinion surveys, and develop strategies for our consideration in establishing dedicated, ongoing sources of public funds for the purposes described above.

We are interested not only in the factual information that you can provide, but also your opinions and recommendations on public financing options available to Marion County, and strategies to enact such measures. Insights into the public's priorities and attitudes concerning land and water conservation, [regional](#) parks and outdoor recreational opportunities, and protection of equestrian, agricultural and forestry lands would be beneficial.

Materials provided to Marion County will be public record as a matter of law. This request does not in any way commit public funds to the efforts of Trust for Public Land related to this request, nor does it require public disclosure of any confidential information of either organization.

This request will continue in effect for any advice you offer or presentations you submit related to such matters. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to request that you continue to be available to provide technical advice and assistance in this area and on related matters in the future.

Sincerely,

Carl Zalak, III, Chairman

Cc: Marion County Board of County Commissioners
Mounir Bouyounes, P.E. – County Administrator
Angel Roussel, P.E. – Assistant County Administrator
Jim Couillard, PLA, ASLA – Parks & Recreation Director