



CITY OF DUNNELLON

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Marion County Board of County Commissioners
Attention: Chairwoman Michelle Stone
601 SE 25th Avenue
Ocala, FL 34471

August 14, 2024

Subject: Management of Blue Run Park

Honorable Chairwoman Stone:

On behalf of the Dunnellon City Council, residents, and visitors, I would like to thank you and the Board of County Commissioners for your commitment to the successful development and management of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park.

The City of Dunnellon is also committed to ensuring the Park is developed and managed in the most efficient and effective manner. However, much has changed over the past seventeen years since the acquisition that affects the City's ability to meet the financial obligations set forth in the Blue Run Park Management Plan and our Interlocal Agreement with Marion County.

It is imperative that we prioritize our funding efforts on improving our infrastructure to accommodate our residents and the increased volume of visitors to our area. However, the City realized a significant reduction in gas tax revenue as a result of the County revising the formula for distribution in 2013. Prior to this change, the City received approximately \$520,000 per year. Following the 3-year phase-in, the City received approximately \$136,000 in Fiscal Year 2017. In Fiscal Year 2023, the City received \$144,258. Had the formula remained the same, it is projected the City would now be receiving approximately \$551,000 per year, which equates to over a \$400,000 loss in revenue annually.

Furthermore, Agreement 2007-14 was entered into when the City owned the utility system. Article II, #2 of the agreement states, "The City agrees to provide water and sewer services to this property at no cost to the County." At the time of the agreement, the City would have absorbed the cost with no fiscal impact to the taxpayer. Now that the utility is owned by FGUA, the City simply cannot afford to cover this expense.

Considering the limitations on the City's capability to contribute financially to further development and management of the Park, we feel it is in the best interest of the City, our residents, visitors, and Marion County to convey full management of Blue Run Park to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

We believe that Marion County is far better equipped, both professionally and financially, to manage the Park as part of the countywide parks system and we respectfully request that you consider this proposal.

Sincerely,



Walter L. Green, Mayor