



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**AGENDA ITEM**  
**Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department**  
**Parks Division**

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**Date:** September 24, 2024  
**To:** The Honorable Board of County Commissioners  
**Thru:** John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator  
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator  
Beth Powell, Parks, Recreation & Conservation Director  
**From:** Wendy Swindell, Asst. Director Parks and Conservation  
**Subject:** Grant Agreement for the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources Small Matching Grant for the Gifford Parks “Tour Through Time.”

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**BACKGROUND:**

On July 11, 2023, the Board authorized staff to apply for a Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR) Small Matching Grant to produce educational signage, brochures, and a video highlighting the Gifford Community.

The goal for this project is to create an experience showcasing the past, present, and future of the Gifford Community. The objective of this grant is to create signage and other materials that capture the rich history of the Gifford community, while at the same time bringing the story of the community through time to present. Staff will work with community leaders, the Indian River County Historical Society, and other available resources, to develop the materials that will be produced.

The largest array of signage is planned for MLK Park. The interior of the park has a small trail where the “Tour Through Time” will be showcased along this pathway. A series of signs will be produced based on pivotal events, community leadership, and other milestones that present the story of the Gifford Community. MLK Park includes the Macedonia Church and the nearby Gifford Sundial Marker adjacent to the Gifford Middle School. Signage along the MLK Trail will showcase these, and other important historical sites in Gifford including the water tower which is visible from the park.

Additional signage is proposed for Victor Hart Park, including the portion of the park where the three baseball fields are located. Signage in proximity to these fields will link the history of Gifford to the Jackie Robinson Training Complex. The final two locations for proposed signage include the Gifford Dock and Hosie Schumann Park. Signage in these two locations will be designed to provide history of these sites, their link to the other historical sites, and their impact on the Gifford Community, both past and present.

The grant will include production of brochures, providing the public a “take away” element to share with others. A video will be prepared that showcases the knowledge and experiences of community

members, County historian, and other notable people. A copy of the video will be provided to the Gifford Youth Achievement Center, to local schools, and to the Historical Society for use in their programming. The video will be available through a link on the County’s website, Channel 27, and as a QR code on prepared signage. This linked educational experience provided through signage, brochures, and videography is similar to the previous grant received from DHR and a successful outreach showcasing the historical significance along the Historic Jungle Trail.

**DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:**

At the July 11, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners provided Resolution 22023-030 as part of the application process for submission of the grant to DHR which assures matching funds have been allocated for this grant. The project cost is estimated to be \$22,500. The County is required to match 50% (\$11,250) towards the completion of the grant deliverables.

The Gifford Tour Through Time project was selected for funding as one of the DHR Small Matching Grants approved in 2024. DHR provided a Grant Award Agreement (Attachment 1) to staff on September 17, 2024.

**FUNDING:**

Funding for this project, in the total amount of \$22,500, is budgeted and available in the General Fund/Parks/Other Professional Services – Gifford Tour Grant, account number 00121072-033190-23812, in Fiscal Year 2024/2025. The Department of State, Division of Historical Resources funds will provide \$11,250 as a matching share towards this project.

<b>Account Description</b>	<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund/Parks/Other Professional Services – Gifford Tour Grant	00121072-033190-23812	\$22,500.00

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board of County Commissioners accept the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources Small Matching Grant for the Gifford Parks “Tour Through Time,” and authorize the Chairman to execute the Agreement between the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources and Indian River County after review and approval by the County Attorney.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Attachment 1 – Grant Agreement for the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical resources Small Matching Grant for the Gifford “Tour Through Time”
- Grant Form - Grant Agreement for the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical resources Small Matching Grant for the Gifford “Tour Through Time”

**APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR OCTOBER 8, 2024**