

William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park

Organization & Contact: Community Services — Tommy Scott, Tommy.Scott@CharlotteCountyFL.gov

Area: Mid-County

Location: 20499 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Category: Quality of Life

Focus Area(s): Public Services, Infrastructure

Need:

Implementation of the William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan.

Purpose:

William R. Gaines Jr. was a 1981 graduate of Charlotte High School and a Marine, killed in action while serving with the U.S. component of the U.N. multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut, Lebanon. The goal of the park is to provide a testament to the sacrifices of all veterans and first responders and be a place where neighbors and families can come together to experience the beauty of nature. The William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Foundation is contributing an initial donation of \$500,000 cash and in-kind services.

Objectives:

Includes a 2,400-sq.-ft. inclusive/accessible splash pad, 700-sq.-ft. community building, a restroom, and a small pavilion.

Project Cost Prior Funding:	\$5,286,490
Project Cost Prior from Sales Tax:	\$3,697,649
Total Project Cost:	\$3,300,000
Project Cost Required New Sales Tax:	\$3,300,000
Annual Operating Cost:	\$200,000

Will the project impact public health and safety? If so, how?

Yes, by providing recreation opportunities to the public. Parks promote physical activity and can positively impact health and overall wellness of the community.

Will the project foster economic development and create long-term jobs? If so, how?

Yes, improving the park will increase neighborhood desirability and improve home values.

Will the project result in decreased, increased, or no operation and maintenance (O&M) costs?

Increase.

Will sales tax allow for application of grant funds from another entity?

Yes, Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program.

Will the project enable furtherance of phased projects from 2020 sales tax extension?

Yes.

Is this a joint project with another entity?

No.

Will the project meet a community obligation to serve a special needs segment of the County's population, such as: low-income, aged, or minorities?

Yes, by providing accessible amenities.

Is the project included in a Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan, or Capital Needs Assessment?

Yes, Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Capital Needs Assessment.

Will the project impact environmental quality of Charlotte County? If so, how?

No.

Will the project improve quality of life in Charlotte County?

Yes, access to parks has positive effects on health and quality of life for the community.

Is the project state or federally mandated?

No.

Is the project dependent upon or connected with the completion of another project?

No.