

Recreational Trails Partnership of the
City of Oxford,
Calhoun County Conservation District, and
Choccolocco Creek Watershed Conservancy District

Application
for the
Recreational Trails Program

May 2016

Submitted By:

The
City of Oxford

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City of Oxford

145 HAMRIC DRIVE EAST
P.O. BOX 3383 • OXFORD, ALABAMA 36203
WWW.OXFORDALABAMA.ORG

ALTON CRAFT
City Treasurer

MAYOR:
Leon Smith

CITY CLERK:
Shirley Henson

CITY COUNCIL:
Steven Waits
Phil Gardner
Charlotte Hubbard
Mike Henderson
Chris Spurlin

May 2, 2016

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Community and Economic Development Programs Division
Attention: Crystal Davis, Recreation and Conservation Programs Manager
P. O. Box 5690 Montgomery AL 36103-5690

Dear Ms. Davis:

Please find enclosed the City of Oxford's application for the Recreational Trails Program grant.

Also attached are support letters from the Calhoun County Conservation District, the Choccolocco Creek Watershed Conservancy and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office expressing their commitment to participate in the outdoor recreational trails.

Our application will show that implementation of this grant will help provide outdoor recreational opportunities for area residents and surrounding communities.

If you have any questions regarding our application, please feel free to contact our Grant Administrator, Mr. Don Hudson, at 256-831-2660.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alton Craft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Alton Craft
Finance Director
City of Oxford

FY2016 Recreational Trails Program
Pre-Application Form
Deadline: Noon, Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Applicant Information

Applicant's Name (Organization)	City of Oxford		
Street Address	P. O. Box 3383		
City	Oxford	State	AL
Zip Code	36203		
County	Calhoun		
FEIN	63-6001337	DUNS Number	001231000
Project Title (maximum of six words)	Choccolocco Park Outdoor Walking Trail		
Project Description (maximum of 25 words)	Outdoor walking trail connected to Choccolocco Park		
Park Name	Choccolocco Park		
Park Address	100 Leon Smith Parkway		
City	Oxford	State	AL
Zip Code	36203		
GPS Coordinates of Project	Lat: 33* 36' 16.5598" N Lon: 85* 47' 20.2111" W		
Congressional District	3		
State Senate District	12	House Senate District	40
Applicant's Chief Elected Official, Director, or President	Alton Craft		
E-mail Address	altodesk@bellsouth.net	Phone Number	256-835-6114

Grant Administrator
E-mail Address **Phone Number**

General Project Information

Trail Length in Linear Feet **Trail Width**

Trail Surface Type

- Application Type**
- Non-motorized, Single Use
 - Non-motorized, Diverse Use
 - Motorized, Diverse Use
 - Motorized, Single Use
 - Educational

- Type of Applicant**
- City/Town
 - County
 - State
 - Private Organization

Total Estimated Project Cost

Grant Amount Requested

Total Local Match

Cash Match

In-Kind Match

Donation

Project Narrative

Brief Description of the Project
(350 characters or less)

The City of Oxford plans to create a walking trail which will be located within the newly opened Choccolocco Park. The proposed project will provide residents and visitors a 3.2 mile walking trail along the west side of the park that will also be linked to the proposed canoe trail, and the outdoor classroom / amphitheater area.

1. Describe the degree to which the project's scope and feasibility meet the project area's recreational needs. (Key Consideration: Does the project appear to be feasible and incorporate a good project design with consideration given to the natural and cultural environment in which the project is located, and appropriate consideration given to needs and benefits?) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The project feasibility is great as the City of Oxford owns the property for the proposed walking trail. The walking trail will be on the City's property located at the newly opened Choccolocco Park and will be maintained by the parks and recreation department as a part of the regular park maintenance schedule. Plans are to create the walking trail on the west side of the park and will connect to planned canoe, and educational and interpretive trails in the area. The project will incorporate informational kiosks and signage along the trails regarding the Native American Indians who inhabited the area along Choccolocco Creek while also highlighting the great ecological diversity of the watershed. There are plans to partner and coordinate educational outreach programs with the Calhoun Conservation District and the Choccolocco Creek Watershed Conservancy District.

2. Describe the ways in which the project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes. (Key Consideration: An important concern is that this project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region. Maximum points will be given to projects with connectivity to other trails or parks, environmental education and preservation, and economic development opportunities.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The walking trail will provide residents and visitors access to Choccolocco Park amenities including picnic pavilions, playgrounds, multi-purpose buildings, outdoor environmental education, and the Veterans Memorial. The trail will ensure that residents and visitors alike will be provided a safe environment to experience the natural beauty and amenities of the area. The walking trail will increase the active and passive recreational opportunities offered by the trail corridor thereby promoting physical and emotional wellbeing .

3. Describe the ways in which the project provides a new, unique, or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public. (Key Consideration: This criterion includes projects of national, regional, and local demonstration value. The most important concern is whether the grant recipient is committed to trying an approach that is new at the local level. Additional points are awarded for nationwide applicability and statewide or regional value. The applicant must commit to documenting the results of the demonstration.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The proposed outdoor walking trail is unique in the fact that it is the only 3.2 mile in the area. The trail will meander along Choccolocco Creek and along the green-space area of the park. The walking trial will also be linked to the Native American Indian mounds and the interpretive signage about the Native Americans of the watershed area. The walking trail will also meander through the historical Boiling Springs Bridge and connected to the environmental outdoor classroom.

4. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged, and other special populations or groups. (Key Consideration: Whether this project will expand recreation opportunities for special populations with recreation deficiencies.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The walking trail will be wheelchair accessible and connected to the Choccolocco Park which has plans for a boundless playground for physically impaired adults and children. The playground will have ramps for easy access for wheelchairs. Senior citizens will be able to use the walking trail and be outdoors while being in a safe environment. The park has it's own police "Park Patrol" which are city police officers assigned to the park area. The park will be open at no charge to the public and will offer many park amenities associated with the connecting trails and park pavilions. The walking trail will also be an additional asset for the state Senior Masters Games.

5. Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interests, and public agencies within the project area. (Key Consideration: The major concern is that this project is a component of an integrated effort to enhance economic revitalization and community conservation. Maximum points will be given to applicants providing evidence of cooperative efforts with trail user groups and/or multiple public meetings.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The trail will provide active and passive recreational activities for all ages therefore improving the quality of life of residents and visitors alike. Choccolocco Park will also be hosting many events including but not limited to; soccer, track, baseball, softball, disc golf and rugby. These patrons and their families will be able to take advantage of the walking trail, canoe trail, and the outdoor classroom interpretive area.

6. Describe the ways in which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials as well as dollars). (Key Consideration: The major concern is whether actual leveraging is assured or the potential for leveraging is good, outside of any funds committed for the initial grant match. Maximum points will be given for applicants committing double the minimum local match or higher.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Chocolocco Park will be hosting many events at the park and the revenues generated will help maintenance for the walking trail, canoe trail, and the outdoor education interpretive trail. The creation of these trails will enhance and expand the recreational opportunities available at the park facility. The City of Oxford is committed to the success of the park and all connected trails and future opportunities.

7. Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail after it is completed and identify who will be responsible for the work. (Key Consideration: Whether the grant recipient is willing to commit to continue the maintenance and operation of the project and whether the applicant provides a realistic operation and maintenance plan/budget. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating innovative funding measures for trail maintenance.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The City of Oxford is committed to the success of the park and all connected trails and future opportunities. The walking trail creation will enhance and expand the recreational opportunities available at the park facility. Many special events are currently planned for Choccolocco Park and many additional events are in the planning process. These events will generate revenue for the city and these revenues will help to distribute funds back into the budget for operation and maintenance of all park amenities including the connected outdoor trails.

8. The degree to which community involvement is addressed: i.e., (A) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group that has substantial knowledge, and (B) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups, or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposed idea and has made commitments of labor, money, or materials to support proposed implementation. (Key Consideration: The objective is to determine if the project is responding to citizen-identified needs. The priority of the project to users is evidenced by citizen support for the idea. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating that the project concept was originally proposed at the grassroots level and, especially, for extensive citizen or private organization involvement in project development and support in project implementation. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating extensive involvement and participation from citizens and interest groups during all phases of application development and commitments beyond.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The walking trail, and associated trails originated with the City of Oxford Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Choccolocco Park Committee. The citizens on the advisory board suggested the creation of the trails and met with the park committee to help guide the process for the enhancement and expansion for the trails. The Parks and Recreation Department and advisory board has partnered with the Calhoun Conservation District and the Choccolocco Creek Watershed Conservancy on other projects and the educational component fit perfectly with the goals and objectives of the project.

9. Describe in detail how the trail will be managed. Include discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling. 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The walking trail will be operated and managed as a part of the Parks and Recreation Department. The maintenance for the walking trial will include the grounds maintenance, and the up-keep and repair of the trail. All associated costs for the trail will be included in the Choccolocco Park Budget. The hours of operation will be from 5:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., which will be the designated parks hours.

10. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multi-use), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership. (Key Consideration: The RTP was created to address trail needs in the urban and rural areas of the state. In order to assess the need for additional trails it is first necessary to identify the quantity and location of existing resources within the service area. It is also necessary to establish a service area – either population or resource based. For example, a population based service area could be a neighborhood, school district, or political jurisdiction whereas, a resource based service area might be defined along a linear greenway, water course, or unique natural/cultural area. However, in both instances, an estimate of the number of beneficiaries should be provided.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

There are currently smaller walking trails within a 5 mile radius, but no 3 mile walking trails within a 50 miles radius. This trail will also be connected to a planned canoe trail, and outdoor education areas. The project also plans to restore the historical Boiling Springs Bridge and incorporate the bridge into the walking trail. The walking trail will be connected to other park amenities, and the project will cover approximately 43,786 households in the Oxford, and Anniston area while the county has approximately 116,763 in population.

11. Identify the length of time the trail will be maintained and open and available to the public and identify the method to be used to ensure this commitment (deed covenant, deed restriction, etc.). (Key Consideration: The objective is to utilize RTP funds to the greatest extent possible by ensuring the improvements are maintained and available for public trail use as long as possible. Points will only be awarded to applicants exceeding the minimum required timeframe for a trail development project to remain open to the public. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants electing to maintain the improvements in perpetuity.) 15 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The City of Oxford plans to maintain the walking trail in perpetuity as it will be connected to Choccolocco Park. The west side of the park where the walking trail will be located is in a restricted conservation easement and will remain a walking trail in perpetuity. Permanently preserving this floodplain as greenspace can provide a number of benefits: improve floodplain connectivity, provide flood storage that can lessen future flood impacts, reduce nonpoint source pollution, provide compatible recreational opportunities, provide wildlife habitat, preserve stream base flow during drought times, and educate the community on the importance of floodplain management.

Note: Property acquired with RTP funds must remain open to the public in perpetuity. Should the property cease to be open to the public for trail use, the applicant must repay the RTP 80% of the fair market value of the property at the time of the change in use. If the project is located on an easement or on leased land, the minimum timeframe for the easement or lease is 25 years. The project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended during that time. For development projects on applicant owned property, the project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended for a minimum of 25 years.

Total Project Cost

Total Funds Requested

Important Note: The maximum grant amount by trail type is \$35,000 for non-motorized, single-use trails; \$100,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; \$524,936 for motorized trails, or \$87,489 for education projects.

Signature, Chief Elected Official,
Director, or President



Date

Typed Name and Title

Program Information

Introduction

History and Purpose

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal grant program authorized by Congress for the purpose of providing states, local governments, and private sector organizations with funds to acquire lands and develop and/or improve trail and trail-related resources.

Allocation of Funds for the 2016 Funding Cycle

The RTP funds are appropriated by Congress to the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and FHWA allocates the funds through state agencies as a grants program to sub-grantees. Alabama's allocation to sub-grantees in the 2016 funding cycle will be approximately \$1,609,000.

Division of Available Funds

The maximum grant amount by trail type is \$35,000 for non-motorized, single-use trails; \$100,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; \$524,936 for motorized trails, or \$87,489 for education.

Thirty percent of Alabama's RTP funds must be used for motorized trail uses, 30 percent for non-motorized trail uses, and 40 percent for diverse trail uses. Diverse motorized projects (such as ATV and motorcycle) or diverse non-motorized projects (such as pedestrian and equestrian) may satisfy two of these categories at the same time. The State encourages applicants to consider projects that benefit both motorized and non-motorized users, such as common trailhead facilities.

Executive Summary of Proposed Activity

Proposed Project Activity

The purpose of the City of Oxford's grant proposal is to help provide outdoor recreational opportunities through a walking trail initiative for the residents of Oxford, surrounding communities, and out of town patrons visiting the area.

The goal of the program will be to create an outdoor walking trail which will be connected to the west side of the newly opened Choccolocco Park, and connected to the planned canoe trail.

The creation of the walking trails will increase the active and passive recreational opportunities offered by the trail corridor thereby promoting physical and emotional wellness.

The grant will be used to provide a unique trail opportunity, while increasing public awareness about the value of natural resources and build a greater constituency for conservation issues.

The program is requesting \$35,000.00 from the Recreation Trails Program to cover expenses associated with the development of this walking trail initiative. A breakdown of the planned expenses can be found in Table 1 - Summary of Project Costs (pg 5).

The implementation of the trail will begin within three months of the City of Oxford accepting the award.

Trail Location – Choccolocco Park

Current Trails in the Area and Trail Location

There are currently smaller walking trails within a 5 mile radius, but no 3 mile walking trails within a 50 miles radius. This trail will also be connected to a planned canoe trail, and outdoor education areas. The project also plans to restore the historical Boiling Springs Bridge and incorporate the bridge into the walking trail. The walking trail will be about 3.2 miles in length and will also be connected to the egress/ingress (launch) sites of the canoe trail.

The walking trail will be located on the west side of the newly opened Choccolocco Park in Oxford, AL. Choccolocco Park is located on Leon Smith Parkway which is only one mile south from Exit 188 off of I-20 in Oxford, AL. The trail is located within a half of a mile of The Exchange shopping on Leon Smith Parkway.

Population of Surrounding Areas

The trail project will cover approximately 43,786 households in the Oxford and Anniston area, and 116,763 in Calhoun County.

Proposed Outdoor Walking Trail

Partners Included in the Outdoor Walking Trail

The City of Oxford and the Calhoun County Soil and Water Conservation District, and have agreed to partner together to establish an outdoor walking trail to include outdoor education, and interpretive signage along the trail.

Outdoor Walking Trail

Grant funds for the proposed project will provide for site prep and construction of a 3.2 outdoor walking trail that will meander through the west side of the Choccolocco Park property. Plans are to partner to create signage and informational kiosks relating to the Native American Indians who inhabited the area along Choccolocco Creek, while also highlighting the great ecological diversity of the watershed.

Program Activity Reports

All invoices and documents regarding the project milestones will be maintained according to all reporting requirements.

Walking Trail Expenses

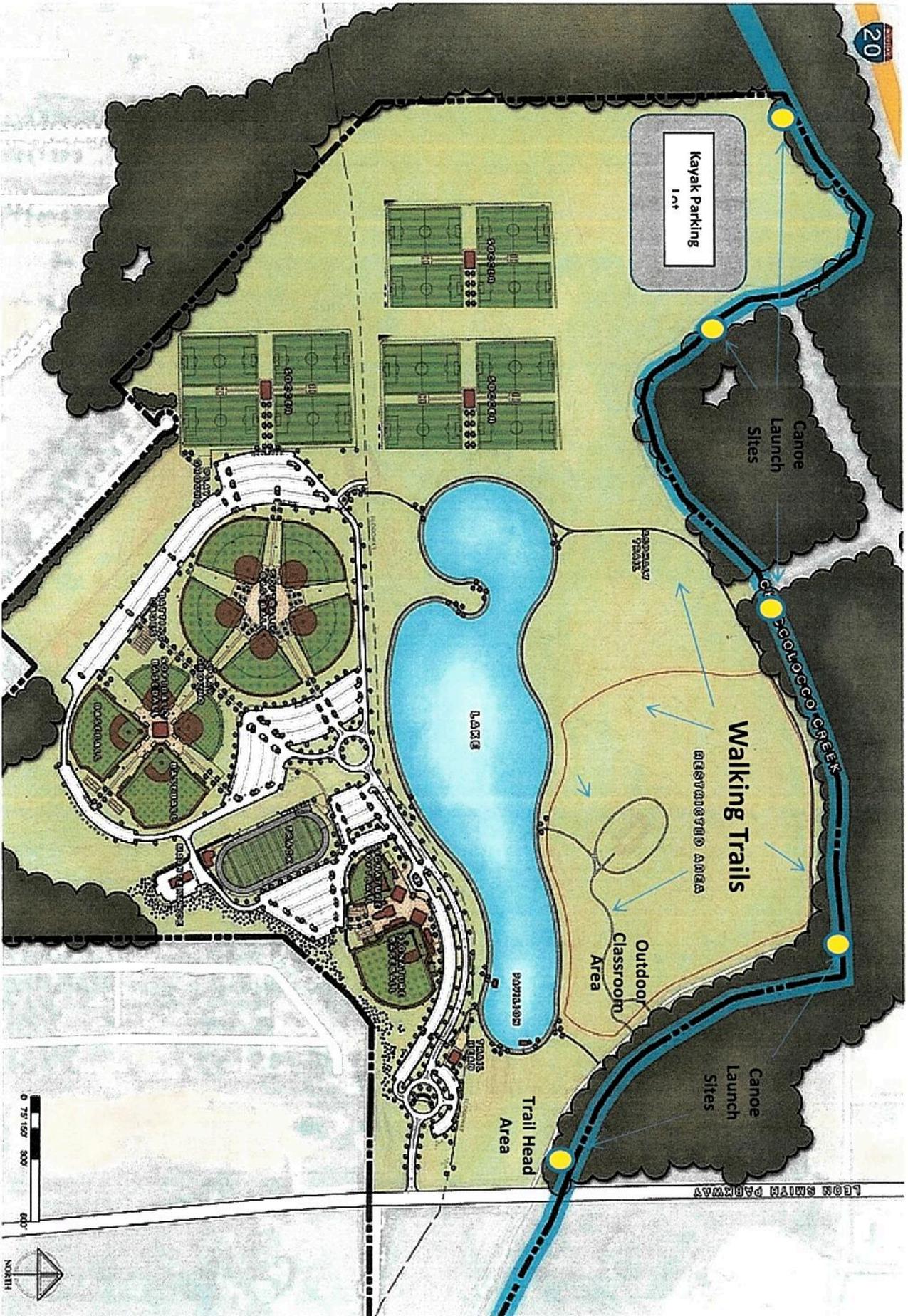
Table 1 - Project Costs

Expense	Price
Walking Trail Around the Lake	\$190,00.00
Turn Old Roadway into Walking Trail (beside the creek)	\$44,500.00
Outer Most Walking Trail (beside the creek)	\$70,245.00
Walking Trail Around the Mound (stone only no asphalt)	\$41,891.00

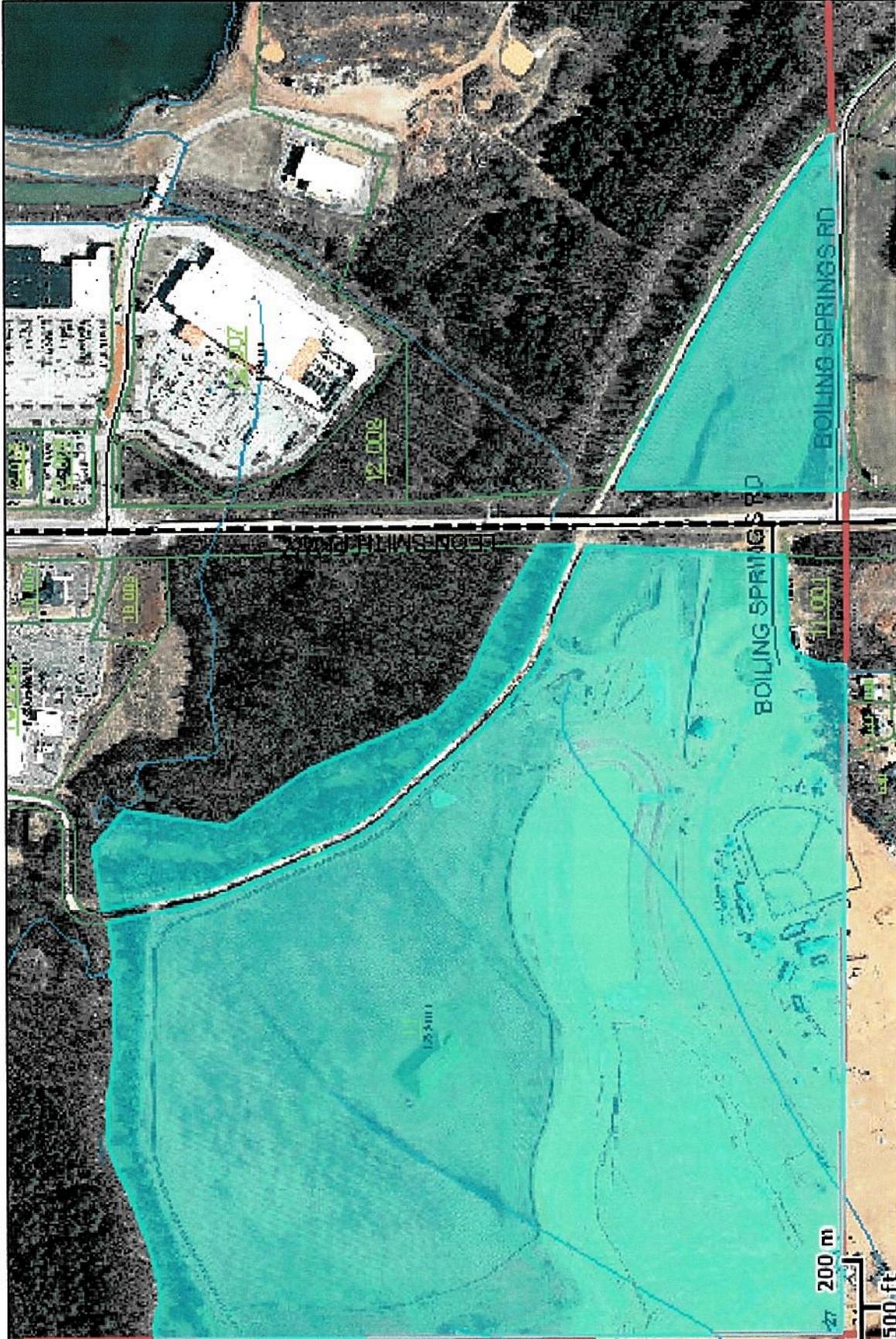
FUNDS REQUESTED: \$ 346,636.00

APPENDIX A

SITE PLAN



APPENDIX B
LOCATION MAP



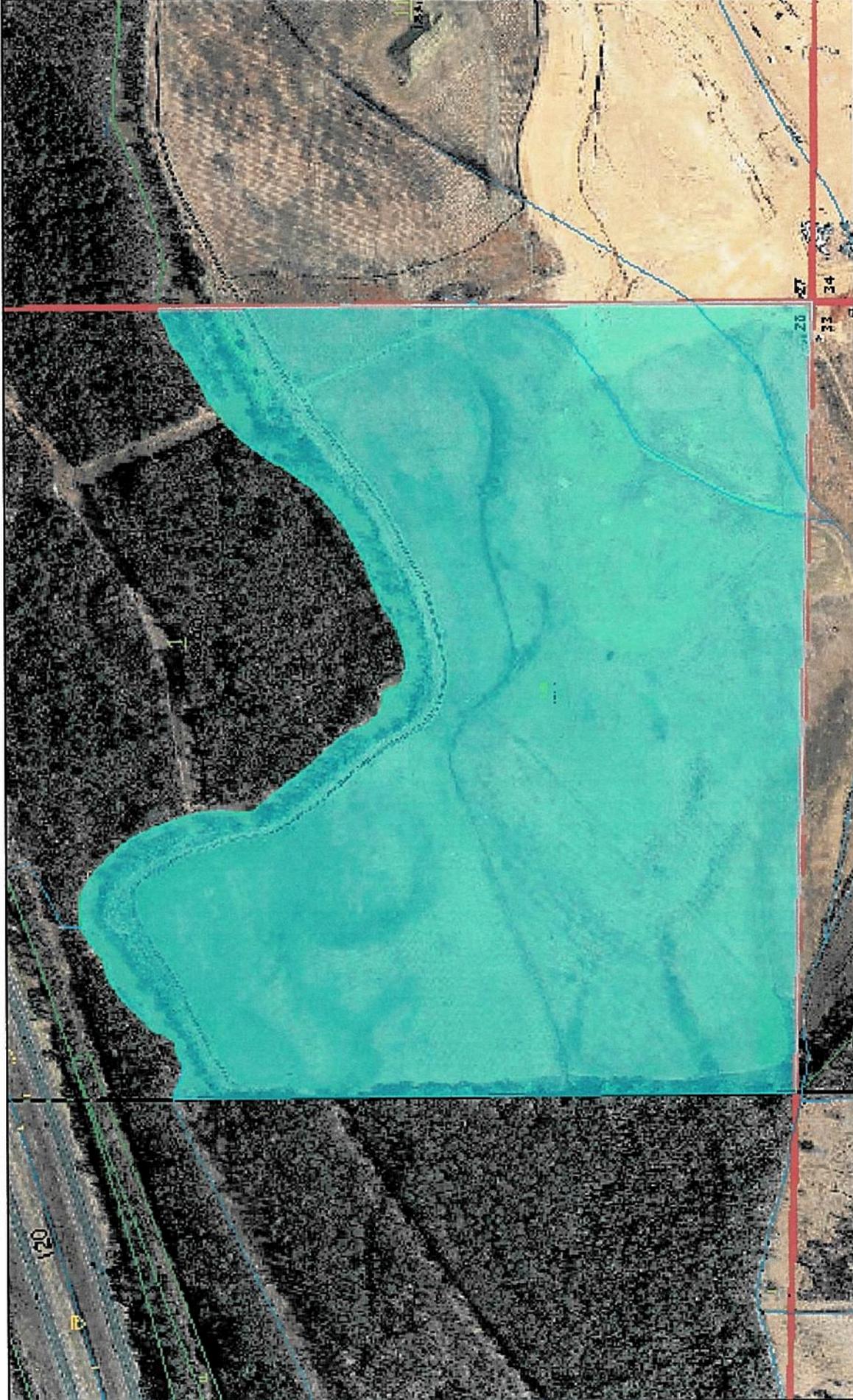
21-08-27-0-000-011.000
 Street Address: 0 LEON SMITH PKWY
 Name: OXFORD CITY OF
 PPIN: 64773



Provided by the Calhoun County
 Revenue Commissioner
 Mrs. Karen Roper

Maps to be used for tax purposes only -
 Not to be used for conveyance
 Map Data is in NAD 1983 State Plane
 Alabama East Feet.





21-08-28-4-001-001.001
Name: OXFORD CITY OF
PPIN: 15799
Street Address: 0 SO OF 120



Provided by the Calhoun County
Revenue Commissioner
Mrs. Karen Roper

Maps to be used for tax purposes only -
Not to be used for conveyance
Map Data is in NAD 1983 State Plane
Alabama East Feet.



APPENDIX C

LEGAL DESCRIPTION



Tax Assessment Report

Parcel Number: 21-08-27-0-000-011.000

Tax Year: 2016

Pin Number: 64773

Owner Information:

Owner: OXFORD CITY OF

Property Address: 0 LEON SMITH PKWY

Mailing Address: PO BOX 3383

OXFORD, AL 36203

Value and Tax Information: Assessed values are subject to change until permanent abstract is printed on September 2016

Current Use Value: \$0

Total Appraised Value: \$501,560

Improvement Value: \$0

Assessed Value: \$50,160

Land Value: \$501,560

Exemption:

2015 Taxes Due: \$0.00

2015 Taxes Paid: \$0.00

Land Information:

Lot Dimensions:

Calculated Acres: 123.21

Tax District: Oxford

Legal Description:

SEC 27 TSP 16S R 8E BEG SW COR SEC 27 TH N 2210 E 1650SE 154 SW 335 SE 1555 S 163 SE 1545 W 1370 N 207.51 W 253.9SW 416.4 S 119.7 W 2160 TO POB LESS & EXCEPT RD ROW

Subdivision Name:

Plat Book / Page:

Sales Information:

Date	Sale Price	Grantee	Deed Book	Deed Page
11/2006	\$0	ANNEXATION ORDINANCE #2006-21	3087	0000690
3/2006	\$0	OXFORD CITY OF	3074	0000660
4/1983	\$10,000	HUGGHINS MCRHEE (WD)	1579	00477
7/1962	\$0	DAVIS H G (WD)	1117	336





Tax Assessment Report

Parcel Number: 21-08-28-4-001-001.001

Tax Year: 2016

Pin Number: 15799

Owner Information:

Owner: OXFORD CITY OF

Property Address: 0 SO OF 120

Mailing Address: PO BOX 3383

OXFORD, AL 36203

Value and Tax Information: Assessed values are subject to change until permanent abstract is printed on September 2016

Current Use Value: \$0

Total Appraised Value: \$472,580

Improvement Value: \$0

Assessed Value: \$47,260

Land Value: \$472,580

Exemption:

2015 Taxes Due: \$0.00

2015 Taxes Paid: \$0.00

Land Information:

Lot Dimensions:

Calculated Acres: 116.98

Tax District: Oxford

Legal Description:

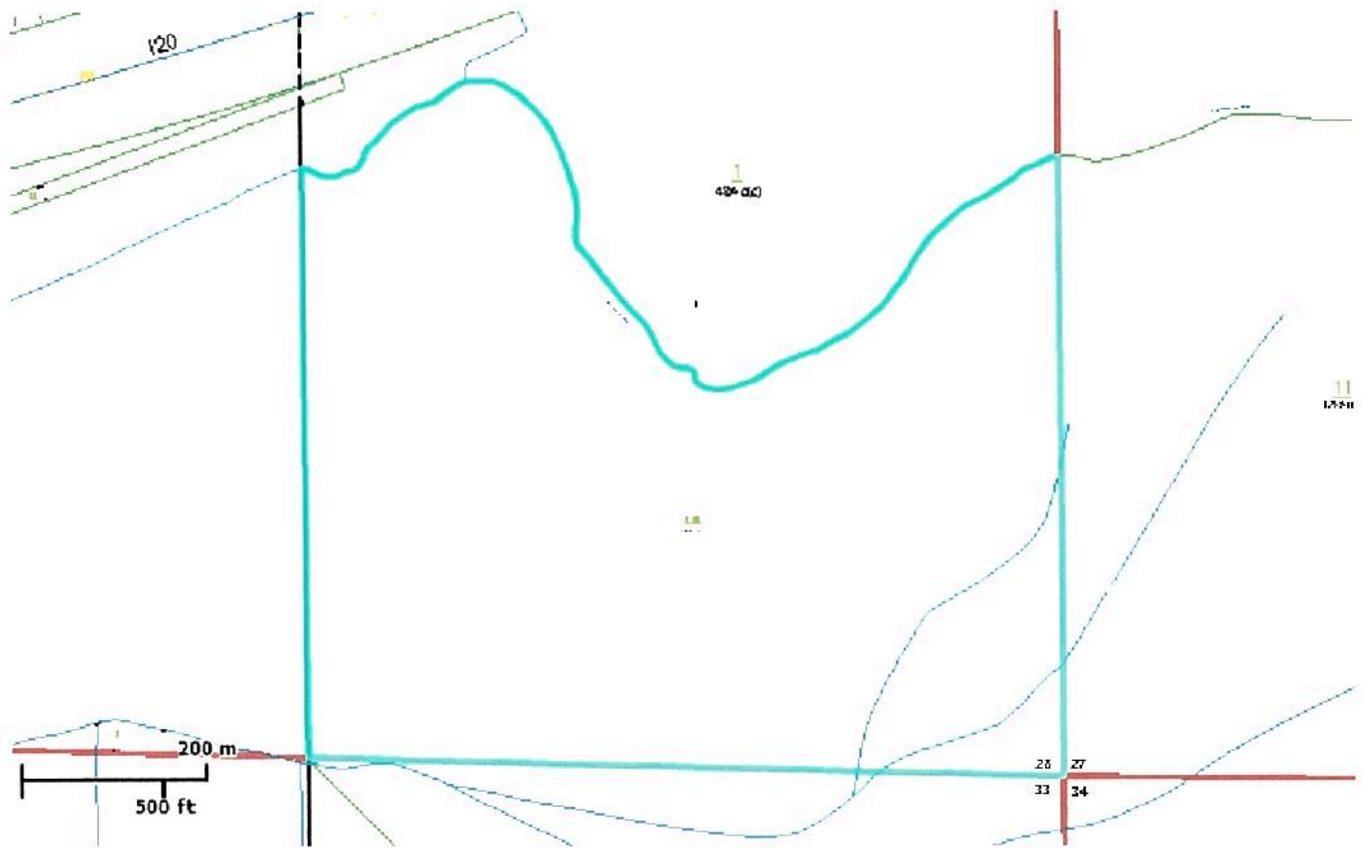
SEC 28 TSP 16S R 8E SE1/4 LYING S OF CHOCCOLOCCO CREEK OXFORD AL

Subdivision Name:

Plat Book / Page:

Sales Information:

Date	Sale Price	Grantee	Deed Book	Deed Page
11/2006	\$0	ANNEXATION ORDINANCE #2006-21	3087	0000690
3/2006	\$0	OXFORD CITY OF	3074	0000660
4/1983	\$10,000	HUGGHINS MCRHEE (WD)	1579	00477



APPENDIX D

SAM.gov REGISTRATION

USER NAME: PASSWORD:

[Forgot Username?](#) [Forgot Password?](#)

[Create an Account](#)

Entity Dashboard

- [Entity Overview](#)
- [Entity Record](#)
- [Core Data](#)
- [Assertions](#)
- [Reps & Certs](#)
- [POCs](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Service Contract Report](#)
- [BioPreferred Report](#)
- [Exclusions](#)
- [Active Exclusions](#)
- [Inactive Exclusions](#)
- [Excluded Family Members](#)

[RETURN TO SEARCH](#)

Oxford, City Of
 DUNS: 001231000 CAGE Code: 7D7D5
 Status: Active

145 E Hamric Dr
 Oxford, AL, 36203-2470,
 UNITED STATES

Expiration Date: 04/13/2017
 Purpose of Registration: Federal Assistance Awards Only

Entity Overview

Entity Information

Name: Oxford, City Of
Doing Business As: Municipality
Business Type: US Local Government
POC Name: Aaron Sexton
Registration Status: Active
Activation Date: 04/13/2016
Expiration Date: 04/13/2017

Exclusions

Active Exclusion Records? No

SAM | System for Award Management 1.0

IBM v1.P.46.20160226-1435

WWW3



Note to all Users: This is a Federal Government computer system. Use of this system constitutes consent to monitoring at all times.

APPENDIX E

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service
1413 Hillyer Robinson Parkway, Suite B
Anniston, AL 36207

April 27, 2016

City of Oxford
P.O. 3383
Oxford, AL 36203

Dear Mr. Craft:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service office is glad to help with any planning that may be need for your walking trail. This trail will be a great recreational and economic asset for our community and we are pleased to be a part of the process.

Our office is looking forward to working with you and the other partners on this project.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jody Burdette".

Jody Burdette
District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



CALHOUN
COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

1413 Hillyer Robinson Parkway
Anniston, AL 36207
256-835-0512, Ext 3

Kathy McCrimmon, Chair

Jimmy Cheatwood, Vice-Chair

Doug Trantham

Bryan Hammonds

Alton Hall

April 29, 2016

City of Oxford
P.O. Box 3383
Oxford, AL 36203

Dear Mr. Craft:

The Calhoun County Conservation District is pleased to partner in planning your walking trail opportunities for the newly opened Choccolocco Park. The District is excited about the outdoor education and recreation opportunities the new park offers. We have worked with the Parks and Recreation Department on many events and have always had a great working relationship.

Again, we look forward to working with you on this project; just let us know how and when we can help.

Sincerely,

Kathy McCrimmon
Chairman
Calhoun County Conservation District



CALHOUN COUNTY COMMISSION

1702 NOBLE STREET, SUITE 103
ANNISTON, ALABAMA 36201
TELEPHONE (256) 241-2800
FAX (256) 231-1744

COMMISSIONERS

FRED WILSON
District 1

TIM HODGES
District 2

DON HUDSON
District 3

J.D. HESS
District 4

RUDY ABBOTT
District 5

KENNETH L. JOINER
County Administrator

THOMAS M. SOWA
County Attorney

April 28, 2016

City of Oxford
P.O. Box 3383
Oxford, AL 36203

Dear Mr. Craft:

The Calhoun County Commission is pleased to provide support for your walking trail opportunities for the newly opened Choccolocco Park. The facility and proposed trails will offer significant economic impact for our area.

Please let us know how and when we can help with the planning process. We look forward to working with you on this and future projects.

Sincerely,

Don Hudson
Director
City of Oxford Parks and Recreation Department