



PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

HELENA RUN PRESERVE

REQUEST

\$600,000 to purchase 20 acres adjacent to the existing 18.6-acre Helena Run Preserve.

\$600,000

ANALYSIS:

- The lake on the existing 18.6 acres is not easily accessible to the public.
- The adjacent 20-acre upland parcel would allow for an entrance, parking and recreational activities.

BACKGROUND:

The Helen Run Preserve is approximately 18.6 acres. The county-owned conservation property is located south of Leesburg on U.S. Highway 27 in west Lake County, and consists almost exclusively of forested wetlands. The preserve forms the northeast shoreline of Helena Run, a meandering stream and designated Blueway that begins at Lake Denham and empties into Lake Harris. The site is also important to Florida's Native American history and Lake County's pioneer history when steamboats were a vital mode of transportation.

Due to the location and geology of the property it is not easily accessible to the public for passive recreation and educational purposes. An adjacent 20-acre upland parcel is for sale, which would be conducive for an entrance, parking and recreational activities such as fishing, canoeing/kayaking, picnics and outdoor educational projects for local citizens as well as tourists. Site improvements and amenities including an entry road, parking lot, floating platform, boardwalk and trail system,

canoe/kayak launch, fencing, and restrooms are estimated at \$800,000 and will be made as local funds become available.

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