

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CAPITAL CASCADE PARK**

- **Where will Cascade Park be located and how large will it be?**

Cascade Park is approximately twenty-four acres extending from just north of Apalachee Parkway, stretching south past Gaines Street, and sweeping west to South Monroe Street; it follows the St. Augustine Branch stream bed. The East and West boundaries of the Park are Suwannee Street and Meridian Street in the northern section and Bloxham Street to the railroad line in the southern section.

- **Why was this site the chosen location for the Park?**

Cascade Park will have dual purposes, to increase stormwater storage capacity and provide green space for downtown residents. The Park is just one of the four segments on the Capital Cascade Trail greenway that serves this function. The site also has historical significance related to the founding of Tallahassee as the State Capital. During major storm events Franklin Boulevard and South Monroe Street are susceptible to flooding due to stormwater runoff from the downtown area. The existing channel on Franklin Boulevard, known as the St. Augustine Branch, runs south through the park and under Monroe Street. At this time it does not have the capacity to eliminate flooding. The Park will act as a stormwater detention site with two ponds that reduce the likelihood of this occurrence.

- **What is the timeframe for construction and opening of Cascade Park?**

Construction on Cascade Park is expected to begin late 2009 with the Park opening late 2011.

- **Why is a portion of the land for Cascade Park closed off?**

In 1988 contamination was found on the site and most of the area was consequently fenced off. This was the location of a coal gasification plant, an electric plant and a city garbage incinerator in the early and mid 20th century. Contamination was primarily from petroleum, petroleum byproducts and low levels of dioxins. Under an Environmental Protection Agency remediation consent order with the City of Tallahassee in 2006 the site was decontaminated.

- **Does this location have a historical significance to the city?**

Capital Cascade Park, an existing park designated by the legislature in 1971, is currently on the National Register of Historic Places. The resources within its boundary are: the Prime Meridian Marker, the survey benchmark for the State of Florida; the McCarty Commemorative Marker; Saint Augustine Branch drainage ditch;

Smokey Hollow, a historic African American community that was located in the upper park; Centennial Field, built in 1924 for Tallahassee's 100th Anniversary and demolished in 1974, it was significant to the community and was used for such events as minor league baseball, graduation ceremonies, and even FSU's first three football seasons.

- **Why is it called Cascade Park?**

This site used to be the location of a sink hole that had a stream “cascading” into the sink. Tragically, from the turn of the century till the 50s, the sink was used as a landfill. Unfortunately, due to this occurrence the original cascading sink cannot be recovered. A commemorative “cascading falls” will be built in the restored Park and will stand as a beautiful tribute to the park's history.

- **What is the Capital Cascade Trail and how is it related to Cascade Park?**

Cascade Park is known as Segment 2 of the four segment Capital Cascade Trail project which will extend 4.25 miles through the heart of Tallahassee. The purpose of the project is to improve stormwater storage capacity and water quality while simultaneously providing green space and a linear trail for the community. The Trail will eventually begin at East Tennessee Street and extend southwest to the confluence of Lake Munson at Springhill Road; it follows the St. Augustine Branch and then the Central Drainage Ditch from Gamble Street south. This trail will connect the downtown with the St. Marks Trail and will establish an urban-to-rural greenway for our community.

- **What amenities will the Park add to the community?**

Cascade Park is a combination of a passive and active park. A passive park because it will have open space for the public to create their own recreational activities such as Centennial Field, historic fence, picnic areas, park benches and several miles of trails. An active park because it will have organized activity sites such as the Meridian Marker Plaza and large capacity amphitheater and with special events filling the park periodically.

- **How will Cascade Park effect the traffic circulation in the downtown area?**

Designed to keep roads out of the flood plain and vehicles separate from pedestrians, sections of Gadsden Street, Gaines Street and Bloxham Street crossing the Park will be closed. To alleviate disruption to the East-West corridor, Cascade Park will be constructed, connecting Suwannee Street and Myers Park Drive on the East to South Gadsden Street near Van Buren Street.

- **Where will visitors park to access the Park?**

Parking will be provided in several locations as visitors approach from various directions. Lots will be located at either end of the new Cascade Park connecting Suwannee Street and South Gadsden Street. The Department of Transportation lots along Suwannee Street will be available for use after 5:00 P.M. on weekdays and all day on weekends. Contingent upon negotiations, State parking garages will provide additional spaces, particularly for special events.

- **Can I track the progress of the Park?**

As we draw closer to beginning construction, the status of Cascade Park along with other Blueprint projects will be updated monthly on this website. If you have further questions or concerns please contact our office. We look forward to seeing you in the Park!