



City of Lake City, Florida

City Projects and Activities Report

July 2025

Introduction

This report provides an overview of key city projects and activities currently underway in the City of Lake City. It is intended to inform the Mayor and Council about the status of each initiative, summarize significant milestones, and highlight ongoing efforts across municipal departments.

City Hall Facade Restoration (FY25 Grant Not Selected)

The Finance Department submitted an application to the Florida Department of State's Special Category grant program, seeking funding for the restoration of the historic 1911 City Hall. The project includes reinforcing the brick façade, restoring window openings, and correcting flooring discrepancies. Although the grant application scored 89.2/100 and ranked 23rd of 54, legislative approval for \$964,000 in funding is pending. A 25% match (\$250,000) is required.

Gwen Lake Restoration

This project addresses ecological restoration and drainage improvements. Four Waters Engineering, Inc. is managing design and permitting. Modeling is nearly complete, with a conceptual design phase set to commence following a review meeting. Coordination with SRWMD is ongoing, with updates presented to the Council in April.

Enclaves and Annexations

The City is working with Columbia County to draft an interlocal agreement for resolving enclave boundaries. Legal and growth management teams are currently preparing the document.

Wilson Park Amphitheater (CDBG #22DB-C04)

This revitalization project supports downtown beautification and the development of entertainment. Total grant and matching funds: \$950,000. Only one proposal was received—substantially over budget. A petition for additional funding is being prepared in consultation with Florida Commerce.

Skate Park / Youngs Park Master Plan

Public feedback was collected at the February Planning & Zoning meeting. The expanded scope includes all recreational amenities. Citizens recommended removing the RC track and avoiding turf installations.

Sallie Jerry Park Master Plan

The City is using eminent domain to secure land for parking expansion. A master plan will be presented at an upcoming community workshop.

Woman's Club Building

Structural issues were discovered during renovations. Council held a workshop on July 7 and expressed willingness to deed the property back to the Women's Club, pending their acceptance.

SR 47 Infrastructure Extensions

Work began on February 18, 2025. Initially scheduled for 150 days, the project has received a 90-day extension to accommodate unforeseen delays.

Mariah Memorial Sign

In accordance with Resolution 2023-116, a street sign honoring Mariah Reginae Smith is expected to be delivered by July 10, 2025.

Street Lighting Improvements

City staff and FPL representatives conducted joint inspections to address lighting deficiencies. Public education on reporting outages is ongoing, and corrections to mapping errors are in progress.

Cleopatra Steele Road Memorialization

In response to Resolution 2025-010, Public Works completed the installation of commemorative signage for Apostle Steele.

Casey Jones RV Park Septic-to-Sewer Project

This FDEP-funded project will decommission 18 septic systems and connect the park to the city's wastewater infrastructure. Engineering is complete; proposals are due by July 16, 2025.

Legislative Appropriations

New City Hall Complex: Request for \$13.4 million with a \$1.6 million City match.

Fire Engine Replacement: Request for \$900,000 to replace a 14-year-old frontline engine.

> Copies of both requests have been forwarded to Sunrise Consulting Group.

Council Chamber Audio Upgrades

Audio enhancements for virtual meetings have been completed.

NFMIP Potable Water Master Meter (Interlocal Agreement)

Installation and operation of a master meter are complete. The agreement includes a county commitment to annex adjacent lands into the city of Lake City.

North Hangar and Taxi Lanes

The FAA and FDOT approved FY2025 AIP funding for the design and construction of hangars and taxi lanes. Gray Construction Services, Inc. has been awarded the contract.

Air Methods

Air Methods has submitted a Letter of Intent for a five-year lease term (with a five-year renewal option) for establishing a medical air base at Lake City Gateway Airport. This process is complete.

FHP Lease Extension

The Department of Highway and Motor Vehicle Safety's airport lease is currently on a month-to-month basis. An appraisal is underway to guide extension negotiations.

City Policies

The administration is actively reviewing and consolidating several policy areas:

- Use of City property by third parties
- Street naming and memorialization procedures
- Code enforcement lien forgiveness
- Ordinance updates under legal review

City Hall Feasibility Study

Completed in collaboration with Brame Heck Architects. The study supports long-term consolidation of administrative departments into a modern facility.

City Hall 1st Floor Remodel

Renovations to the City Hall lobby and first floor are complete.

Community Garden Project

The City is preparing a procurement solicitation to engage a nonprofit to manage a new community teaching garden.

Leisure Lane Water Main Extension

Task assignment to extend a water main along Leisure Drive and Wren Ct into a residential area from the existing water main in SR247.

Crosswinds Subdivision

The city is extending the water main and the gravity sewer main into the Crosswinds Subdivision. The project is at 90% completion.

Grant Activity Summary

Grant Applications Prepared

SAFER Grant (FEMA):

Prepared and submitted a grant application requesting \$746,590 to support the hiring of three new firefighters over a three-year period.

Water Quality Improvement Grants (FDEP):

Bascom Norris Septic-to-Sewer Project: Application prepared for \$4,450,000.

Bell Road Septic-to-Sewer Project: Application prepared for \$4,770,000.

Turkey Creek Septic-to-Sewer Project: Application prepared for \$3,210,000.

Resilient Florida Grant (FDEP):

Prepared an application for funding a Flood Vulnerability Assessment.

Grant Reimbursements Received

Florida Department of Financial Services (FDFS):

\$231,909.47 for the Lake City Fire Department HVAC and Generator Project

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT):

\$33,390.00 for the Airport Industrial Loop Drainage Project

\$6,007.50 for the South Airfield Drainage Project

\$77,731.93 for the Airport Hangar Project

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA):

\$54,067.50 for the South Airfield Drainage Project