
News Release 06/08

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For Immediate Release –

CITY OF EUSTIS LEASES FOUNTAIN SQUARE BUILDING SITE **Former hospital site to become a portable park**

EUSTIS - Since the Lake Community Foundation has decided to delay construction on the former Florida Hospital Waterman site in downtown Eustis, the Foundation has agreed to lease the site to the City of Eustis.

The Foundation will remove the construction fence so that the City can make the site more aesthetically pleasing.

The City of Eustis plans to use part of the site for event parking and create a park-like area next to Magnolia Avenue and Eustis Street. Some of the site will be off limits to the public due to the existing infrastructure. The infrastructure will be secured in an attractive manner to ensure safety.

Plans are to clean up the site, place plants and trees around the perimeter, and sod and seed the southern section. Next to Magnolia Avenue and Eustis Street, the City will install a winding pathway that will include stations or pads for the exhibition of art and portable recreation stations.

The Foundation had planned to construct two mixed-use buildings on the site and had begun the infrastructure construction. The down-turn in the real estate market caused the Foundation to re-evaluate its building plans. The Foundation board of directors decided to delay construction for at least a year.

The City of Eustis agreed to lease the site and turn a construction eye sore in the middle of downtown into a pleasing vista. All of the City's improvements are temporary and can easily be removed at the conclusion of the lease. The existing infrastructure will be protected so that construction can begin again once the real estate market improves.



Eustis Public Works personnel begin site preparation for sod and pathways on the Foundation property.

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