

Innovative Stormwater Park & Streetscape Synergize Hospital-Based Community Revitalization

The West Moreno Stormwater and Streetscape Project is an innovative project that addresses stormwater and flooding mitigation, sustainable urban design and place making, neighborhood revitalization and economic development. This public investment has potential to create an exponential return to the community.

The City has been awarded a FEMA grant to construct needed stormwater improvements to mitigate repetitive flooding in the West Moreno district. The project is sited near the entrance to Baptist Hospital - Pensacola's only inner city hospital, and institutional anchor for the West Moreno neighborhood. There is a vision to use this stormwater project as a catalyst to transform the blighted and underserved, high poverty neighborhood surrounding the hospital. The funded stormwater facilities plan can be modified to a dual-purpose, stormwater park/gateway facility that will be the cornerstone of transformation in the district and support hospital-driven revitalization.

This proposed investment in public realm improvements will create a vibrant, well-lit, aesthetically attractive "Complete Street" streetscape with street trees and banners. The park will provide an inviting and inclusive gathering place that supports outdoor activity, health and wellness through its design. Some land acquisition is required by the project. The City has used this creative approach to transform its downtown eastern gateway through the design and construction of Admiral Mason Park, an award winning, dual purpose stormwater and recreation facility.

A recent study, jointly funded by Baptist Hospital, the City of Pensacola and Escambia County, showed that hospital employees, visitors, patients and neighborhood residents need a convenient, central and accessible public space for walking, or sitting that is safe and attractive. The study, also, identified a market gap and unmet demand for retail services generated by the residents and thousands of people coming into the neighborhood because of the hospital. This project will create a significantly enhanced entrance to Baptist Hospital that is distinct, safe and walkable and contribute to the neighborhood as a desirable place to live and work with amenities that are convenient and accessible.

- **Development of a Recreational Stormwater Park.** Repetitive flood damage is a major contributor to blight within the West Moreno neighborhood. The development of a recreational stormwater park will address stormwater retention and treatment and provide a critical neighborhood asset which promotes health and wellness and actively diversifies the public realm. This amenity will include green space with attractive landscaping, multi-use paths, park seating, decorative lighting, and children's play equipment. **Budget:** \$2.6 million
- **Streetscape Improvements.** Addressing several key factors, streetscape enhancements will improve walkability, accessibility, neighborhood safety and beautification of public thoroughfares. Improvements will include installation of decorative lighting, landscaping, sidewalks, on-street parking, banners and subsurface infrastructure. **Budget:** \$6.5 million

Applicant: City of Pensacola, FL
Project Title: West Moreno Stormwater Park
Budget: \$ 9.1 million

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