

City of Jacksonville

117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Agenda

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

9:30 AM

**Lynwood Roberts Room,
1st Floor, City Hall**

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

CM Ken Amaro, Chair
CM Mike Gay, Vice Chair
CM Jimmy Peluso
CM Matt Carlucci, Alternate
Jon Michael Barker
Robert Birtalan
General Public Rep - Vacant
Representative Kiyan Michael
Mark Devereaux
Andrew Fraden
Marc Hardesty
Richard Hartley
General Public Rep - Vacant
Jill Haskell - General Public Rep
Charles Garrison, Ex-Officio
Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio

Barbara Ireland Hobson, Legislative Assistant II
Shannon MacGillis, Office of General Counsel
Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University
Brandon Russell, Council Research
Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator

COUNCIL RULE 4.505 DISRUPTION OF MEETING

Any person who disrupts a regular meeting of the City Council, standing committees, special or select committees, sub-committees or any other public meeting presided over by a City Council Member may be forthwith barred, removed, or otherwise ejected, in the discretion of the presiding officer, from further attendance at that meeting. If necessary, due to the nature of the disruption, the audience may be cleared from the Council Chambers or meeting location in the discretion of the presiding officer.

Any person who refuses to leave the City Council Chamber may be subject to arrest.

Disruption of a meeting includes the following types of behaviors:

- 1) Any form of political campaigning or electioneering regarding a specific candidate or group of candidates in City elections;
- 2) Impeding the orderly progress of the meeting by shouting, yelling, whistling, chanting, singing, dancing, clapping, foot stomping, snapping fingers, cheering, jeering, using artificial noise makers or musical instruments, waving signs of any size, or engaging in any other display of excessive noise, sounds, or movement;
- 3) Displaying or waving signs of any sort, except where used to support the speaker's presentation at the podium, and only where the sign is 21 inches by 21 inches or smaller in size and cannot be displayed in a manner which unreasonably obstructs the view of the dais for any member of the audience, regardless of message;
- 4) Audible noise from cellphones or other electronic devices;
- 5) Consumption of alcohol or controlled substances;
- 6) Making vulgar or offensive remarks or gestures, or using threatening language or gestures, including but not limited to pantomiming discharging a firearm, choking, or throat-cutting;
- 7) Refusing to stop speaking when his or her time has expired or is otherwise directed by the presiding officer to do so due to disruptive behavior as described herein;
- 8) Returning to the meeting after having been removed or ejected, or attempting to do so.

REQUEST TO SPEAK:

1. Fill out a speaker card.
2. Sign it if you are going to speak.
3. Read the rules on the back of the card.
4. Return the card to the Legislative Assistant.

- | 1. | Meeting Convened: | Meeting Adjourned: |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 2. | Roll Call | |
| 3. | Pledge of Allegiance | |
| 4. | Approval of Minutes | |
| 5. | St Johns River Status Report on Water Quality and Manatees | |
| | Contact: Dr. Gerard Pinto
Jacksonville University | |
| 6. | Public Comment | |
| 7. | New Business | |
| 8. | Old Business | |

Contact: Dr. Gerard Pinto
Jacksonville University

Shad Creek Resolution - Status Update

Contact: CM Gay

George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park

Contact: CM Gay

9. Subcommittees & Task Forces - Updates

FIND Subcommittee - Approval of Recommendations from the October 22, 2025, FIND Subcommittee meeting.

Contact: Brian Burkett

Shoaling & Artificial Reef Task Force

Contact: Commissioner Hardesty, Chair

River Accord Task Force

Contact: CM Peluso, Chair

10. Adjournment

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted; but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

9:30 AM

**Council Chamber,
1st Floor, City Hall**

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

*CM Ken Amaro, Chair
CM Mike Gay, Vice Chair
CM Jimmy Peluso
CM Matt Carlucci, Alternate
Jon Michael Barker
Robert Birtalan
General Public Rep - Vacant
Representative Kiyan Michael - Excused
Mark Devereaux
Andrew Fraden
Marc Hardesty
Richard Hartley - Late Arrival
General Public Rep - Vacant
Jill Haskell - General Public Rep
Charles Garrison, Ex-Officio
Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio*

*Barbara Ireland Hobson, Legislative Assistant II
Shannon MacGillis, Office of General Counsel
Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University
Brandon Russell, Council Research
Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator*

1. Meeting Convened: 9:30 AM Meeting Adjourned: 10:08 AM

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Ken Amaro called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Members introduced themselves and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the September 10, 2025, meeting was moved and seconded. The Commission unanimously approved the minutes via voice vote.

5. St Johns River Status Report on Water Quality and Manatees

Dr. Pinto reported very high water levels and high tides. He stated salinity levels are lower than normal but were not unusual. Water temperature was reported at around 76°F, a decrease from the prior month. Salinity at Mayport is reported around 20-27 parts per thousand (ppt), Dames Point is at 15-20 ppt, JU is at 10-13 ppt, and Buckman Bridge is at around three ppt, despite a normal measure of 0.3 ppt. He added that rainfall was below normal for this time of year, and the whole basin is running at a deficit of around 5 inches.

Dr. Pinto stated that cooler temperatures are helping with harmful algae. He said that mostly mixed algae were found at Arlington, Downtown, and Mandarin Point, with no toxins observed. Some species were detected that produce low levels of toxins, though not at concerning levels. Doctors Lake has a couple of different species of algae present that also produce low levels of toxins. Shands Bridge also shows some algae but again with low levels of toxins.

There were no changes in the number of local manatee deaths since the last meeting. Statewide, there have been 86 watercraft-related manatee deaths, bringing the total to 558. Dr. Pinto stated that it was about 100 more than at this time last year. He said there are 14 manatees in the area based on his measurements, but he has had calls from people reporting other manatees. Most of them are moving south, but he added that some may stay behind if the weather remains warm throughout the fall and winter.

Adam Hoyles asked how we got lucky with the algae this year and asked what the manatees were eating since much of the grass beds have been wiped out. Dr. Pinto stated that some grass beds were recovering and that the manatees were eating those. He added that tape grass beds were the ones wiped out and that manatees will eat any of the 12-14 species of grass found in the river. He said it was difficult to pinpoint why algae was low because it's a dynamic system. Though rainfall can lead to big blooms, it also depends on residence time, or how quickly water is moving in and out of the river. He also stated that intermittent rainfall with dry spells can lead to increased salinity, which kills the freshwater algae.

Chair Amaro asked for an explanation of the high salinity levels at the Buckman Bridge. Dr. Pinto stated that the elevated salinity was not significant, as 0-5 ppt is typical for that area. Chair Amaro then asked how to address the uptick in manatee deaths due to watercraft. Dr. Pinto clarified that the increase in deaths is reflected in statewide numbers due to incidents in the southern part of the state.

6. Public Comment

John Nooney spoke on 2025-0749 and 2025-0727 and asked why they were not before the Waterways Commission.

Latrese Bell spoke about regaining access to the George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier, asking what happened to money intended to repair the pier on the Duval County side.

7. New Business

Council Member Peluso - Presentation of Gift of Appreciation to Shannon MacGillis, Office of General Council, thanking her for all of her time and effort in drafting Chapter 388 Legislation.

8. Old Business

Shad Creek Resolution

George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier State Park

CM Gay did not have any new updates for the George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier and added that local state representatives were going back to Tallahassee to get updates. He stated dissatisfaction with the status of the problem and will still be looking for solutions.

CM Gay invited Brian Burket, Waterfront Project Manager, to the podium. CM Gay stated that Ms. MacGillis, Office of General Counsel, has prepared legislation to address issues along Shad Creek. He added that when FDOT reconstructed the bridge, they did not conduct a vessel impact survey. He said that because the bridge is now higher, large vessels can pass through the creek with a larger wake. He said they hope to eventually send the resolution to FWC to get no-wake zones in the area, potentially.

Ms. MacGillis stated that Colleen Hampsey, Council Research, drafted a resolution. She said the Commission could approve the substance of the proposed resolution to allow for specific language to be pinned down. She stated there would be a series of whereas clauses that explain the Shad Creek bridge reconstruction and the role of the JWC. She also described potential clauses explaining that a proper vessel impact study was not completed and describing the impact on wildlife, property, and other structures along the creek due to increased large vessel traffic. She said one outstanding policy decision would be to finalize the location of the proposed no-wake zones.

Jim Suber stated that terminology needs to be corrected to "slow-speed minimum wake zone" rather than a "no-wake zone," clarifying that all boats leave a wake while moving. Mr. Burket provided background on the map, stating that the red dashed area is the 300-foot zone on either side of the bridge that was approved in 2019. He added that they are now asking for an expansion of that zone. He expects the resolution to request FWC to accept an application to request expansion.

Chair Amaro asked if they were in a better position to accept the application than in the past. Mr. Burket said he thought they were in a better position to have FWC look favorably on the request. He added that the yellow lines on the map show the new zones based on recommendations from the neighborhoods in the area.

Richard Hartley asked if there was some documentation of broad neighborhood support for this action. Mr. Burket said there have been a series of meetings, but he did not know if there was a resolution or some other statement of support. CM Gay stated there wasn't a neighborhood association pushing the expanded zones, but he said that there were multiple people in the area who had reached out with frustrations. Mr. Hartley stated there should be solicitation of comments from the homeowners regarding the matter. CM Gay stated that it was doable and did not anticipate much resistance. Chair Amaro asked if community input would be a required part of the application process. Mr. Burket stated that community input was a required part of the FWC application process and that FWC had the right to conduct its own public meeting.

Andrew Fraden asked if the homeowners could go straight to FWC with the request. Mr. Burket said that he thinks they would have to go through the municipality. Mr. Suber affirmed and added that while anyone can go to the FWC with their issues, the municipality will still have to be involved in the process.

Jon Michael Barker asked if there was a manatee consideration and then asked if there was a homeowner impact statement. He also stated he was not sure that he agreed with expanding the zone if there was no substantial proof of negative impacts. He also asked if there was a measure of how many boats move through the area. Mr. Suber explained that the area is a cut-through to the estuary and the intercoastal waterway, and on a typical day, traffic is low, but he said that when there are tournaments or other events, traffic can be heavier with people traveling faster. He added that because the creek is so

narrow, the current can be swift and the wakes from boats can damage docks and other private property.

CM Gay stated that when boats slow down at the start of the low wake zone, it can cause a larger thrust of water that can be damaging or threaten the safety of other boaters. He reiterated that there were things not considered by FDOT that should have been when reconstructing the bridge. He also said that the FWC does not take into consideration damage to bulkheads and other property when looking to implement minimum wake zones. He also stated that to consider the manatee factors, there had to be documented manatee activity over time.

Robert Birtalan added that because of the strong current, boats sometimes are required to hit a speed fast enough to move forward, making large wakes hard to avoid. Mr. Suber asked Mr. Burket if the area's inclusion in the Timucuan Preserve was a mitigating factor. Mr. Burket said he was not certain and noted the area was within the aquatic preserve boundary, too.

CM Gay said he met with the State Parks, which are looking to implement some minimum wake zones within their boundaries as well. CM Peluso asked for a summary of what was being discussed. Ms. MacGillis stated that there was a resolution in concept but not a draft yet. She added that there were additional issues and potential stakeholders who could get on board with the resolution. She recommended changing the tone of the potential resolution from a firm demand to a request for consideration of the changes. She recommended some memorialization of public sentiment and indicated that the resolution needed some more work.

9. Subcommittees & Task Forces - Updates

FIND Subcommittee - Meeting Reminder - Tuesday, October 22, 2025, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Lynwood Roberts Room

Chair Amaro reminded the Commission of the FIND Subcommittee meeting on October 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Shoaling & Artificial Reef Task Force

Speaking on the Shoaling and Artificial Reef Task Force, CM Peluso stated that the state legislature meets in January and is about to begin committee weeks. He said it was his understanding that Rep. Kiyon Michaels, who represents the Beaches, may be a good person to reach out to about direct appropriations since she is a member of JWC and represents the Beaches. Chair Amaro asked who should reach out to her. CM Peluso stated that organizations or anyone interested in the topic should reach out to her office.

River Accord Task Force

CM Peluso stated it was his understanding that the River Accords task force was disbanded because there wasn't much more action to take.

Derelict Vessel Task Force

Mr. Barker stated they were waiting to hear back from the Environmental Protection Board regarding implementation. Ms. MacGillis said she had a conversation with Mr. Richardson regarding the draft of rules sent to EBP, which is on track, and indicated that funding remains an issue. She also mentioned a potential mock derelict vessel taking to prepare for takings in the future.

10. Reminder: the November Jacksonville Waterways Commission Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, in the Lynwood Roberts Room at 9:30 a.m.

11. Adjournment

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Minutes: Brandon Russell, Council Research

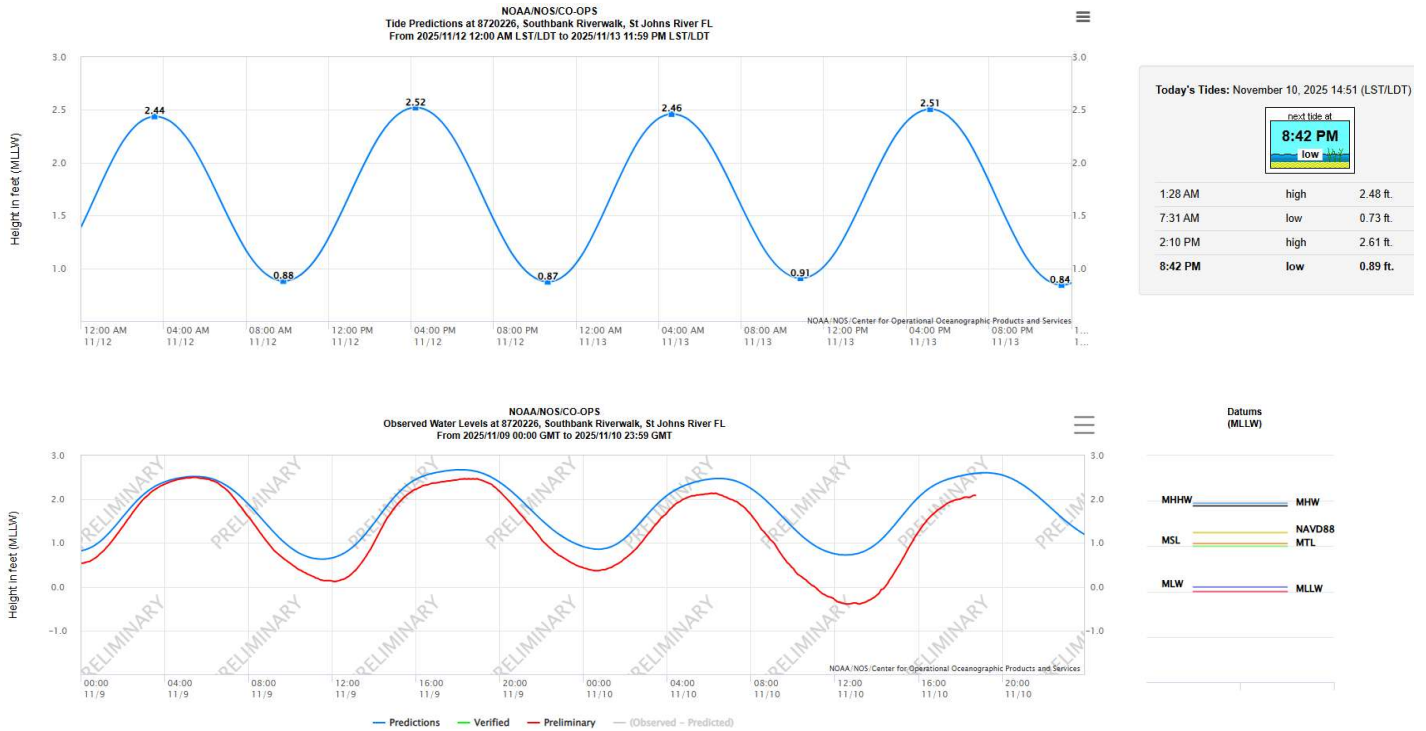
brussell@coj.net, (904) 255-5137

Posted: 10/17/25, 1:30 p.m.

Pinto WWM 11/12/2025

SJR Water Quality Tide Southbank Riverwalk, SJR.

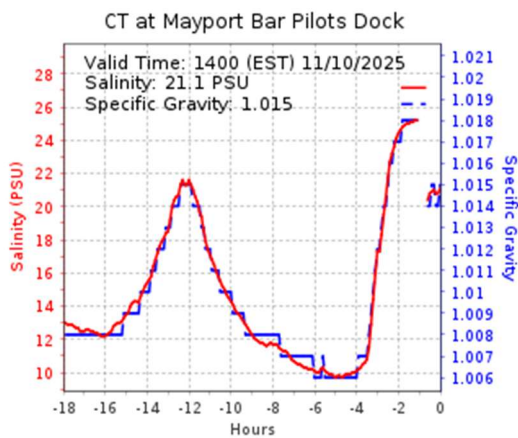
Full moon, Nov 5th; New moon, Nov 20th



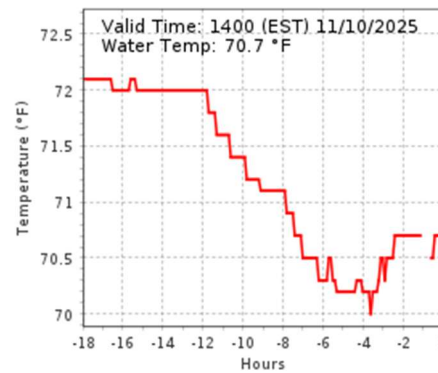
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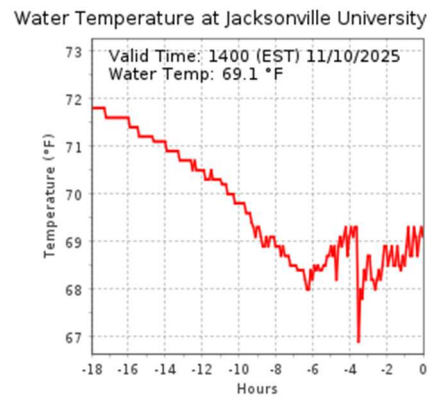
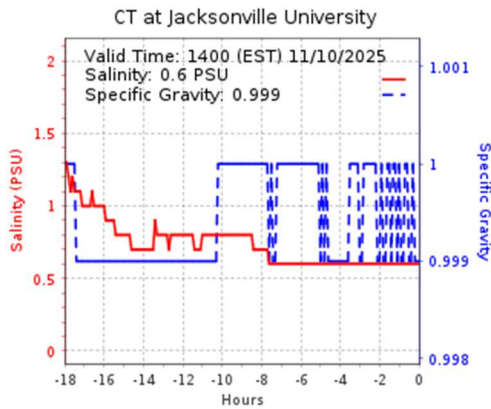
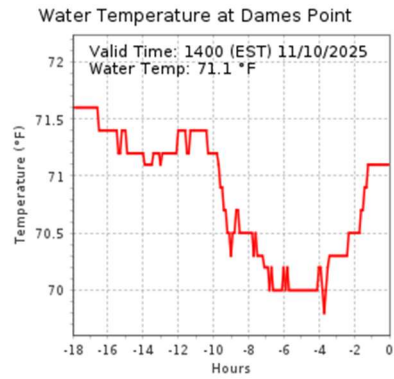
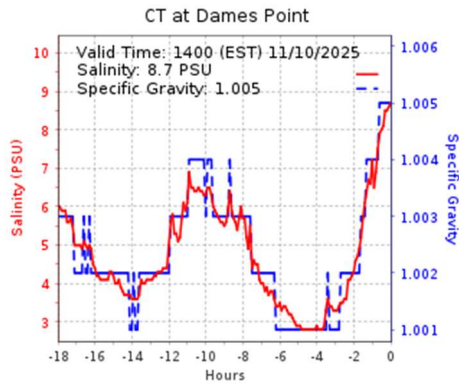
Water level: 2' ft. above MLLW

Salinity	Station	Temp °F
21 - 25	Mayport	71
3 - 9	Dames	71
0.6 - 2	JU	69
0.5 - 2	Downtown	70
0.6 - 2	Buckman	71



Water Temperature at Mayport Bar Pilots Dock





WATER LEVELS – High cond. Buckman. 1' ft Above MLLW

RAINFALL

Rainfall Inches 2025			Rainfall Inches 2025		Rainfall Inches 2025		
NWS			JAX INT		SJRWMD		
Mo.	NOW mean	Expected normal value	Obs	Dep		Obs	Dep
Jan	2.84	6.58	6.6	3.32		4.105	1.415
Feb	2.89	2.15	2.15	-0.71		1.457	-1.533
Mar	3.48	4.8	4.8	1.51		2.9	-0.51
Apr	2.87	1.1	1.1	-1.83		0.661	-1.949
May	3.54	3.34	1.67	0.73		5.743	2.483
Jun	7.14	3.92	1.24	-0.52		5.012	-1.868
Jul	6.94	7.01	7.01	0.24		6.061	-0.609
Aug	7.23	6.51	6.51	-0.37		7.618	0.628
Sep	7.44	2.74	2.74	-4.82		4.011	-2.919
Oct	2.84	2.44	2.44	-1.59		4.397	0.267
Nov*	2.07		0	-0.55		0.019	
Dec	2.78						
	52.06	40.59	36.26	-4.59		41.98	-4.60

*Partial month.

HABs:

Mandarin Point SJR (MP72): 10/27/25 Mixed algae, NO TOXIN

Drs. Lake: 10/14/25 Central Drs. Lake *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Planktolyngbya limnetica* 0.33 Low

10/27/2025 Central Drs. Lake. Mixed algae, NO TOXIN

Shands Bridge: 10/27/25 Mixed algae, NO TOXIN *Microcystis aeruginosa*

EPA health advisory levels for drinking water are 1.6ug/l microcystins and 3.0ug/l cylindrospermopsin

EPA health advisory for swimming/recreation 8ug/l microcystins

MANATEE MORTALITY – 5 mortalities since June WWM. Unchanged since last waterways meeting.

14 Total manatee mortalities

2 cold stress

2/10/2025 SJR, Nr. White Shell Bay Area

3/2/2025 Goodby's Ck.

8 Perinatal

3/16/2025 SJR, Nr. E. Bay Street, Shipyards

4/5/2025 Big Fishweir Ck.

4/13/2025 ICW Hopson Rd. Basin S Beach Blvd

4/13/2025 ICW Hopson Rd.

4/13/2025 Alfred Dupont Pl. Sidney Gefen River Walk Pk.

6/09/2025 Julington Creek

6/11/2025 San Pablo River, ICW/Atlantic Blvd. Harbortown Marina

6/20/2025 ICW San Pablo River, ICW/Seabreeze Dr.

2 Undetermined

4/24/2025 Ortega River, San Juan Ave. Nr. Bridge north side Baker Pt. Pk.

6/24/2025 SJR, Mandarin Pt.

1 Watercraft

4/25/2025 West side of Mayport NAS training basin

1 Flood Gate / Canal Lock

6/12/2025 San Pablo River Jacksonville Human Related: Flood Gate/Canal Lock ICW/Queens Harbor

In FLORIDA 89 WC and 579 Total year to Nov. 10th, 2025; 2024 year's numbers 84 WC/489 TOTAL (11/12 WWM)

In FLORIDA 86 WC and 558 Total year to Oct. 3rd, 2025; 2024 year's numbers 80 WC/471 TOTAL (10/15 WWM)

In FLORIDA 80 WC and 525 Total year to Aug. 29th, 2025; 2024 year's numbers 69 WC/437 TOTAL (9/10 WWM)

Pinto WWM 11/12/2025

In FLORIDA 73 WC and 498 Total year to Aug. 1st, 2025; 2024 year's numbers 62 WC/409 TOTAL (8/12 WWM)

In FLORIDA 47 WC and 390 Total year to May. 30th, 2025; 2024 year's numbers 43 WC/312 TOTAL (6/12 WWM)

In FLORIDA 37 WC and 344 Total year to May. 2nd, 2025; 2024 year's numbers 33 WC/246 TOTAL (5/15 WWM)

JU Manatee Hotline 904 256 7575

FWC Dispatch 1-888-3922 Dead, injured or abandoned calf, etc.

Manatee Sightings Form

Manatee Research Center Online:

<https://www.ju.edu/marco/>



AERIAL SIGHTINGS: 14 Total (9A in SJR; 5A in ICW) September 19th, 2025.

1 Introduced by the Jacksonville Waterways Commission:
2
3

4 **RESOLUTION JWC-2025-**

5 A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE JACKSONVILLE
6 WATERWAYS COMMISSION'S SUPPORT FOR THE FLORIDA
7 FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO
8 EXTEND THE "SLOW SPEED/MINIMUM WAKE ZONE" TO
9 1800 FEET NORTH OF THE SHAD CREEK BRIDGE ON
10 HECKSCHER DRIVE TO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY;
11 DIRECTING THE CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES TO
12 TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION, ONCE
13 ADOPTED, TO THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
14 CONSERVATION COMMISSION.
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Waterways Commission (the "JWC") is
17 committed to the protection of the waterways of Jacksonville and
18 works in cooperation with multiple state and federal agencies,
19 including the State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
20 Commission (the "FWC"), and is charged to, in part, formulate an
21 overall plan for dealing with any problems that exist concerning the
22 St. Johns River and all tidal waters in Duval County; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Shad Creek Bridge on Heckscher Drive, which spans
24 Shad Creek on the north side of the St. Johns River, was reconstructed
25 in recent years with a higher vertical clearance, without a
26 navigational impact report to contemplate the effect on boater safety;
27 and

28 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the elevated Shad Creek Bridge height,
29 large vessel traffic increased, creating additional boater safety
30 concerns; and

31 **WHEREAS**, Ordinance 2019-463-E, adopted by Council on August

1 13, 2019, amended Chapter 614 (Public Order and Safety), Section
2 614.132 (Regulations on Operation of Boats), *Ordinance Code*, to
3 establish a boating restricted area within 100 yards (300 feet) shore
4 to shore on both sides of the Shad Creek Bridge, and appropriated
5 \$30,000 for the placement of "Slow Speed/Minimum Wake" signs in the
6 St. Johns River and Shad Creek, to notify the public that a boating
7 speed-restricted area was created; and

8 **WHEREAS**, as described by the Florida Statutes, Section 327.463,
9 a vessel is operating at "slow speed, minimum wake only" if it is
10 fully off plane, completely settled into the water and proceeding
11 without wake or with minimum wake at a speed no greater than is
12 reasonable and prudent to avoid the creation of an excessive wake or
13 other hazardous condition under the existing circumstances; and

14 **WHEREAS**, due to larger vessels utilizing the waterway adjacent
15 to the Shad Creek Bridge in proximity to a public ferry route, a boat
16 ramp and a blind curve in the area, there is cause to extend the
17 current speed restriction north of the current zone in the interest
18 of public safety, based issues of visibility and other navigational
19 hazards to protect people, wildlife and property; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Jacksonville Waterways Commission expresses support
21 for FWC to implement by Rule supplemental safety regulations,
22 considering the increase in large vessel traffic to extend the current
23 "Slow Speed/ Minimum Wake Only", to 1800 feet north of the Shad Creek
24 Bridge as depicted on the map in **Exhibit 1**, for the safety of the
25 public; now therefore

26 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Jacksonville Waterways Commission:

27 **Section 1.** The Jacksonville Waterways Commission hereby
28 expresses its support for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
29 Commission the extend the "Slow Speed/Minimum Wake" northward beyond
30 the current boundary to 1800 feet from the Shad Creek Bridge as
31 depicted in the map in **Exhibit 1** in the interest of public safety,

based issues of visibility, larger vessel traffic, and other navigational hazards to protect people, wildlife and property.

Section 2. Directive to the Chief of Legislative Services

Division. The Jacksonville Waterways Commission hereby directs the Chief of the Legislative Services Division to forward a copy of this Resolution, once adopted, to the State of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Adopted by the Jacksonville Waterways Commission,
at the November 12, 2025 meeting.

Ken Amaro, Chair

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

City Council Member, District 1

Form Approved:

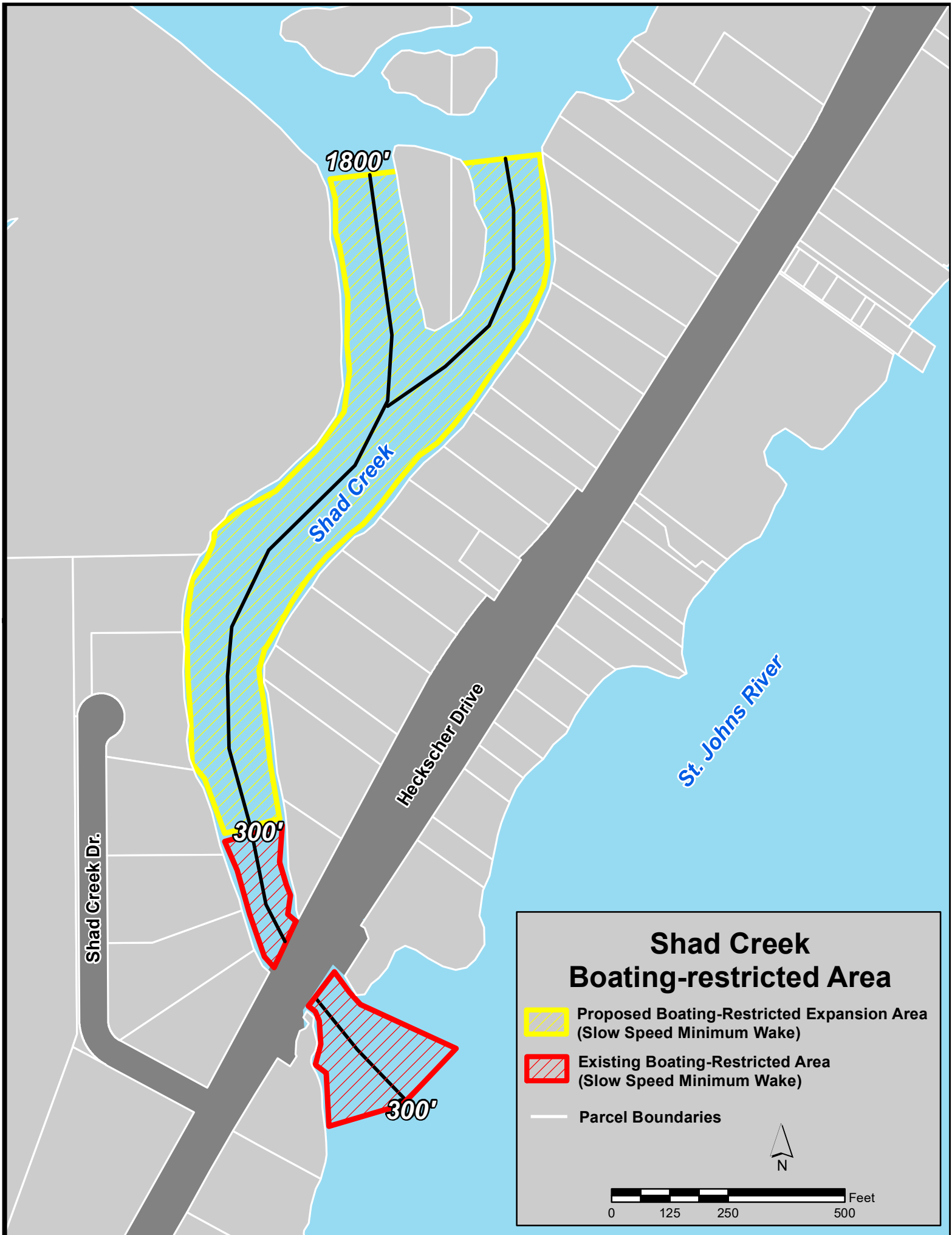
Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research

GC-#1719957-v2-JWC-Shad Creek No Wake Zone.docx

EXHIBIT 1

MAP OF SHAD CREEK BOATING RESTRICTED AREA ZONE
WITH REQUESTED EXTENDED BOUNDARY





OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

MIKE GAY
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 2
PHONE (904) 255-5202
FAX (904) 255-5230
EMAIL: MGAY@COJ.NET

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425
4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: Lynwood Roberts, 117 W Duval St. Jacksonville, FL 32218

Meeting Date: September 9, 2025

Meeting Time: 3:30 PM

Meeting Attendance: Council Member Mike Gay, District 2; Council Member Ken Amaro, District 1; Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14; Council Member Ju'Coby Pittman, District 10; Senator Clay Yarborough; Representative Dean Black; Senator Tracie Davis; DEP, Cliff Maxwell.

Meeting Convened: 3:30 PM

I. Welcome and Introduction

Councilman Mike Gay welcomed everyone to the notice meeting and began introductions.

II. Overview and Update

Councilman Gay stated the nature of this notice meeting was to discuss the needs/wants from the community along with the future plans regarding the George Crady Bridge Fishing Pier. He expressed the easy items which have been discussed included getting bait stations and running water back on the pier. DEP voiced that both have been completed recently.

III. Open Discussion

Those in attendance spoke toward topics/concerns such as:

1. Community Engagement and Vision
2. Partnership Appreciation
3. Additional Amenities
4. Unit Management Plan
5. Future Access on the Duval Side
6. Funds

DEP expressed they would work alongside the stakeholders regarding the future amenities and improvements for the pier.

IV. Public Comment

Members of the public spoke on their support/needs/concerns regarding the pier and funds.

V. Closing Remarks

In closing, Councilman Gay voiced he felt it is time to get things right, and do right by the community for this historic bridge that many enjoy.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:25 PM

Meeting Summary Completed by Bethany Bryan, ECA District 2.

NOTICED ON: October 30, 2025, at 3:30 PM, pursuant to 15.103(c), Ordinance Code.

cc:

Council Members and Staff

Jason Teal, Director/Council Secretary

Teresa Eichner, Chief, Public Information Division

Yvonne Mitchell, Chief, Administrative Services Division

Colleen Hampsey, Chief, Research Division

Bernadette Smith, Chief, Legislative Services

CITYC@COJ.NET Electronic Notice Kiosk – 1st Floor City Hall Public Notice System –

City Council Web Page

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City of Jacksonville

*117 W. Duval Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202*



Meeting Minutes

Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

2:00 PM

**Lynwood Roberts Room,
1st Floor, City Hall**

Jacksonville Waterways Commission

*CM Ken Amaro, Chair
CM Mike Gay, Vice Chair
CM Jimmy Peluso
CM Matt Carlucci, Alternate
Jon Michael Barker
Robert Birtalan
General Public Rep - Vacant
Representative Kiyan Michael - Excused
Mark Devereaux
Andrew Fraden
Marc Hardesty
Richard Hartley - Late Arrival
General Public Rep - Vacant
Jill Haskell - General Public Rep
Charles Garrison, Ex-Officio
Adam Hoyles, Ex-Officio*

*Barbara Ireland Hobson, Legislative Assistant II
Shannon MacGillis, Office of General Counsel
Dr. Gerard Pinto, Jacksonville University
Brandon Russell, Council Research
Jim Suber, Waterways Coordinator*

1. Call To Order

Meeting Convened: 2:02 p.m.

Chair Jon Michael Barker called the meeting to order, and led the subcommittee in the Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review of Potential 2026 FIND Projects

Brian Burket, Waterfront Project Manager, provided an overview of the FIND grant process. He explained that counties can apply each year for up to \$2.75 million in grant funding to support the design or construction of a project. He explained that the subcommittee will select the projects for which FIND grant funds will be requested. The subcommittee's selection is sent to the full Commission for approval, then to the City Council. From there, project presentations are held in June, and Mr. Burket stated that almost all past projects have been funded.

He provided handouts showing the progress on prior approved projects. He anticipated that the Wayne B. Stevens Boat Ramp Improvements project would be before this subcommittee next year for approval. He indicated that JEA's work in the area has hindered its ability to complete the project. Mr. Hoyles asked whether they had been asked to review site plans; Mr. Burket stated that they had not. He said that, to salvage the grant dollars, they plan to change the project's scope to create a small fishing pier, kayak launch, and picnic facilities.

He stated that they anticipate the Pottsburg Creek project from last year's recommended projects will be completed. He also explained that Hopkins Creek withdrew its request for FIND funds and plans to complete the project without those dollars.

Mr. Burket identified the Sisters Creek Dock Extension & Bathhouse and the Downtown Dredging projects as the recommended projects to pursue for FIND funding. He explained the Downtown Dredging project, stating that seven sites along the St. Johns River need to be dredged to a depth of at least -7 feet to provide better access. The seven sites include the mouth of the Arlington River, A. Philip Randolph Dock, St. Johns Marina Boat Ramp, Friendship Fountain Dock, Riverplace Tower Dock, Dinner Cruise Dock, and Chart House Dock. He said that the dredging should enable reliable access for about 20 years.

Mr. Hartley asked for clarification on how the remaining funding for the project would be covered. Mr. Burket explained that they would request \$1.5 million in FIND funding, with a match, bringing the total to \$3 million. He also described the Council approval process, which would involve amending the CIP to allow for appropriation of the match dollars.

Mr. Hoyles asked if there were still plans to turn the Metro Park Marina into a marsh. Mr. Burket stated that they removed it from the project to accommodate other parts of the plan.

Mr. Burket then moved on to explain the Sisters Creek project. He stated that a bathhouse will be constructed in the area east of the ramp, along with parking spaces for transient boaters. He also said there will be a sidewalk system and a wooden boardwalk that will terminate with a gangway to the floating docks. He added that the floating docks underwent significant debate and review by regulatory agencies to prevent silting. He said the price tag for all the work is \$6.4 million, and after deducting the amount of FIND dollars to be used for Downtown Dredging, \$1.25 million remains. Because of this, not all components of the project can be built. He recommended phasing construction and moving forward with requesting funding for design. He stated the dock alone is \$5 million. He also suggested building the bathhouse, sidewalk, and access pier with an observation point, with the remaining components phased in over time.

Mr. Burket explained that the bathhouse would include laundry facilities, showers, and a lounge area.

He also stated that he anticipated returning to the FIND Subcommittee next year to recommend requesting funding to complete the project.

Chair Barker asked what the demand for this project was. Mr. Suber stated that demand was high because it is on the Intracoastal Waterway, would be free, have fresh water, and would be first-come, first-served. He also noted its location between other stopping points, further away, as in demand. He also anticipated high usage for fishing tournaments.

Chair Barker asked if either Mr. Burket or Mr. Suber was involved in locating the facility. Mr. Burket stated they were part of those conversations, adding that the design team created options to consider. Mr. Suber said that boat sizes were considered when designing the facility.

Mr. Hoyles asked whether there would be access to water and electricity for the boats. Mr. Burket said spigots would be available, but that there would not be water at each boat slip. He added that it was a docking station, and to provide more services, they would have to charge a fee, for which there is no operational capacity. Mr. Hoyles suggested that having electricity would be beneficial from an environmental perspective and that remote access capabilities could reduce the administrative burden of providing electricity at the facility. Mr. Suber stated that it could be an objective in the future. He also indicated that Big P grant funding could be an option to consider.

Mr. Hoyles asked if Mr. Suber and Mr. Burket were aware of the condition of the J. Carlucci bathroom. Mr. Burket stated that bathrooms are always a concern. He added that the Waterways Special District would address it, but funds were redirected to the construction of a fishing pier. Mr. Suber added that cleaning services were contracted out.

Mr. Burket stated they would request \$1.25 million for the Sisters Creek project, with total costs equaling \$2.75 million. Mr. Hartley asked if FIND funds could be used for acquisitions. Mr. Burket stated that it comes from the same pot of money, but the money doesn't go as far for acquisitions. He said there were other grants and programs with better matches. He stated that the Dredging and Sisters Creek projects add up to the soft cap of funding from FIND. He added that it is always a good idea to have one design project each year to always have something moving forward. He said that because they have never received pushback on their requests, he recommended having a backup design project. He suggested the TK Stokes Bulkhead replacement project because they would only request \$125,000.

Chair Barker questioned whether CBA projects will need FIND money for stadium waterfront-related projects. He stated that the Metro Park project includes a dock replacement, for which the design will be funded through the CBA. Jill Enz, Parks Department, added that there is a lot of private development along the river, such as River's Edge.

Mr. Burkett explained the TK Stokes project, stating that it was not large, but the ramp was used. He continued, stating that they wanted to maintain a standard across the City.

3. Prioritize and Rank Projects

The subcommittee moved to recommend requesting FIND funding for the following projects, from highest to lowest priority: Downtown Dredging, Sisters Creek, and TK Stokes Bulkhead Replacement. The motion was approved 3-0.

4. Public Comment

John Nooney thanked the members for keeping Pottsburg Creek acquisition on the recommended list of projects. He also spoke about 2025-0522, and asked if electric vehicle charging stations could be sources of revenue.

5. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned: 2:56 p.m.

Pursuant to the American with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted; but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.

Minutes: Brandon Russell, Council Research

brussell@coj.net, (904) 255-5137

Posted: 10/29/25, 1:49 p.m.

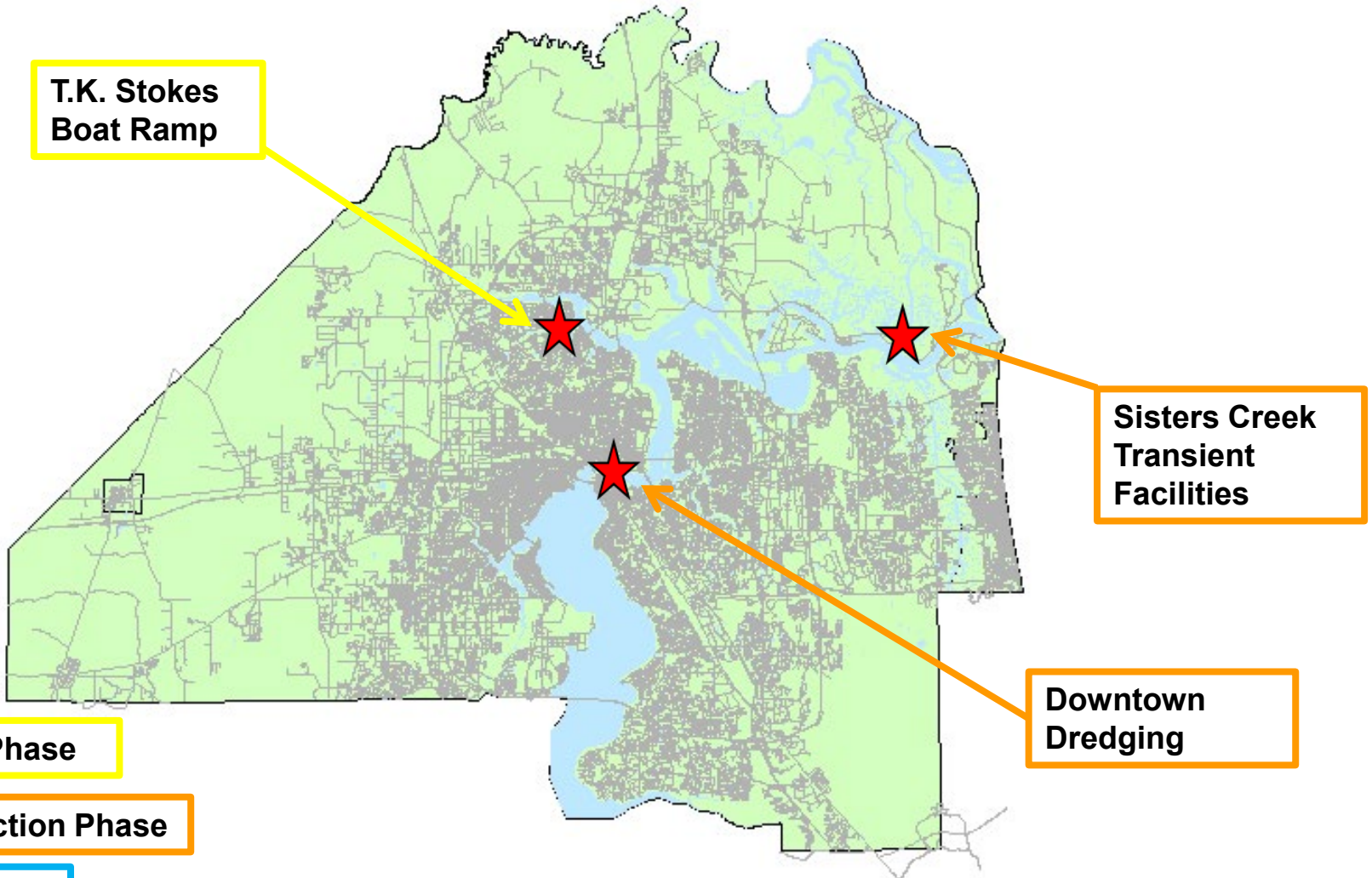


2026

Florida Inland Navigation District Proposed Applications



Location of 2026 Proposed FIND Projects

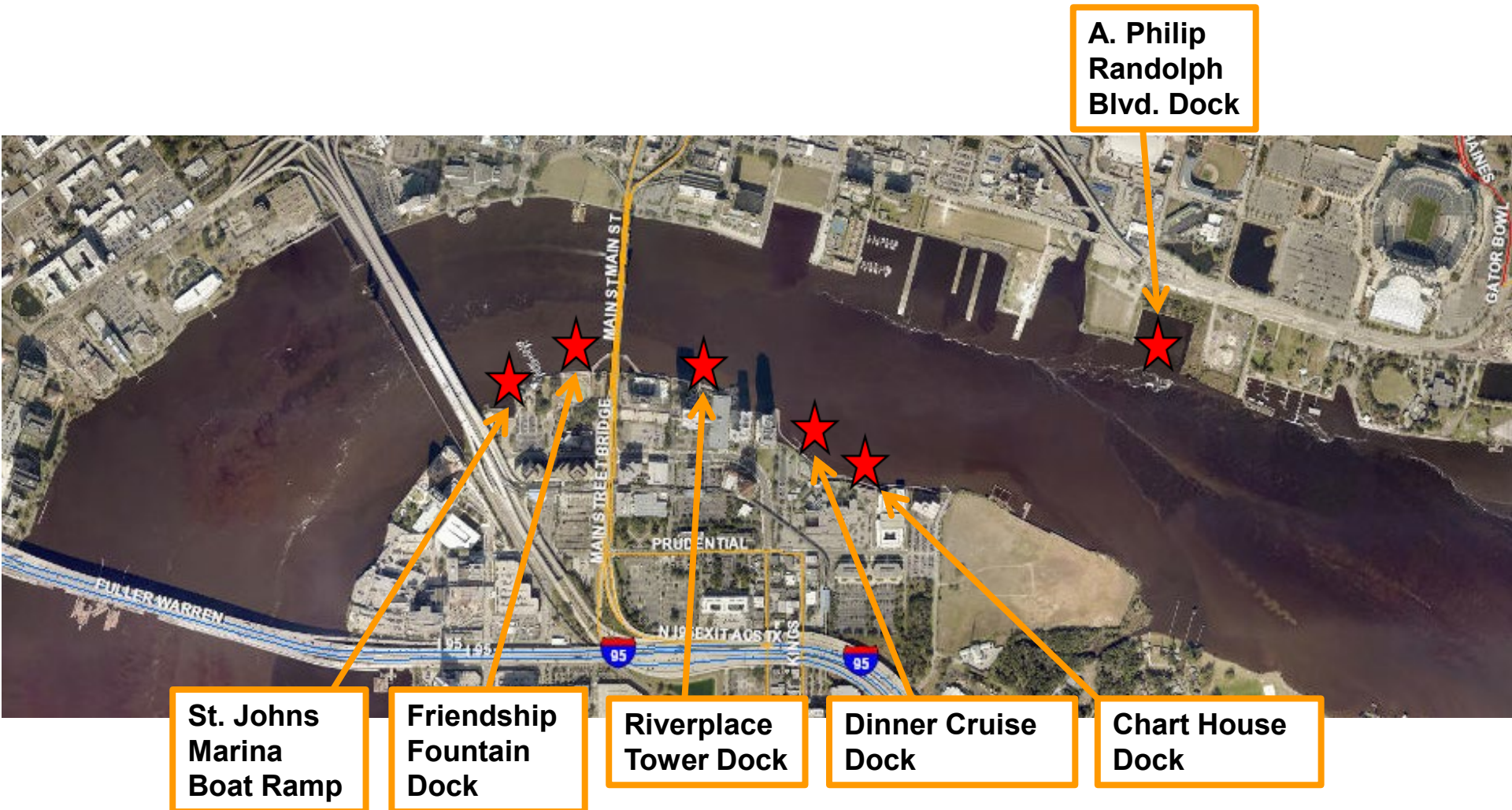


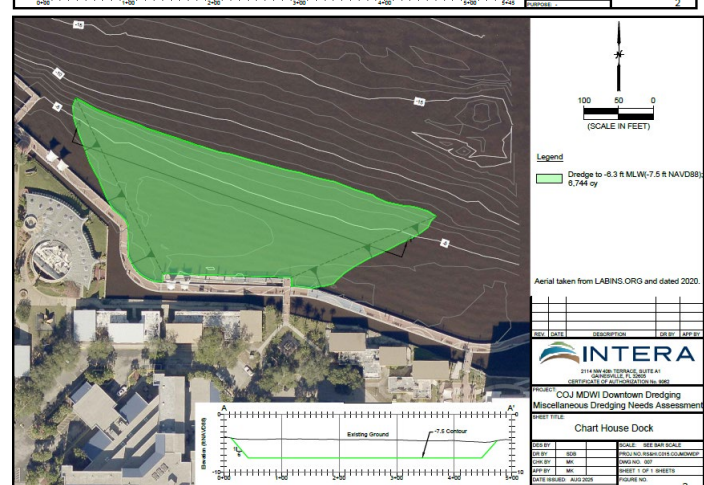
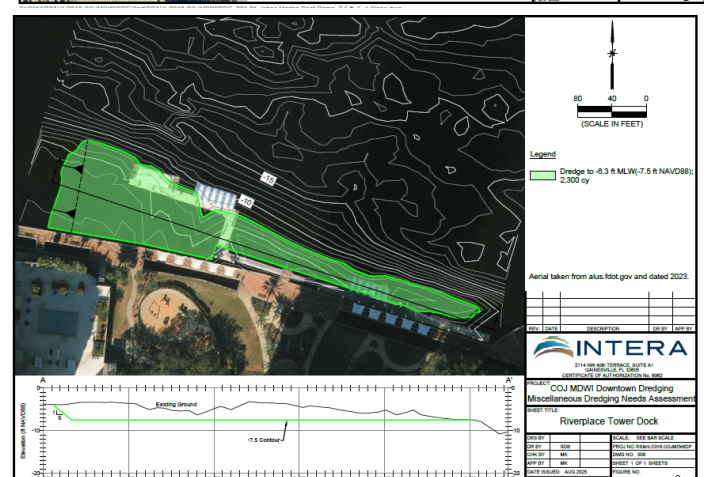
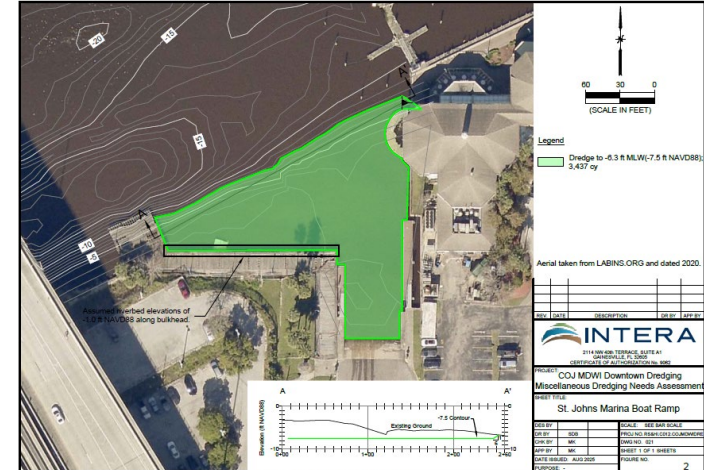
Downtown Dredging

Council District: 1, 5 & 7

Cost: \$3,355,000

Scope: Dredge around 7 public docks and boat ramps & mouth of Arlington River





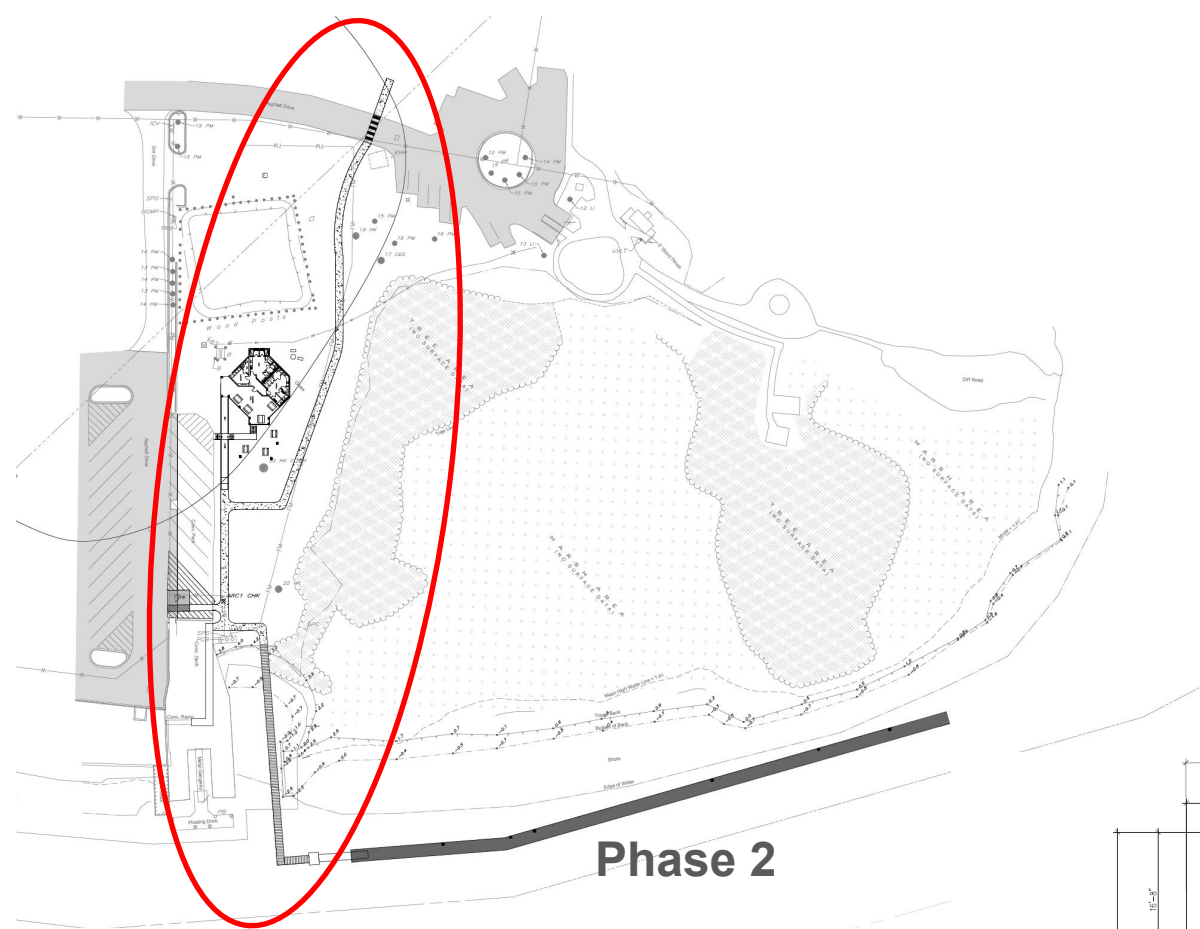
Sisters Creek Transient Facilities

Council District: 2

Cost: \$2,750,000

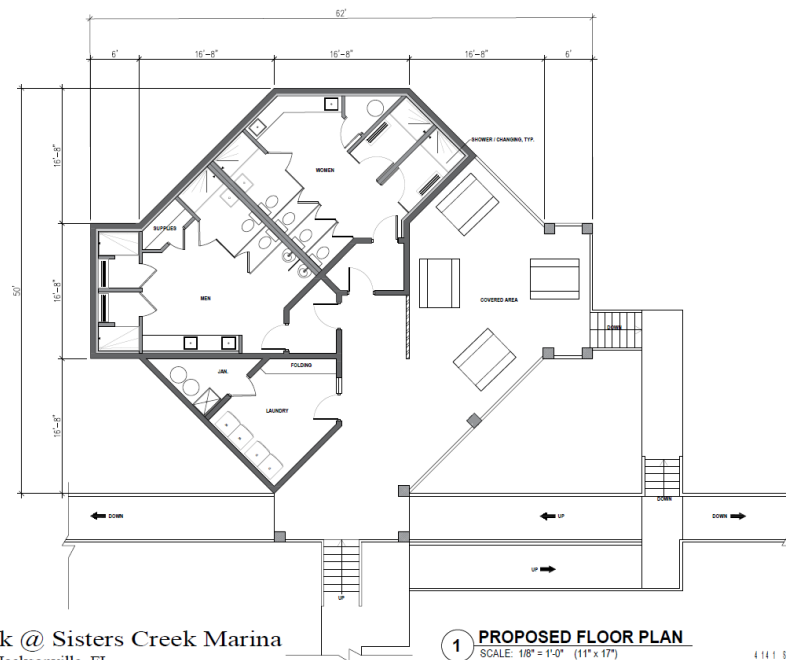
Scope: Construct phase 1 of project - bathhouse for transient boaters & access pier that will connect to future Phase 2 floating docks





Phase 1

Phase 2



Jim King Park @ Sisters Creek Marina
8203 Heckscher Dr, Jacksonville, FL

1 PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" (11" x 17")

4441 SOUTH JACKSON

T.K. Stokes Boat Ramp

Council District: 2

Scope: Design/permit replacement of bulkhead & dock

Cost: \$275,000



Proposed 2026 FIND Grant Projects - Recommended by Waterways Subcommittee 10/22/25

Project	Council District	Suggested By	Project Type	Scope	FIND Cost	COJ Cost*	Total Estimated Cost
Downtown Dredging	1, 5, 7	Current Project	Construction	Dredge at seven public docking and boat ramp sites in the downtown area.	\$1,525,000	\$1,830,000	\$3,355,000
Sisters Creek Dock Extension & Bathhouse	2	Current Project	Construction (Phase 1)	Construct a bathhouse for transient boaters and access pier to Phase 2 floating docks.	\$1,250,000	\$1,500,000	\$2,750,000
T.K. Stokes Boat Ramp Bulkhead	10	Staff	Design	Design/permit replacement of bulkhead and floating dock	\$125,000	\$150,000	\$275,000
Totals					\$2,900,000	\$3,480,000	\$6,380,000

* COJ costs includes 10% for PW internal management fees - FIND will not reimburse these costs.