



Public Meeting: Planned Improvements for Gene Sewell Park
Thursday, September 4, 2025 | 9:30 AM
Courthouse Annex Commission Room – 34 Forbes Street, Apalachicola, Florida

Franklin County is applying for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)!

What is FRDAP?

The Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program provides funding to local governments to develop or improve public outdoor recreation areas, helping communities create safe and enjoyable spaces for residents and visitors.

Funding Details:

- Projects are capped at \$200,000
 - Franklin County qualifies for waived matching requirements, making this an outstanding opportunity to invest in our local parks
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Gene Sewell Park: What's the Plan?

Franklin County acquired the lot for Gene Sewell Park in 2000. Since then, it has served as a flexible open space for community use, located directly across from Lanark Village Chillas Hall. The park currently offers picnic tables, a grill for outdoor dining, and a dog-walking station maintained by Lanark volunteers.

Lanark Village is a retirement-oriented community, with at least 80% of households including residents age 55 or older. Franklin County aims to provide recreational opportunities that meet the interests of this senior population. Pickleball is a perfect fit, offering low-impact exercise, social interaction, and fun for older adults, while still welcoming players of all ages.

The County is focusing on improvements that will make Gene Sewell Park a vibrant, community-centered recreation destination.

Current FRDAP Application:

For this FRDAP grant cycle, Franklin County is applying for:

- A full-sized pickleball court with high fencing
- A 10' x 10' shaded picnic pavilion designed to support active play, social gatherings, and overall enjoyment of the park

This funding opportunity is a key step toward transforming Gene Sewell Park into a welcoming hub for recreation, play, and community events for residents of all ages, with a particular focus on senior-friendly activities.

Community Support Matters!

Your input is essential! We want these improvements to reflect the needs and priorities of the Lanark Village community. If you have questions, suggestions, or ideas for future enhancements, please contact:

Bree Robinson, County Planner

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