

TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

155 F. ROAD, LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FL 33470

ROADWAY, EQUESTRIAN TRAILS & GREENWAY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

JULY 16, 2026 – 5:00 PM



Frank Schiola (Seat 4) Chair

Ashley Bruce (Seat 5), Vice Chair

Katie Lakeman (Seat 1), Member

Jodi Jansen (Seat 2), Member

Darcy Dean Murray (Seat 3), Member

Administration

Board Liaison: Craig Lower, Public Works Superintendent

Board Clerk: Camila Infante, Public Works Coordinator

Civility: Being "civil" is not a restraint on the First Amendment right to speak out, but it is more than just being polite. Civility is stating your opinions and beliefs, without degrading someone else in the process. Civility requires a person to respect other people's opinions and beliefs even if he or she strongly disagrees. It is finding a common ground for dialogue with others. It is being patient, graceful, and having a strong character. That is why we say "Character Counts" in Town of Loxahatchee. Civility is practiced at all Town meetings.

Special Needs: In accordance with the provisions of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons in need of a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding shall within three business days prior to any proceeding, contact the Town Clerk's Office, 155 F Road, Loxahatchee Groves, Florida, (561) 793-2418.

Quasi-Judicial Hearings: Some of the matters on the agenda may be "quasi-judicial" in nature. Town Council Members are required to disclose all ex-parte communications regarding these items and are subject to voir dire (a preliminary examination of a witness or a juror by a judge or council) by any affected party regarding those communications. All witnesses testifying will be "sworn" prior to their testimony. However, the public is permitted to comment, without being sworn. Unsworn comment will be given its appropriate weight by the Town Council.

Appeal of Decision: If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Town Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, he or she will need a record of the proceeding, and for that purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes any testimony and evidence upon which the appeal will be based.

Consent Calendar: Those matters included under the Consent Calendar are typically self-explanatory, non controversial, and are not expected to require review or discussion. All items will be enacted by a single motion. If discussion on an item is desired, any Town Council Member, without a motion, may "pull" or remove the item to be considered separately. If any item is quasi-judicial, it may be removed from the Consent Calendar to be heard separately, by a Town Council Member, or by any member of the public desiring it to be heard, without a motion.

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND/OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- [1.](#) 06/25/2026 - Roadway, Equestrian Trails and Greenway Advisory Committee Minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The meeting will be live-streamed and close-captioned for the general public via our website, instructions are posted there. There is a 3 minute limit per person.

REGULAR AGENDA

- [2.](#) Discussion Regarding Pillars of Strategic Planning.
- [3.](#) Discussion on Names for Town's Trail System.
- [4.](#) Updates on Loxahatchee Groves Park Initiative and Ongoing Trail Connectivity Efforts.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Katie Lakeman (Seat 1), Committee Member

Jodi Jansen (Seat 2), Committee Member

Darcy Dean Murray (Seat 3), Committee Member

Ashley Bruce (Seat 5), Vice Chair

Frank Schiola (Seat 4), Chair

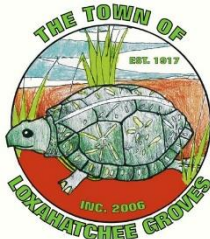
CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT MEETING DATE

ADJOURNMENT

TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
155 F. ROAD, LOXAHATCHEE GROVES, FL 33470

ROADWAY, EQUESTRIAN TRAILS AND GREENWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES JUNE 25, 2026 – 5:07 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.



Meeting Audio Available Upon Request in the Office of the Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

The Roadway, Equestrian Trails and Greenway Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 5:07 P.M. by Committee Chairperson Frank Schiola.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Committee began the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Chairperson Schiola.

ROLL CALL

Present Members:

- **Frank Schiola, Chairperson**
- **Katie Lakeman, Committee Member**
- **Jodi Jansen, Committee Member**
- **Darcy Dean Murray, Committee Member**
- **Ashley Bruce, Committee Member (via Zoom)**

Present Staff:

- **Craig Lower, Public Works Director**
- **Gabriella Croasdaile, Assistant to the Town Clerk**
- **Camila Infante, Public Works Coordinator**

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND/OR MODIFICATION TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions, deletion or modifications to the agenda.

**MOTION: COMMITTEE MEMBER LAKEMAN/ COMMITTEE MEMBER JANSEN
MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES

1. 05/21/2026 – Roadway, Equestrian Trail & Greenway Committee Minutes

**MOTION: COMMITTEE MEMBER JANSEN/ COMMITTEE MEMBER LAKEMAN
MOVED TO APPROVE THE 05/21/2026 MINUTES. MOTION PASSED
(5-0).**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments at this meeting.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Swearing In of Ashley Bruce

Gabriella Croasdaile, Assistant to the Town Clerk, swore in Committee Member Bruce via Zoom.

3. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

**MOTION: COMMITTEE MEMBER LAKEMAN/ COMMITTEE MEMBER BRUCE
MOVED TO APPOINT FRANK SCHIOLA AS CHAIR AND ASHLEY
BRUCE AS VICE CHAIR. MOTION PASSED (5- 0)**

4. Discussion Regarding Pillars of Strategic Planning

- The Committee discussed transportation and public safety initiatives, including the importance of maintaining trees within Town right-of-way to prevent roadway overgrowth. Members also discussed the potential installation of horse crossing warning lights at the intersections of B Road and Okeechobee Boulevard and D Road and Okeechobee Boulevard.

Craig Lower, Public Works Director, provided updates on several transportation and infrastructure projects, including planned improvements to the C Road and Collecting Canal crossings, and the installation of rapid flashing beacons near B Road, behind the Publix Works facility at D Road and Tangerine Boulevard. He also provided updates regarding: the planned maintenance of the North Road Trail, following completion of current construction projects; ongoing canal cleaning efforts; and evaluation of a possible traffic signal at the intersection of “Blind Curve” or “Blind Drive” and warning signs in appropriate locations.

- The Committee discussed opportunities for the Town to acquire additional easements to support future infrastructure and community needs. Members also discussed encouraging developers to dedicate easements during the development review process as a means of expanding the Town's easement network when appropriate.
- The Committee discussed the potential repurpose of portions of Loxahatchee Groves Park for equestrian use, while maintaining County ownership of the property. Members discussed the opportunity to develop a multipurpose equestrian facility capable of accommodating various riding disciplines and noted that such improvements could strengthen community involvement. The Committee referenced Nicole Hornstein Park as an example of a simple, functional equestrian facility, utilizing basic panel fencing. The Committee also discussed the importance of providing regular updates on the Loxahatchee Groves Park initiative and the ongoing trail connectivity project during future committee meetings.

Public Works Director Craig Lower stated that he would contact County staff to discuss potential improvements and future use of the park.

- The Committee discussed preserving the Town's rural character through future planning initiatives. Members emphasized limiting industrial and largescale commercial development while encouraging locally owned businesses and boutique-style establishments. The discussion also included discouraging franchise development and maintaining the Town's small-town character by minimizing future expansion.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS

Vice Chair Ashley Bruce mentioned putting together a mockup to be discussed at the Workshop on July 21st. Ashley requested that future committee agendas include continued updates on the Loxahatchee Groves Park initiative and ongoing trail connectivity efforts.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEXT MEETING DATE

The Committee decided that the next meeting would be on July 16th at 5:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Frank Schiola moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 P.M. Committee Member Lakeman seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Frank Schiola, Roadway, Equestrian Trails
and Greenway Advisory Committee
Chairperson

Camila Infante,
Public Works Coordinator



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
ROADWAY, EQUESTRIAN TRAILS & GREENWAY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM**

Item 2.

TO: Roadway, Equestrian Trails & Greenway Advisory Committee
FROM: Valerie Oakes, Acting Town Manager
DATE: July 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Pillars of Strategic Planning

Legal Sufficiency: N/A

Background:

Per the Town Council's direction, the Town's Boards and Committees have been tasked with participating in a strategic visioning initiative focused on defining the Town's rural character, identifying strategic pillars that support the overarching goals of preserving quality of life and protecting resident property values, and developing concepts and initiatives that promote and encourage those objectives.

The proposed worksheet is intended to facilitate meaningful discussion and constructive feedback regarding the future of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Defining what the term "rural" means within the context of the community;
- Identifying strategic pillars that support quality of life, community identity, and protection of resident property values;
- Encouraging concepts, initiatives, and long-term planning efforts that preserve and promote the Town's rural character and overall community vision;
- Identifying priorities, projects, and initiatives Boards and Committees would like the Town Council to consider for future planning, policy direction, and implementation; and
- Establishing a more unified and collaborative strategic planning framework among Boards, Committees, staff, and the Town Council.

The worksheet is intended to serve as a planning and discussion tool and may assist in identifying common themes, community priorities, and long-term strategic goals for the future of Loxahatchee Groves.

Recommendation/Motion:

Discuss the worksheet between the committee liaison and chair for presentation to Town Council at the July 21 Workshop meeting.

Attachments: Strategic Planning Worksheet

TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

Strategic Visioning & Priorities Worksheet

PURPOSE

The purpose of this worksheet is to assist the Town Council, advisory boards, and committees in identifying priorities, initiatives, and long-term goals for the future of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves. This exercise is intended to promote collaborative planning efforts focused on preserving the Town's unique rural character and enhancing overall quality of life for current and future generations.

SECTION 1 — DEFINING “RURAL” IN LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

In your opinion, what does the term “rural” mean within the context of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves?

Consider: community identity, agriculture and equestrian lifestyle, open space preservation, roadway character, environmental preservation, density, and community values.

Response:

SECTION 2 — STRATEGIC PILLARS

Identify three (3) to four (4) major strategic pillars that support the Town's overall vision, quality of life, and protection of resident property values.

Examples: Rural Preservation, Infrastructure & Drainage, Public Safety, Community Engagement, Agriculture & Equestrian Support, and Government Transparency.

Response:

SECTION 3 — COMMUNITY CONCEPTS & INITIATIVES

Identify one (1) to two (2) concepts, programs, initiatives, or ideas that could help promote or encourage the strategic pillars identified above.

Examples may include, equestrian trail systems, agricultural education, agritourism branding, historic preservation initiatives, or community events.

Concept / Initiative #1:

Concept / Initiative #2:

SECTION 4 — BOARD PRIORITIES & REQUESTS TO TOWN COUNCIL

Please identify projects, initiatives, policies, or priorities that your board or committee believes should be requested of the Town Council for consideration.

Priority Requests:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

SECTION 5 — ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR IDEAS

Please provide any additional comments, recommendations, concerns, or ideas related to the future of Loxahatchee Groves.

SUBMITTED BY

Board/Committee:

Name:

Date:



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
ROADWAY, EQUESTRIAN TRAILS & GREENWAY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM**

Item 3.

TO: Roadway, Equestrian Trails & Greenway Advisory Committee
FROM: Valerie Oakes, Acting Town Manager
DATE: July 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Discussion on Names for Town's Trail System

Legal Sufficiency: N/A

Background:

During previous RETGAC meetings, the Committee discussed the importance of establishing a unified naming convention for the Town's trail system to promote consistency, improve wayfinding, and strengthen the identity of Loxahatchee Groves Trail network. Committee members also discussed prioritizing connectivity between trail segments and developing a recognizable trail system throughout the Town.

Committee member Jodi Jasen submitted recommendations suggesting that all trail segments operate under one unified trail system while assigning individual names to each trail based on its corresponding roadway or surrounding characteristics. Suggested system names included Loxahatchee Groves Trails, The Groves Trail and Turtle Trails in the Groves.

Additonal recommendations include assigning unique names to the letters road trails, such as:

- A – Anhinga Accessway
- B – Bobcat Bridle Path
- C – Cowboy Crossing
- D – dusty Drive Trail
- E – Equestrian Preserve Parkway
- F – Foundation Footpath
- Folsom – Frontier Fence Line Trail
- G – Groves Golf-side Greenway.

The Committee discussed the need to determine whether trail segments should be designated as multi- use trails or equestrian trails where appropriate.

Recommendation/Motion:

Discuss the proposed trail naming convention and provide staff with direction regarding the development of a standardized naming system for the Town's trail network, including trail classifications and future signage.



**TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES
ROADWAY, EQUESTRIAN TRAILS & GREENWAY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM**

Item 4.

TO: Roadway, Equestrian Trails & Greenway Advisory Committee
FROM: Valerie Oakes, Acting Town Manager
DATE: July 16, 2026
SUBJECT: Updates on Loxahatchee Groves Park Initiative and Ongoing Trail Connectivity Efforts.

Legal Sufficiency: N/A

Background:

At the Committee's request, staff contacted Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation regarding the status of the proposed improvements to Loxahatchee Groves Park and the continued development of equestrian facilities.

The county has advised that the proposed Loxahatchee Groves Park project is currently pending funding and has been included on the Palm Beach County Parks Bond Capital Improvement Project List. The proposed General Obligation Park Bonds is scheduled to be presented to voters on November 3, 2026.

If the Park Bond referendum is approved by a majority of voters, the project will advance into the design phase. This phase will include coordination with the Town of Loxahatchee Groves and opportunities for public input regarding the park's design and proposed improvements. If the referendum is not approved, the project will remain deferred until funding becomes available.

The Committee has also expressed continued interest in expanding trail connectivity throughout the Town. Staff will continue to monitor developments related to both the Loxahatchee Groves Park initiative and future trail connectivity opportunities and will provide updates as new information becomes available.

There is no fiscal impact on the Town associated with this update.

Recommendation:

Receive and file the update regarding the Loxahatchee Groves Park Initiative and ongoing trail connectivity efforts. Provide any additional directions for staff, if desired.