Project Highlights

- Supports State of Florida investment in the America’s First Christmas site as a tourist destination.

- In 1987, artifacts were unearthed that confirmed the location of Hernando De Soto’s winter encampment and, thus, the location of the first Christmas in the Americas.

- Celebrates the entrance to the site with a gateway feature in the public right of way.

- Enhances pedestrian and bicycle access with sidewalks, landscaping, and crosswalks.

- Estimated cost: $500,000

With the development of this site, Tallahassee can become a nationally promoted tourist destination for those wishing to commemorate the location of the first Christmas in the Americas. The De Soto Winter Encampment is located off Lafayette Street, east of Cascades Park. The site, which also includes the historic Governor John W. Martin House, is owned by the State of Florida. However, the City and County are best suited for developing the surrounding transportation infrastructure, such as adding additional sidewalks and other access improvements for nearby Goodbody Lane.