

# LOWES Community Impact Project Nomination Form

First Name- **Casey**

Last Name- **Stepp**

Email Address - **cstepp@co.hernando.fl.us**

Phone Number- **352-754-4020 EXT 24161**

Are you atleast 21 years old? - **yes**

I understand that Lowes community impact projects are meant for local nonprofits, schools or cities/municipalities? (drop down)- **yes**

What type of organization are you nominating? - **City/Municipality**

Name of Organization you are nominating?

**Hernando County Board of County Commissioners**

Nonprofit Contact Details

Contact Name – **Casey Stepp**

Phone Number – **352-754-4020 EXT 24161**

Email Address – **cstepp@co.hernando.fl.us**

EIN Number - **59-1155275**

Address - **15470 Flight Path Drive**

City - **Brooksville**

State - **FL**

Zip Code - **34604**

Tell us about the project you are nominating

Where is the project located? **6799 Pinehurst Dr, Spring Hill FL 34606**

Please estimate the distance between this project and the nearest Lowe's store? - **0-10 miles**

Describe the space you are proposing to improve and the work to be completed as a part of the renovation? (250 words)

**Pioneer Park (Stewy's Skate Park) is a 7-acre park located in Spring Hill, Florida offering many standard amenities to the community but is also home to the County's only public skate park serving as a popular destination for youth, families and visitors seeking outdoor recreation. Stewy's Skate Park was first dedicated in 2003, following the 2001 death of Stewart Abramowicz, a skateboard enthusiast who was struck by a car while skateboarding on the street. This park has had many community beautification projects over the years with participation from Stewy's family and the community youth. The area includes a concrete skating surface with ramps and features designed for skateboards and scooters, as well as surrounding open space that supports spectators, families, and community gatherings. Since opening in 2003, the facility has experienced consistent use and has become a valued recreational hub for residents throughout the county. The proposed project is for the replacement of the skate ramps, pavilions/shade structures, and beautification with Florida friendly landscaping to include site clean-up, mulching, and the organization of community volunteer events to assist with planting and beautification activities. While the skating surface continues to function well, the surrounding environment would benefit from beautification and improvements that enhance the overall experience for visitors and appeal to all ages. The County plans on future improvements to include the addition of new amenities to the skate park including BMX Track, Tot bike track, Walking Trail, pavilions.**

How will this Lowe's Community Impact Grant be used? (drop down)

**Grant will provide funding but additional funding will still be needed to complete project**

Address - **6799 Pinehurst Dr**

City - **Spring Hill**

State - **FL**

Zip Code - **34606**

What is the Closest Lowe's Store to this project location? **Store # 1605 4780 Commercial Way Spring Hill FL**

Why is this project you're nominating important and how will it make a long-term difference in the community? (250 words)

**Pioneer Park is home to the only public skate park in Hernando County, making it an important recreational resource for youth and families across the community. This project is important because it will enhance a facility that has served residents for more than two decades while ensuring it remains a welcoming, safe, and attractive space for future generations. Since opening in 2003, the skate park has become a place where young people can stay active, develop skills, and build friendships in a positive outdoor environment. The replacement of the skate ramps will continue to allow for a safe place for recreational skateboarding in Hernando County.**

**The proposed project will also focus on beautifying the park through the installation of Florida-friendly landscaping, improved green spaces, and volunteer-driven enhancements. Through engaging community members in the beautification process, the project will also foster a sense of ownership and pride in the park while strengthening connections among residents.**

**The long-term difference created by this project will extend beyond aesthetics. Enhancing the park environment will encourage greater use of the facility, promote outdoor recreation, and provide a safe space for youth to gather and remain physically active. Investing in the appearance and sustainability of the park also helps ensure that the skate park continues to be a valued community asset. Ultimately, this project will preserve an important recreational destination while strengthening community pride and improving quality of life for residents throughout Hernando County.**

What is the inspiration behind this project? Why is this project important to you? (250 words)

**The inspiration behind this project comes from the lasting impact Stewys' Skate Park at Pioneer Park has had on generations of residents in Hernando County. Since opening in 2003, more than a recreational amenity, it has become a gathering place where young people develop skills, build confidence, and form lasting friendships in a safe and supportive environment. Many individuals who first learned to skateboard there as teenagers now return as adults with their own children, sharing the same passion for skateboarding and outdoor recreation that shaped their youth. This project will allow the County to preserve this community resource and to continue to provide a lasting legacy for Stewy and his family.**

**As the only public skate park in the county, the facility remains an important outlet for youth recreation, physical activity, and positive social interaction. After more than two**

decades of regular use, however, the surrounding park environment would benefit from improvements that help maintain its welcoming and attractive character. By enhancing the area with Florida-friendly landscaping and organizing community volunteer beautification events, the project will reinforce the park's role as a welcoming gathering space.

This effort is important because it reflects a commitment to investing in spaces that unite residents and positively influence young lives. The skate park represents community pride, active lifestyles, and the importance of public spaces that support youth development. Improving and beautifying the park will help ensure future generations continue to experience the same sense of recreation, connection, and community pride.

What is the current status of this project? (drop down)- **Not started**

Can the project be completed between August 7-December 15, 2026? (drop down) - **Yes**

What Grant Amount is requested? (drop down) - **\$200,000**

How did you first hear about Lowe's Community Impact Grant Program? - **Press Release**