

# 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? **Coach Lorenzo Hamilton Sr. Park**

**899 Kennedy Blvd, Brooksville FL 34601**

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)

**Coach Lorenzo Hamilton Sr. Park is a 25-acre community park located along State Road 50 within the city limits of Brooksville, Florida. The park serves as an important recreational and gathering space for residents and families throughout the surrounding community. At the heart of the park is the community center, a facility that provides space for youth programs, neighborhood meetings, recreational activities, and community events that bring people together.**

**The proposed project focuses on the interior renovation and exterior beautification of the park's community center to improve its functionality, safety, and overall appearance. Over time, the building has experienced normal wear and tear due to consistent use by the public. Renovations will include the replacement of aging ceiling tiles, installation of new durable flooring, and interior painting to refresh and modernize the space. These improvements will create a cleaner, brighter, and more welcoming environment for visitors, program participants, and community groups who regularly utilize the facility.**

**In addition to interior upgrades, the project will include exterior beautification efforts to enhance the visual appeal of the building and surrounding area. Improvements may include landscaping enhancements, site clean-up, and general aesthetic upgrades that will help the community center better reflect the pride and importance of the park within the community.**

**By investing in these renovations, the project will extend the life of the community center while creating a more functional and attractive space that supports community programs, gatherings, and recreational opportunities for residents for many years to come.**

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

**Grant Will Fund Entire Project**

Address - **899 Kennedy Blvd**

City - **Brooksville**

State - **FL**

Zip Code - **34601**

What is the Closest Lowe's Store to this project location? **Store # 1827 7117 Broad Street Brooksville, FL 34601**

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

**Coach Lorenzo Hamilton Sr. Park is a neighborhood park located in the South Brooksville area of Hernando County and has served as an important gathering place for the community for generations. The park has had a lasting multi-generational impact traversing segregation and integration, as many of today's community elders once played little league baseball there as children after Coach Hamilton established the Kennedy Park Little League for African American boys baseball and girls softball. For decades, families have returned to the park to watch their children and grandchildren participate in youth sports, strengthening a tradition of recreation, mentorship, and community pride.**

**In 2023, the park was renamed in honor of Coach Lorenzo Hamilton Sr., a respected teacher, football coach, and later principal at Springstead High School who dedicated his life to mentoring young people throughout Hernando County. Coach Hamilton helped establish the local little league program, expanding opportunities for youth to participate in organized sports and providing guidance that positively influenced generations of students and athletes. He is credited with bridging the gap during integration in Hernando County. Past mentees of Coach Hamilton's include local military veterans who rose to the rank of Colonel, Super Bowl athletes, members of clergy and other successful members of the community.**

**Renovating and preserving the community center building is important because it ensures the facility can continue serving residents, preserving its historical and community significance by extending its useful life as a vital gathering space to honor Coach Hamilton's legacy.**

What is the inspiration behind this project? Why is this project important to you?

**The inspiration behind this project comes from the continued commitment to preserving Coach Lorenzo Hamilton's contribution to the community and ensuring the Park remains a welcoming and functional space for residents of Hernando County. Over the past several years, the Parks and Recreation Department has made significant investments to enhance the park and expand recreational opportunities for the surrounding community. Recent improvements include the installation of a new ADA-accessible playground, upgraded scoreboards for youth sports fields, dugout roof replacements, facility painting, new lighting for the basketball courts, and a full reroofing of the community center building.**

With many of the exterior upgrades now complete, the next step is to focus on improving the interior of the community center building. While the structure itself has been improved through recent roof repairs, the interior spaces require updates to ensure the facility continues to meet the needs of the public. Renovations such as replacing aging ceiling tiles, installing new flooring, and refreshing the interior with paint will create a cleaner, brighter, and more welcoming environment for visitors.

This project is important because the community center serves as a valuable historic and public resource. The building is regularly used for weddings, family celebrations, meetings, and other community events. Maintaining and improving the interior of the facility ensures it remains a functional and attractive space that residents can rely on for years to come, further strengthening the park's role as a place where community connections are built and celebrated.

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)- **\$50,000**

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