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CITY of WINTER GARDEN TO CONDUCT RE-SURVEY of HISTORIC DISTRICTS

WINTER GARDEN, Fla. - The City of Winter Garden, in collaboration with the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation, has received a grant of \$20,000 from the Florida Department of State's Division of Cultural Resources to conduct a survey of structures located within Downtown Winter Garden's commercial and residential Historic Districts. A selection of sites located outside the designated districts will also be included.

The nationwide archeological consulting firm, PaleoWest has recently been selected to undertake this project, which will be completed by May 2021. Known as one of the premier archaeological firms in the country, PaleoWest has extensive experience with structure documentation including completing numerous cultural resource undertakings in compliance with both federal and state regulations.

"The strong focus on preserving the City's rich heritage is one of the main reasons why Winter Garden is the vibrant, dynamic community that exists to this day. This historic survey is one of the ways the City is taking a proactive approach to preservation, ensuring important historic structures are maintained and newer development is harmonious with the unique architectural traditions that have been established over time," said Kelly Carson, urban designer for the City of Winter Garden.

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While the survey is being conducted, the City and the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation will work with PaleoWest to chronicle and photograph the process. When completed, the survey will be presented in a public meeting to the City of Winter Garden's Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Board.

A photo exhibit will be created and displayed in the lobby of Winter Garden City Hall that will showcase the process and the contributing structures, along with historic images picturing the region's pioneer beginnings. While the exhibit is displayed, the City and the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation will host programs featuring industry experts presenting topics related to architectural history and historic preservation.

Growth and development plans for the area necessitate the need for this re-survey to update the information documented in a similar project completed in 1994. That initial survey of historic resources led to the creation of the Winter Garden Downtown Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Incorporated in 1908, Winter Garden spans 12.1 miles and is home to nearly 48,000 residents and over 2,000 businesses. Located on the southern shore of Lake Apopka, 20 minutes west of Orlando in Orange County, this former citrus town embodies a wealth of historical, cultural, and natural assets including a historic downtown and an award-winning bike trail. Winter Garden's unique combination of small-town appeal coupled with contemporary amenities makes it an ideal location to live and work. Its appeal and desirability has been recognized nationally, including a 2019 ranking by *Money Magazine* as one of the best places to live in America. To learn more, please visit [City of Winter Garden](#) and historic [Downtown Winter Garden](#).

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