

Feb. 1, 2010

Media contact: Mike Gippert, 941-861-7245; mdspartan@comcast.net

Project contact: Carolyn Brown, 941-861-9866; cell 941-650-5549; cbrown@scgov.net

Tour de Parks bike ride marks Legacy Trail anniversary

The anniversary of the opening of The Legacy Trail will be extra special this spring with the inaugural "Tour de Parks Bicycle Fun Ride" at 7 a.m. Sunday, March 28, at the Historic Venice Train Depot, 303 East Venice Ave., Venice.

Participants can choose between three different events: a 15-mile ride and family walk will leave the depot at 9 a.m., and for the more advanced riders a 35-mile or 65-mile ride, which will leave the depot at 8 a.m. Each route will take participants on a tour through some of Sarasota County's best natural areas and recreational parks.

All rides feature rest stops with snacks and include roadside assistance. A catered lunch will be served 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Venice Train Depot. Participants who register early are guaranteed to receive a complimentary t-shirt and water bottle. The cost to participate is \$35 with all proceeds benefiting the Friends of The Legacy Trail.

Participants will also receive a complimentary Tour de Parks raffle ticket with a chance to win prizes including a three-day, two-night stay at Palm Island Resort, a two-night stay at the Hampton Inn, dinner at Johnny Leverock's Restaurant, all in Cape Haze, and gifts from other local merchants. Raffle tickets will also be on sale for non-riders for \$5. Open to all ages, the Tour de Parks Bicycle Ride is an exciting recreational opportunity to experience a connection with nature and learn more about The Legacy Trail and the Sarasota County parks system.

Advance registration is available at <http://www.legacytrailfriends.org/html/tour.html>. On-site registration the day of the event begins at 7 a.m. with breakfast catered by First Watch Restaurant.

Opened in March 2008, The Legacy Trail attracts an estimated 100,000 walkers, joggers and cyclists each year. Stretching from Sarasota to Venice on a former railroad bed, the paved trail is one of the most popular attractions in Sarasota County.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000, visit www.scgov.net or <http://legacytrailfriends.org/html/tour.html>.

-end-