

March 11, 2009

Media contact: Curt Preisser, 941-861-5884; cell 941-650-2883; cpreisser@scgov.net

Project contact: John McCarthy, 941-861-9864; cell 941-915-1156; jfmccarthy@scgov.net

Share the legacy, share the fun March 28 on The Legacy Trail

Seldom do ideas grow so fast and with so much promise. On Saturday, March 28, Sarasota County and Friends of The Legacy Trail will mark the first anniversary of the largest recreation project ever constructed by Sarasota County, with a day of family fun along The Legacy Trail and at Oscar Scherer State Park in Osprey. The park will host events from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., with free admission.

During the celebration, an announcement is expected on the status of a project to replace the train trestles over Dona and Roberts Bays. Events scheduled for the day include a bike parade, historical re-enactments, a bike helmet giveaway, face painting, storytelling by children's author Kay Bannon and numerous educational exhibits.

"The Legacy Trail has become so much more than just a recreational amenity. It's a cultural connection between not only neighborhoods, but entire communities and even generations," said John McCarthy, general manager, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. "Four years ago, this trail was still a dream to a visionary few who believed they could carve out a place that reflects important parts of the county's heritage while creating a legacy for the future. It really does represent what makes Sarasota County such a great place."

The 10.6-mile Legacy Trail is comprised of a former CSX railroad corridor that was purchased by the county in December 2005 for \$11.75 million. Most of the railroad tracks on the 100-foot-wide corridor have since been replaced by smooth asphalt, and the trail now stretches from Palmer Ranch Parkway at its northern end to the Venice Train Depot in Venice. Populated with signs that depict the area's history, culture and natural resources, the trail has hosted thousands of walkers, joggers, bicyclists and rollerbladers over the past year.

The trail hosts 15 rest areas to stop and learn about its history or just enjoy the natural beauty surrounding the trail. In December, parking spaces were added at the Central County Utilities site on McIntosh Road just south of the intersection with Palmer Ranch Parkway. County officials hope the trail will eventually expand north through the city of Sarasota to University Parkway.

For more information about events surrounding the anniversary celebration of The Legacy Trail, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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