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Public meeting on Red Bug Slough restoration set for Oct. 15

A public meeting to gather input on a preliminary design of the Red Bug Slough restoration project will be held 5:30-7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 15, at Bee Ridge Park, 4430 S. Lockwood Ridge, Sarasota. Residents are invited to attend anytime during the meeting to review and comment on the conceptual plan.

Red Bug Slough, a 72-acre preserve at 5200 Beneva Road, currently offers visitors several miles of hiking trails, a small playground, picnic shelters and a fishing pier.

The restoration project is designed to improve water quality in the slough, increase the wildlife habitat, beautify the park through the installation of native plants, and create additional recreational opportunities. All existing trails will remain natural and be maintained.

Two other county construction projects are planned in the area, but are not part of the restoration of Red Bug Slough. A sidewalk constructed of pervious pavers is planned within the park as part of the Gulf Gate Neighborhood Enhancement project. Also, there are plans to construct a bathroom and improvements to the parking area near the current playground.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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