

March 27, 2008

The Legacy Trail officially opens Friday, March 28

The grand opening celebration of the paved recreational trail connecting Sarasota to Venice will be Friday, March 28. The daylong event will have three ribbon-cutting ceremonies:

- 10 a.m. at the intersection of Palmer Ranch Parkway and McIntosh Road.
- noon at Oscar Scherer State Park, 1843 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey – the official ribbon cutting ceremony.
- 5:30 p.m. at the southernmost trailhead, the Venice Train Depot, 303 E. Venice Ave., Venice.

The celebration will feature musical entertainment, historic portrayals, nature and kayak tours and a free brunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oscar Scherer State Park.

The Legacy Challenge, launching more than 200 bicyclists, joggers, walkers and in-line skaters, (need comma here) will kick off at the 10 a.m. ceremony. The Legacy Challenge offers trail enthusiasts the opportunity to travel as much of the 10.6-mile trail as possible, returning to Oscar Scherer State Park for brunch.

Free shuttle service will be provided along U.S. 41 to the seven trailheads. Passports will be handed out during the celebration and people who visit a trailhead can get their passports stamped. Participants who get all seven stamps and present the completed passport at the 5:30 p.m. ceremony at the Venice Train Depot will receive a limited edition of The Legacy Trail commemorative pin.

The grand opening is being coordinated by the Friends of The Legacy Trail, Sarasota County, Venice and Oscar Scherer State Park.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about The Legacy Trail grand opening or visit www.scgov.net/legacytrail.