

May 8, 2008

Sarasota County wants kids' input on how to build a playground

When it comes to playgrounds, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation isn't playing around; it is going straight to the experts on what a dream playground would look like.

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the community, is considering the development of an 11.6-acre park at the intersection of U.S. 41 and Taylor Ranch Trail in Venice. Deeded to the county by the Tuscano Group for use as a public park, this property will be designed with extensive community input for active recreation.

The Kid's Design Day event will be held 11 a.m.–noon, Saturday, May 17, at Woodmere Park, 3951 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice. Children ages 6 and up will be asked to provide their thoughts on what their dream playground would look like. In addition, the children will participate in several fun activities such as watching a slide show, drawing their dream playground, participating in a mural design and more. Participants will receive a certificate, a small gift, and a snack. There will also be a random drawing to win a free session of summer camp at Woodmere Park.

An initial survey by Parks and Recreation has resulted in several ideas about the types of facilities to offer at this park. The overwhelming desire of the community is for family-oriented amenities including large themed playground areas, a tree house, swings, picnic shelters, an adult fitness area, a tot lot and a concession area.

"Based on the initial survey we sent out, we know what the adults would like to see in the park. Now we want to know what the kids want, since after all, they are the ones who will be using the playground so they should have a say in what goes into it," said Parks and Recreation Manager Carolyn Brown.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about Tuscano Park.