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Media contact: Curt Preisser; 941-861-5883; cell 941-650-2883; cpreisser@scgov.net

Project contact: George Tatge; 941-316-1309; cell 941-915-1159; gtatge@scgov.net

New parking lot opens for north section of The Legacy Trail

Users of Sarasota County's The Legacy Trail can now park at the Central County Utilities site on McIntosh Road just south of the intersection with Palmer Ranch Parkway. The parking lot, with a capacity for 43 vehicles (41 regular spaces and 2 designated handicapped spaces), opened late last week.

Temporary signs marking the location on McIntosh Road, as well as explaining the rules, were installed today. Remaining true to the county's mission of sustainability, Parks and Recreation officials decided not to pave the parking lot. Instead, they adopted a "green parking" method that uses a pervious material that provides a firm foundation for vehicles while allowing grass to continue growing.

Users can access the northern leg of The Legacy Trail from the parking lot via a natural sod path. Persons with disabilities can access the trail from the parking lot via paved sidewalks along McIntosh Road and Palmer Ranch Parkway.

"With thousands of people using The Legacy Trail to walk, jog, bike or Rollerblade, the biggest problem we have had is keeping up with the demand for parking," said George Tatge, manager of beaches and natural areas.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about The Legacy Trail.

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