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Improved Siesta Beach concept plan to be unveiled

Sarasota County Parks and Recreation officials will unveil a draft concept plan for the improved Siesta Beach at a public meeting, 6 p.m., Thursday, March 19 at St. Boniface Episcopal Church, 5615 Midnight Pass Road, Sarasota.

Developed with extensive input from the community through a series of public meetings and workshops over the last three years, the plan incorporates many of the ideas supplied by residents. Planners from Parks and Recreation gathered public input on opportunities for recreational, scenic and environmental features. In addition, county staff also sought input from other stakeholders including Sarasota County Fire and Rescue Services, Sherriff's Office, Lifeguards, Coastal Resources and Public Works.

As a result, three preliminary draft conceptual plans were developed and debuted for the public last year. Working with the design firm of Glatting Jackson, county staff then held an internal meeting to develop one master concept plan, incorporating the feedback provided from the public and stakeholders. The revised concept plan was completed late last year.

"Siesta Beach is one of the finest beaches not only in Sarasota County, but the entire country," said Jessica Ritter, senior planner for Parks and Recreation. "It's one of our biggest attractions for visitors and also an immensely popular beach for local residents. A lot of time and effort has gone into this project and we are looking forward to sharing this plan with the community."

For more information on Siesta Beach or any other Sarasota County beaches, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net.