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Rothenbach Park to open with family picnic and events

The Sarasota County Commission and the Friends of Sarasota County Parks, along with Sarasota County Parks and Recreation staff, will host a family-style picnic, complete with hot dogs and hamburgers, to celebrate the grand opening of Rothenbach Park, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., Saturday, April 25. The park is located at 8750 Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota.

Rothenbach Park features some of the most advanced recycling and sustainable building techniques and materials available today, including soy-based spray insulation, high-reflective roofing materials, recycled content siding, waterless urinals, highly efficient compact fluorescent lighting, composite wood beams and an on-site stormwater retention and treatment system.

“When most people talk about recycling, they think of tossing paper or plastic into a blue bin. We’re very proud of the fact that we were able to take recycling to a whole new level and the end result is a beautiful new park that can be enjoyed by the entire community. This is really a trash-to-treasure success story,” said Parks and Recreation General Manager John McCarthy.

The site of a former county landfill, the 450-acre park now boasts two recreational trails, a playground, picnic pavilion, restrooms, concession area and one of the state’s largest solar arrays. After the landfill closed in 1998, county officials began talking about their vision of turning the former waste site into a premier example of recycling and sustainability.

Rothenbach Park is named for Walter J. Rothenbach Jr., a 40-year employee of Sarasota County who served as supervisor and director of Parks and Recreation from 1963 until 1998. He later became executive director of Community Services, overseeing Parks and Recreation, Cooperative Extension Services, Library Services and the History Center. In 2000, Rothenbach became deputy county administrator and served in that capacity until his retirement in 2003.

For more information on the Rothenbach Park grand opening, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net.

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