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Warm Mineral Springs survey closes Friday

For the last month North Port and Sarasota County officials have been hearing from the public on their vision for the future of the North Port attraction that features Florida's only naturally formed warm water mineral spring.

Residents and visitors from across Sarasota County have attended an open house at the Springs location, two public input sessions and submitted ideas online through both the county and city's web sites. "We received a lot of input from the community during the open house and two public meetings. Once the survey and Wiki close we'll combine those comments and suggestions with the survey results and start looking at the some possible scenarios going forward," said John McCarthy, Interim Director of Community Services for Sarasota County.

The public is encouraged to submit their ideas for the future of Warm Mineral Springs, 12200 San Servando Ave., North Port by Friday, Feb. 17, as the online survey and Wiki will close.

The next steps in the process include meetings of the Sarasota County Parks Advisory and Recreation Council, the City of North Port, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and a joint meeting between the North Port Commission and Sarasota County Commission, all in March. "We will pull all the raw data together from the surveys and comments and present it to each group and then let the city and county commissions provide direction to our staffs on how they would like to proceed," said Daniel Schult, North Port, Assistant City Manager.

The City of North Port and Sarasota County purchased Warm Mineral Springs in late 2010 to preserve a natural and historical destination that is visited by more than 80,000 people each year. The spring contains 9-million gallons of fresh water that replenishes itself every two hours, stays at a constant 87 degrees and has the highest mineral content of any natural spring in the United States.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000, visit www.scgov.net or www.cityofnorthport.com.

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