

# NOKOMIS CENTER REVITALIZATION

**Project:** WATERWAY DREDGING AND IMPROVEMENTS (RC-1)

**Project Type:** County and Community

## **Project and Background Description:**

Coordinate waterway dredging and improvements through the County's Waterways Advisory Group.

Area residents repeatedly expressed concerns about shallow navigational waters in Lyons Bay, Dona Bay, Shakett Creek, Roberts Bay and Curry Creek. Residents noted silt in the channels and finger canals, blocking boat access to the creeks. The West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) administers a navigational dredging program primarily to address public tidal waters. A County navigational dredging program is currently under development with the assistance of a technical advisor and the Waterways Advisory Group (WAG), which consists of agency and citizen representatives. Both the WCIND and the County refer to a 1998 Sea Grant Study by Dr. Antonini from the University of Florida in their respective programs. A Sarasota County Board of County Commissioner's workshop for the County Navigational Dredging Program is planned for the end of 2000 or early 2001. The County also has an ongoing dredging program to address stormwater drainage restrictions.

In 1999, the WCIND and the County dredged the Shakett Creek navigational channel to three and a half feet and moved the channel to the south at U.S. 41, providing access for appropriately sized boats. The bridges at U.S. 41 and the railroad trestles at Shakett and Curry Creeks are not high enough for boats with large drafts or super structures, but neither is the water deep enough for larger boats. These shallow channels accommodate 22' to 23' feet long boats at most, depending on their draft. The height of the U.S. 41 bridge over Shakett Creek will not be increased when the road is reconstructed in the near future. The height of the railroad trestle should be considered as part of any future rails to trails project.

## **Preliminary Cost Estimates:**

To be determined through the County's Navigational Dredging Program

## **Potential Funding Source(s):**

Public Improvement District, County Drainage Operations, West Coast Inland Navigation District

**Implementation Time Frame:** Mid to Long Term, five to ten years and beyond

## **Responsible Parties:**

Sarasota County Waterways Advisory Group, Public Works Operations

## **Steps Required to Implement:**

- Determine waterway dredging priorities in coordination with the County's Waterway Advisory Group.

## **Issues Requiring Further Analysis/Action:**

1. Nokomis residents want waterway projects to include stormwater quality improvements and marine habitat restoration.

