

NOKOMIS CENTER REVITALIZATION

Project: CURRY CREEK CANOE AND KAYAK ACCESS (RC-7)

Project Type: County Project

Project and Background Description:

Provide canoe and kayak access to Curry Creek at two locations – Nokomis Community Park and on Colonia Lane at Pinewood Avenue. Evaluate other areas for canoe/kayak access.

Nokomis Community Park provides direct public access to Curry Creek. County Parks and Recreation staff is developing plans for a canoe and kayak launch, possibly with concession for canoe rental or storage for private boats. The proposed site requires the removal of exotic vegetation along the water. Because the exiting parking lot is far from the proposed canoe launch area, a shell drive and turn-around from the parking area to launch site is recommended.

A County-owned parcel on Colonia Lane at Pinewood Avenue contains a retention pond, but should be evaluated for public access to Curry Creek. This property can be part of a canoe trail that leads further up (east) Curry Creek. A parking area should be added near the creek. The parcel is part of the Curry Creek Preserve that is being considered for purchase by the County using the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Protection Program (ESLPP). Other areas to consider for canoe/kayak access include: FDOT right-of-way on the east side of the Curry Creek bridge, just north of the County’s Venetia Bay Park; and Border Road at the Myakka River.

Preliminary Cost Estimates:

• Parking area along Colonia Lane (2@ \$900 per car)	\$ 1,800
• Launch area Colonia Lane	\$ 9,000
• Trail Signage and Permits (30 @ \$100 each)	\$ 3,000
• Interpretive and Educational Signs	\$13,000
• Trail Guide	\$ 6,000
<i>Total Estimated Cost</i>	<i>\$32,000</i>

Potential Funding Source(s): Florida Boating Improvement Program, National Parks Service Rivers and Trails Assistance Program

Implementation Time Frame: Short term, one to two years.

Responsible Parties:

Parks and Recreation, Resources Management, Stormwater/Public Works, Road Programs

Steps Required to Implement:

- Prepare area for canoe/kayak access on Curry Creek
- Locate suitable parking spaces at Colonia Lane
- Construct launching area at Colonia Lane/Curry Creek canal
- Add canoe trail signage

Issues Requiring Further Analysis/Action:

1. Develop canoe trail areas on Curry Creek.
2. Evaluate opportunities for coordination between Community Services Parks and Recreation and Public Works for maintenance of access areas.

