

NOKOMIS CENTER REVITALIZATION

Project: RAILS TO TRAILS ACCESS (RC-8)

Project Type: County Project

Project and Background Description:

Coordinate with the Nokomis and Laurel Community Parks and residents to locate access to the planned Rails to Trails project on the existing Seminole Gulf Railway corridor.

The County is in the process of negotiating the purchase of the railway corridor south from south of Clark Road for development of a recreational trail system. Once the purchase is concluded, the County will seek neighborhood input for determining the design elements of the trail. Probable trailhead locations include Nokomis Community Park, Laurel Community Park, and possibly the Venetia Bay Park. Elements under consideration include access from the Community Parks, waterway wooden overlooks on Shakett and Curry Creeks, trail crossings at Laurel Road and Colonia Lane, and access to Venetian Waterway Park.

Another access to the trail can be located on the existing County-owned property at Riverview Drive and Florence Street. Safety issues need to be addressed due to its isolated location and distance from the roadway.

The recreational trail traverses through an industrial area at Colonia Lane. Uses in this area potentially conflict with the proposed recreational trail. Part of the railway corridor in the industrial area is being used for parking. The crossing at Colonia Lane should be attractive and provide features to ensure safe pedestrian crossing, such as paver brick and stops signs on the trail.

Residents have requested that the County consider incorporating equestrian trails as part of the recreational trail project and that consideration be given to reconstructing the railroad trestle over Shakett Creek to improve boating access.

Preliminary Cost Estimates:

To be determined through the ongoing Sarasota County Rails to Trails project.

Potential Funding Source(s):

Program

Infrastructure Surtax, Florida Greenways and Trails

Implementation Time Frame:

Mid to Long Term, five to ten years and beyond

Responsible Parties:

County Administration, Community Services

Steps Required to Implement:

- Complete purchase/lease of the Seminole Gulf Railway / CSX property.
- Develop cost estimates for recommended improvements and trail connections.
- Seek additional funding for development of these improvements and connections.

Issues Requiring Further Analysis/Action:

1. Identify opportunities for connecting the rail to trails project with Venetia Bay Park.
2. Identify opportunities for incorporating equestrian trails along the recreational trail.
3. Identify opportunities and costs for reconstructing the railroad trestle over Shakett Creek to allow for improved boating access.

