

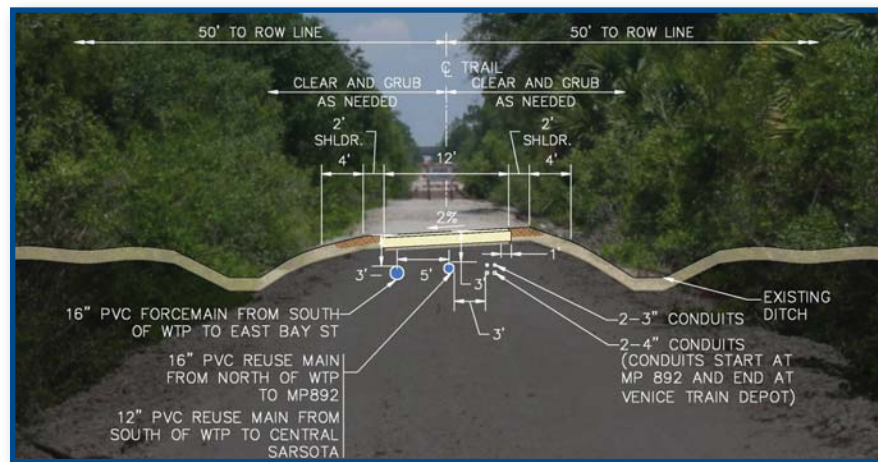
The Legacy Trail Sarasota County Rails-to-Trails Project

Overview

The Legacy Trail has been a design and construction project with Gibbs & Register (G&R) since the board approved the contract in December 2006. G&R has been designing the trail since January 2007. The permit to construct five of the eight trestles and 10.6 miles of asphalt trail was approved on July 3, 2007. The Hatchett Creek trestle is being permitted separately and will be completed as part of the project. The Dona and Roberts Bay trestles are also being designed and permitted separately. Funding for Dona and Roberts Bay trestle replacement has not been established. Seven trailhead connections are included in the construction of the 10.6 miles of trail. Access at the intersecting streets and crossing signals and/or flashing beacons are also included. Conduit for communication lines, a force main and reuse water main are included for portions of the trail.

Utilities

Telecommunication conduits are planned for the entire length of the trail. A force main is planned from Bay Street to the Central County Water Reclamation Facility off McIntosh Road. A reuse water main is planned from Central Sarasota Parkway to the Central County Water Reclamation Facility.



Typical trail cross-section with utilities.

Construction

On July 9, 2007 G&R started mobilization. The contractor had previously started stockpiling materials in anticipation of the permit approval. “No Trespassing” signs are located at the access points for the trail. The contractor has asked law enforcement to strictly enforce the “No Trespassing” signs in areas where active construction is ongoing and/or equipment and/or materials are located. It is for the safety of the public that these areas will be strictly enforced. The contractor will be moving equipment and materials long distances and the equipment will require the entire width of the trail. There are minimum areas for the contractor to turn equipment around and the equipment will be backing up to the work areas.

Habitats

Throughout the project, protection of native habitats and protected species will be a priority. The Legacy Trail is home to the gopher tortoise and the Florida scrub jay. Both species share the trail in their native habitat. The gopher tortoise is a terrestrial tortoise protected by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Gopher tortoises make their homes in burrows. The entrance is a half-moon shape with a mound of sand in front. The burrow can be up to 20 feet long and is shared with other protected species like the gopher frog and the indigo snake. Scrub jays occupy predominately scrubby flatwoods. The largest block of suitable habitat is adjacent to Oscar Scherer State Park. The scrub jay is a blue-and-gray crestless jay that lacks the white wing spots common to blue jays. Scrub jays are non-migratory birds; therefore, each family maintains a permanent territory.

Schedule

The project is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2008. The following work is anticipated through the months of July and August.

Laurel Road north to South Creek Trestle (mile marker 900 to 897.6):

Silt fence, conduit, earthwork and drainage

East Bay Street south to South Creek Trestle (mile marker 895.9 to 897.6):

Silt fence, conduit, earthwork and drainage

East Bay Street north to Trestle (mile marker 895.6 to 895.7):

Silt fence

Section between two trestles north of Bay Street (mile marker 895.7 to 895.2):

Silt fence, conduit, utilities, earthwork and drainage

Central Sarasota Parkway south to Trestle (mile marker 893.9 to 895.2):

Silt fence, conduit, utilities and earthwork

Central Sarasota Parkway north to Trestle (mile marker 893.9 to 893.3):

Silt fence, conduit utilities and earthwork

Palmer Ranch south to Trestle (mile marker 892.5 to 893.3):

Silt fence, conduit and earthwork

Palmer Ranch north to terminus (mile marker 892.5 to 892):

Silt fence, conduit and earthwork

Laurel Road south to Dona Bay (mile marker 900 to 900.8):

Silt fence, conduit and earthwork

Colonia Lane north to Dona Bay (mile marker 901.4 to 900.0):

Silt fence, conduit and earthwork

Colonia Lane south to Roberts Bay (mile marker 901.4 to 900.6):

Silt fence, conduit and earthwork

U.S. 41 Bypass north to Roberts Bay (mile marker 902.1 to 900.8):

Silt fence, conduit and earthwork

U.S. 41 Bypass south to Hatchett Creek Trestle (mile marker 902.1 to 901.5):

Silt fence, conduit and earthwork

Hatchett Creek Trestle to Venice Avenue (mile marker 901.5 to 902.7):

Silt fence, conduit and earthwork

Note: Schedule is subject to change, depending on material acquisition.

Equipment and materials are ready for work to begin.



For more information on the Rails to Trails Project, contact Project Manager Mary Ellen Maurer, P.E., at 941-861-5000 or e-mail her at memaurer@scgov.net.