

Siesta Beach Access 7 Project Update

Draft: February 1, 2010

Completed:

- Public Meeting - **October 29, 2009**
- Website developed, updated information posted to site as available - **November 2009**
- Attended Siesta Key Chamber of Commerce meeting - **November 3, 2009**
- Staff attended Siesta Gulf View Condominium Stakeholder Meeting - **November 18, 2009**
- Provided update/information to Parks Advisory and Recreation Council (PARC) - **November 2009**
- Staff provided project update to the Sarasota County Environmental Policy Task Force - **November 24, 2009**
- Staff conducted habitat assessment, wildlife inventory - **(January 8, 2010)** Map and associated information from field visit will be developed. Additional seasonal wildlife assessments will be conducted.
- Met with state wildlife and environmental regulatory agencies and Audubon to discuss shorebird nesting areas, areas to be managed and potentially closed off during breeding season - **January 11, 2010.**

In Process / Ongoing:

- Continue to coordinate with Natural Resources staff on project and future initiatives.
- Update website page and communications with stakeholders.
- In process of revising schematic plan to remove reference to existing paved parking seaward of the Gulf Beach Setback Line (GBSL) on the south side (existing parking area does not extend waterward of the GBSL – this is a correction).
- Encourage and support increased volunteer efforts (Audubon, Beach Ambassadors, neighbors, etc.) to monitor and track shorebird nesting activities for 2010 season and beyond (initiated and ongoing).
 - Email requests sent to Beach Ambassadors, Sea Turtle Volunteers and others to request assistance with Snowy Plover nesting surveys and protection/education efforts.
- Researching signage examples for “No Dogs on Beach” as well as sensitive shorebird habitats.
- Requested increased involvement and patrols from Sheriff’s Office.

Upcoming / Next Steps:

- Update to Parks Advisory and Recreation Council (PARC) - **March 4, 2010**
- Provide project update and draft schematic plan to Sarasota County Commission – TENTATIVELY in early April, 2010 (will provide actual date once scheduled)

- **Educational Initiatives and Related Signage**
 - Develop Shorebird Fact Sheet. Post to website and share with stakeholders – **March 2010**
 - Signage to be developed and posted at each of the Siesta Beach Accesses from #5 to #10 as this is the area that typically has been utilized by nesting shorebirds (i.e., “No Dogs” and “Sensitive Area - Nesting Shorebirds” type signage) - **March 2010**
 - Include beach nesting bird educational session in 2010 Beach University Program at Siesta Beach – **March 10, 2010 at 9 am**
 - Develop educational signage to be posted at Siesta Beach and Beach Access #7, and potentially other accesses as well.

- **Site Improvements**
 - Install post-and-rope fencing along Beach Road frontage and at the terminus of Tenacity Lane (**March/April 2010**)
 - Removal of residential additions to original beach cottage - (**Summer / Fall 2010**)