

Osprey / Bay Street Site Work Plan

Street address: 939 East Bay Street, Osprey

Parcel Identification No(s): 0139-13-0001

Acreage: Approximately 10 acres

Site Location and Description:

The property is located in Osprey at the east end of Bay Street, a paved right-of-way, 1.5 miles east of US 41/Tamiami Trail. That portion of East Bay Street bounding the southerly extent of the property, is an unimproved public right-of-way (dirt road) providing public access to the County recreational trail corridor. This County-owned recreational trail bounds the property to the east and shares a boundary for 660 feet. Across the rail corridor to the east is undeveloped property. Adjacent to the north of the property is a large lot single-family residence with horse farm. To the west across the public Pine Ranch East Road is unimproved land and to the south across Bay Street is a developed single-family residential subdivision.

The property has an occupied single-family home, a maintenance building, a pond, and an area that has served as a tree nursery. Palms, oaks, pines and palmettos cover much of the remaining land north of the residence and maintenance building. The property is mostly uplands with likely small areas of wetlands associated with the pond.

The current zoning designation is OUE, Open Use Estate, 1 unit /5 acres.

Importance:

This site provides an opportunity to acquire a large parcel along the Rail Trail, within an area of the corridor that has been identified as a potential trail head location by the County, and where access is desired. The County's Public Works efforts to place *no parking* signs within the East Bay Street right-of-way supports that this site has been and would be a utilized trailhead. Its accessibility using an existing improved public right-of-way which does not traverse a neighborhood is ideal to prevent land use conflicts. This site meets the criteria related to broad community access, proximity and connectedness, compatible community needs, and location.

The Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 3, Objective 1.6 states that Sarasota County shall *provide multi-use trails within Sarasota County and its municipalities for recreation, transportation and economic development, consistent with the County's Master Trail Plan and the State of Florida Trails Program*. Further, Policy 1.6.3. recommends the following: *Continue developing a system consisting of bikeways, footpaths, blueways, and/or nature trails, including the consideration of a local rails to trails program, linking parks and recreation areas, schools, libraries, beaches, and barrier islands with residential areas. Develop guidelines or standards for internal bicycle and pedestrian facilities in these areas.*

This site provides an opportunity to enhance public access to the new Rail Trail by developing a trail head at this location and serving the general public as well as neighboring residential areas.

Potential Uses:

The subject site could be used as a regional trailhead for public access to the new Rail Trail. The existing residence and maintenance building could be adapted for public use. The site offers sufficient space for typical neighborhood amenities such as an open play field, picnic shelter, playground, and restrooms, while providing adequate parking for these amenities

Management Goals/Challenges:

It is expected that the current owner would seek a post-closing agreement that would allow them one year to vacate the residence.

A short portion of Bay Street will likely require paving to serve as a park entrance.

Some of the palms/trees may require removal, relocation onsite or relocation off-site.

Status and Acquisition Strategy:

The parcel is for sale by the owner who is a confirmed willing seller. The proposed acquisition would be for fee simple title to be held by the County. Upon approval of this Work Plan, negotiations with the landowner may commence for the execution of a purchase contract. Appraisals, boundary survey, title research and environmental assessments would be conducted as necessary to further and complete the acquisition.

Partner(s):

Potential Funding Sources: Sarasota County Neighborhood Parklands Acquisition Program, Florida Communities Trust

Improvement and Maintenance: Friends of Sarasota County Parks – Rail Trail Chapter, Federal Transportation Enhancement funds, Sarasota County.