

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public meeting to discuss plans for Causeway Islands Park improvements

Fort Myers, FL, Feb. 24, 2022 – Lee County Parks & Recreation will host an open house from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, March 7, at the Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center, 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers, for the Causeway Islands Park Improvement project.

During this open house, the public is invited to view preliminary project plans and renderings as well as discuss the improvements with a consultant and county staff.

This project involves stabilizing portions of the shoreline at this facility, including on both Island A and Island B. Additional improvements could include the development of compacted shell designated parking areas and corresponding stormwater management areas, as well as the addition of beach sand, new restrooms on Island A, native plant landscaping and picnic pavilions. Access to existing fishing areas also will be improved.

Lee County has launched an interactive web tool for the Sanibel Causeway Islands Project to provide easy access to information about the proposed project, including maps, plans, timelines and more in a user-friendly interface.

The interactive resource illustrates the shoreline improvements already underway on the Causeway Islands (Phase 1), as well as the proposed upland improvements (Phase 2). Current conceptual plans for Phase 2 and a historical timeline of the project are posted on the site. Visitors can also take a survey, which can be used to provide feedback on the conceptual plans. The interactive web tool can be accessed at <https://leegis.leegov.com/CausewayIslands> or by going to the Parks Projects page on the county's website.

In preparation for the project, Lee County crews last year removed Australian pines, which is an invasive exotic species. The trees will be replaced with native trees.

The \$8.5 million project ultimately will enhance both Island A and Island B using Tourist Development Taxes and state funds. The county plans to keep construction impacts to a minimum and complete the project by summer 2024.

Previous public meetings include an open-house held in August 2021 and a Board of County Commissioners workshop held earlier this month. Additional opportunities for public input are ongoing, including the website survey.

For more information on Lee County Parks & Recreation facilities, visit www.leeparks.org or call 239-533-7275.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lee County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs, or activities. To request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a reasonable modification to participate, contact Joan LaGuardia, 239-533-2314, Florida Relay Service 711, or jlguardia@leegov.com. Accommodation will be provided at no cost to the requestor. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance.