



City of North Port

Office of the City Manager

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March 6, 2015

Mr. Thomas Harmer
County Administrator
Sarasota County
1660 Ringling Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34236

Re Sarasota County Neighborhood Parkland/Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Programs

Dear Mr. Harmer:

In March of 2009, the City of North Port presented 14 nominations for lands to be considered for inclusion in Sarasota County's Neighborhood Parkland program. The sites ranged in size from 2.8 acres to 117 acres. The sites represented a cross-mixture of purposes and settings, each offering a unique addition to the City's park system.

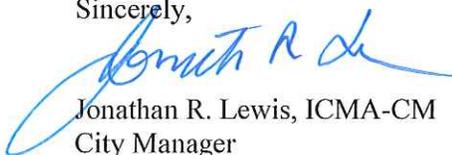
Subsequent to the application of sites for parkland acquisition, the City and County became involved with the purchase of Warm Mineral Spring (interestingly enough one of the sites proposed) and it is our understanding that consideration of the sites was placed on hold. As the City initiates the development of its Park's Master Plan, it would now be premature to ask that any of these sites be considered. Consequently, the City would like the opportunity to submit application for of other lands to be considered for one or both of the acquisition programs.

City and County staffs have recently been discussing the possibility of proposing sites along the Myakkahatchee Creek for acquisition under one or both of the programs. The City has been purchasing parcels along the Creek since the early 1990s in an effort to protect the Creek as a water source for the City and to create a linear greenway for passive use by the residents of North Port. There are currently 71 parcels remaining to purchase, and the City, with available funding, is now pursuing willing sellers. With the assistance of Sarasota County, it is believed sufficient funding could be established to ensure the purchase of all the remaining properties.

If the County is amicable to replacing the previously proposed sites with sites located along the Myakkahatchee Creek, the City would like to prepare the appropriate applications for consideration and seek County support for funding the purchase as "willing seller" make their properties available.

The primary contact person for this discussion is Daniel Schult, Assistant City Manager.

Sincerely,



Jonathan R. Lewis, ICMA-CM
City Manager

JRL/dps/mdg

Cc: Daniel Schult, Assistant City Manager