

SAMPLE

LWCF PROJECT NARRATIVE- PASSIVE

WEST CROWN POINT TRAILHEAD

PART I

1. The site is a 12.0 acre site in west Orange County, situated at the northwest corner of the intersection of West Crown Point Road and Crown Point Crossroad. The site is largely covered with an oak tree canopy with scattered clear areas. Topology is generally flat across the site. A drainage ditch angles across the site. Adjacent land uses are residential and agricultural.

Attached are an aerial photo, site photos, and location map.

2. The site will become part of Orange County's West Orange Trail project, the first phase of which is now under construction. Master planning for the Trail indicates that a "trailhead", an embarkation or destination point, is needed in this area.

The County will construct the development shown in the attached concept plan. Preliminary uses include a segment of 14-foot wide paved recreational trail, restrooms, car parking, playground, and picnic areas. Access to the proposed adjacent Winter Garden park is also planned.

Ultimate development of the West Orange Trail may connect with proposed trails in Lake County, Minneola, Clermont, and the Major General James A. Van Fleet Trail in Polk County. To the north, the West Orange Trail will enter Apopka, and may possibly connect to Wekiva Springs State Park and the Florida Trail someday.

3. The previously mentioned drainage ditch may become a claimed jurisdictional wetland, and therefore a minor design problem.
4. The County has limited funds budgeted for a three to five acre trailhead in this area. However, the owner of the site is unwilling to sell his 20.5 acre property in pieces. It was then determined that the City of Winter Garden, which desires an active-use park, and Orange County could each fund acquisition of this site through a grant and meet all their needs within budget. Without the grants, neither agency will be able to purchase this site. With the grants, both agencies will have access to what amounts to a 20-acre park.
5. As outlined in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, trails have increased in importance and popularity. This project will provide a recreational joint use trail for cycling, hiking, horseback riding, jogging, and nature study. The project also addresses the following goal of the Plan: :To maintain and

improve coordination among land use and environment planning and management programs of all units of government and private enterprise..." As a joint effort between Winter Garden and Orange County, and as a link in a larger system involving other local governments, the project will foster joint management among all participants. Winter Garden and Orange County will work out an agreement on joint maintenance and operation of the site.

Cycling and horseback riding are identified on page 183 in the Relative Need Index in Outdoor Recreation in Florida – 1989 as priority needs in this planning region.

The Orange County Capital Improvements Program identifies the West Orange Trail specifically through fiscal year 95-96.

PART II

1. The benefits expected from this park are several; the creation of a safe starting or stopping point along a major regional trail which is expected to generate heavy use; adequate parking for that use; the provision of a community park and recreation area; and an opportunity for non-motorized commuter traffic to be enjoyed.
2. Negative impacts are not expected as a result, although site development will bring outside visitors to the area. Visits are not expected to peak during Monday through Friday rush hours, however.
3. Trail users will be the projected main users to this site. Other park users, however, will include nearby residents who will visit just to take advantage of picnic areas and playgrounds, and active recreation facilities on the Winter Garden site.

A joint agreement for operation and maintenance is anticipated to be worked out with Winter Garden. If not, Orange County Parks and Recreation Department will be fully responsible for operation and maintenance of the trailhead.

4. The trailhead will be operated year-round from sunrise to sunset.
5. Fees will not be charged for entrance or use.

PART III

1. If budget allows, we expect to develop all work shown in the concept plan in the initial phase of construction. Funding for construction will be by Orange County capital improvements fund.

At a minimum, the first phase would include the trail segment and a portion of the parking.

2. Public participation processes could prolong the design of the project, although no concerns with the project have been expressed to this point. Other delays could come through bid protests, which are impossible to predict beforehand. They are usually resolved within a couple of months.
3. The design is at concept level only, but we anticipate active participation and support from community groups.
4. The development will be funded by capital improvements money and advertised for bids locally. The schedule for development is based on County procedures funded through CIP.
5. Orange County has employed Glatting, Jackson, Kercher, Anglin, Lopez, and Rinehart, Inc. as its prime consultant on the West Orange Trail and associated trailhead sites. The firm will assist in development of the site plan and construction documents. Orange County Departments involved in the project are Parks & Recreation, Construction Administration, Real Estate Management, and Highway Construction.

Additionally, Central Florida Friends of Trails, a new non-profit organization, will become involved in developing public support and fundraising for specific trail-related projects (although a project on this site has not yet been proposed for them). The Trust for Public Lands has assisted in negotiating with property owners for this and other trail parcels.

6. The project was proposed to the Parks Advisory Board in September, 1993 at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The Advisory Board is composed of citizens of the County of the County not in the employment of the County. The advisory Board supported the project.
7. As stated previously, trail development is the priority need in this region, as identified by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The County Comprehensive Plan currently establishes Level of Service requirements of 6 acres per 1,000 residents for resource-based parks. The Comprehensive Plan indicates that Orange County currently exceeds the requirement by 1,820.8 acres. This total however includes conservation lands (Flag Ranch).

Development with the adjacent Winter Garden site will provide activity-based recreation, in which the County has a deficiency.

8. This project has not been acquired or developed with LWCF assistance.

9. Orange County has funded the following projects with LWCF grants:

- *Moss Park (acquisition)
- *Howell Branch Park (acquisition)
- *Orlo Vista Park (acquisition and development)
- *Barnett Park (development)
- *Winter Garden Trailhead (acquisition)

The Howell Branch Site is not in compliance with LWCF requirements. Vandalism and crime forced the County to close the park for the time being, but we are working on a solution with public input to reopen the park in September.

The Winter Garden Trailhead site is also a portion of the West Orange Trail.