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VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 17

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE
VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING
COLLABORATIVE PLANNING EFFORTS BETWEEN THE
VILLAGE OF ESTERO AND THE KORESHAN STATE
PARK AND THE ESTERO BAY PRESERVE STATE PARK;
AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Village of Estero holds the Koreshan State Park and the Estero Bay Preserve State Park as two of the most significant recreational and environmental assets of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Estero has only recently incorporate and has not had the opportunity to contribute to the planning of improvements and amenities in the Parks; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Estero commits to be actively engaged with the Parks' administration to create and every better set of recreational resources at the Parks.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Village Council of the Village of Estero, Florida:

Section 1. The Village of Estero supports the Parks and encourages the Parks' leadership to become an even more active part of our community and the Village Center specifically.

Section 2. The Village supports the expansion of recreational opportunities, including but not limited to the following:

- Upgrades of the canoe and kayak launch at Koreshan, and the development of additional canoe and kayak shore facilities in the Estero Bay Preserve Park,
- Adding separate boat launch facilities at both Parks,
- Adding, with parking, boat transport options for residents to reach Lover's Key and other beach locations directly from Estero and as part of this enhancement consider electric boat launches to maintain the quiet and natural setting of the Estero River,
- Adding interpretive tours of Mound Key,
- Adding a nature walk, boardwalk and floating walkway along the entire length of the Estero River to connect the State Parks, as well as connecting the State Parks to other community recreational assets,
- Adding a pedestrian bridge from the Koreshan Park to the Boomer property,
- Focus on maintaining a natural setting along the Estero River where possible and throughout the Parks while facilitating access via enhanced trails.

COMMENTS

KORESHAN STATE HISTORIC SITE PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 29, 2016

Below are Objectives and Policies taken from the Village of Estero Comprehensive Plan Amendments and approved unanimously by the Village of Estero Council on June 15, 2016.

OBJECTIVE 19.5: NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that Estero's natural environment enhances the character and quality of life of the community by protecting the natural resources of Estero, promoting the area's natural environment to visitors and residents, and supporting public access to greenway and waterfront areas. (Added by Ordinance No. 14-16)

POLICY 19.5.1: Protect the natural environment and resources of Estero by maintaining, amending, and implementing comprehensive plan or LDC regulations that:

- a. Promote the quality of Estero's natural environment, native species and habitats, and ecological resources; and
- b. Facilitate where feasible, new development to provide public access to Estero waterways and greenways, as appropriate. Particular emphasis shall be given to properties along Estero River, its tributaries, and any Estero open spaces;
- c. Incentivize the protection of Estero's natural resources—e.g., wetlands, uplands historic flow ways, native habitat, or other ecological resources; and
- d. Require all new developments adjacent to Estero River or its tributaries to incorporate design techniques that protect the river's water quality through improved runoff or storm water discharge practices. These techniques may include: the preservation of wetland areas, the incorporation of Low Impact Development techniques, or other surface water quality enhancement technologies. (Add by Ordinance No. 14-16)

OBJECTIVE 19.6: PUBLIC SPACES, PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. Support Estero's quality of life through the development of a broad array of community parks, public spaces, and recreational facilities. (Added by Ordinance No. 14-16)

POLICY 19.6.5: Consistent with the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element, **integrate the Koreshan State Historic Site into the fabric of the community** by collaborating with the appropriate agencies such as the State of Florida to improve the area's landscaping, enhance pedestrian and bicycle access, historic resources and structures, and community park program and activities. (Added by Ordinance No. 14-16)

Recommendations for additional improvements

- Develop a pedestrian bridge over the Estero River on the northwest side of the Boomer property to an accessible canoe/kayak launch with sand ramp. Property is State owned and was purchased with Florida Forever funds in 2004.
- Develop a walking/vehicular trail around the Boomer property to the accessible canoe/kayak launch. Possible accessibility to the State owned property is at US 41 and/or Broadway.
- Continue west on the north side of the Estero River with 1 mile of walking trail.
- Improve boat launch on south side of Estero River. Use this launch area primarily for motor craft. Combining the launching of paddle craft alongside motorized boats becomes a huge safety factor.
- Consider the possibility of launching an electric pontoon boat from the motor craft area. The purpose gives visitors coming into the park the opportunity to have access to the Estero Bay and visit Mound Key and/or Lover's Key and the beautiful Estero Bay.
- A concessionaire's stand is needed in this proposed area.
- Upgrade the main park entrance area including the sign at US 41 and Corkscrew.
- The eight mile long Estero River is over 7,000 years old. Consider rebranding the name of the park to:

Estero River/Koreshan Historic Site State Park

This is one of the ways to have a collaborative effort on behalf of the Village of Estero to integrate the Koreshan State Historic Site into the fabric of the community. (POLICY 19.6.5)

COMMENTS

ESTERO BAY PRESERVE STATE PARK PUBLIC HEARING JUNE 29, 2016

Below are Objectives and Policies taken from the Village of Estero Comprehensive Plan Amendments and approved unanimously by the Village of Estero Council on June 15, 2016.

OBJECTIVE 19.5: NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Ensure that Estero's natural environment enhances the character and quality of life of the community by protecting the natural resources of Estero, promoting the area's natural environment to visitors and residents, and supporting public access to greenway and waterfront areas. (Added by Ordinance No. 14-16)

POLICY 19.5.2: Improve public access, use, and enjoyment of Estero's waterfront and water-based resources by supporting the creation of community water-based amenities such as Estero Bay water taxi, marina facilities, or other water-dependent facilities. (Added by Ordinance No. 14-16)

OBJECTIVE 19.6: PUBLIC SPACES, PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. Support Estero's quality of life through the development of a broad array of community parks, public spaces, and recreational facilities. (Added by Ordinance No. 14-16)

POLICY 19.6.6: Consistent with the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Element, provide passive recreational opportunities within Estero State Buffer Preserve, Estero River, and Estero Bay by collaborating with the appropriate local, regional, and state agencies and private property owners to ensure the community's parks, natural amenities, and open spaces have easy access, parking, trails, and other community amenities. (Added by Ordinance No. 14-16)

Estero Bay Preserve State Park

Recommendations:

At the end of Broadway beginning at the drive through gate into Estero Bay Preserve State Park—off the fire trail over to the Estero River:

- Create public access for boat launch, parking and picnic pavilion. A boat launch with parking in this area should relieve the overcrowding and dangers involved with launching boats, kayaks and canoes off the same pad now located in Koreshan State Park.
- Add an Estero Bay boardwalk (0.75 miles) with an observation platform and interpretive kiosks along the Estero River.
- Add an observation deck for birding and wildlife viewing.

By creating public access for boats at the entrance to Estero Bay Preserve State Park at the end of Broadway, a new dimension of Estero Bay itself will be opened for visitors.