



Merritt Island

News & Views



Island Pioneer Trail Ground Breaking Ceremony



You are cordially invited to attend the Ground Breaking Ceremony to kick off construction of the Island Pioneer Trail on North Merritt Island. The event will take place on Thursday, January 28th at 5:00 p.m. located at the north end of Kings Park.

The Island Pioneer Trail, located at Kings Park between Chase Hammock and Hall Road, is a critical link in the proposed North Merritt Island Trail system that will connect communities to neighborhoods, parks, and conservation areas. Community residents and the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association in coordination with Brevard County staff designed the trail with amenities to include: a 10 foot paved trail, boardwalks, parking, pavilions, and kiosks. Full funding for design and construction was received through Transportation Enhancement grants administered by the Florida Department of Transportation and the Brevard County Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization.

The recently received Transportation Enhancement Stimulus funding enables the paved trail and trailheads to be constructed within the same time frame. Brevard County staff anticipates finishing the design and permitting for the trailheads during the next several months and should begin construction by early fall of this year. "We were fortunate to receive stimulus funding that moved construction of the trail ahead by several years" said Chuck Nelson, Commissioner, District 2.

Commissioner Nelson will be joined by members of the North Merritt Island Community to do the honors of breaking ground to kick off the trails construction. For additional information contact Liz Alward at 454-6601.

Community Spotlight

Linda McDonald is very active in her community and has been the secretary for Tropical Park Civic Organization, Inc. since 1994. Her responsibilities include making arrangements with community members for clean-up days in the community, activities such as Community Day, luncheons, and the annual Christmas Party for the community and children. She can be seen early Saturday mornings, pulling weeds and trimming hedges along with her husband Michael and other community members on Alma Boulevard on Merritt Island. Linda's service to the community is sincerely appreciated.



A Neighborhood with a Vision

Tropical Park, located on central Merritt Island, was started in the 1950's as a small neighborhood of primarily single family homes and worker quarters. It has since, developed into residential subdivisions and multi-family housing along the sandy roads in the citrus groves east of both the Indian River and North Tropical Trail. In 1958 a group of approximately 50 citizens met in the Merritt Island Junior High School located on Sawyer Avenue to establish the Tropical Park Civic League. On May 30, 1967, the Tropical Park Civic League was incorporated as Tropical Park Civic Organization, Inc.

The efforts of neighborhood leaders led to the building of churches, improvements to public streets, the construction and staffing of neighborhood schools and annual community events. In 1988, construction of Woody Simpson Park (formerly Palmetto Elementary School) was completed and the community began using the building for recreational and civic purposes.



Merritt Island Junior High School
1958 - 1967



Woody Simpson Park
1988 - Present

There are still many goals and challenges facing the future of the neighborhood. In 2003, residents assembled to create the Tropical Park Neighborhood Action Plan and Vision that consolidated and furthered the visioning work that had taken place in prior years. The top priorities of the Plan and Vision center on forging stronger partnerships between neighbors, the County, civic groups and the business community by identifying and prioritizing key neighborhood issues. In addition, the Plan identifies funding sources for improvements to transportation and traffic safety infrastructure; improvements to drainage, sewer and sidewalks; new construction and renovation of single family homes including 14 affordable homes; conducting repairs to the local cemetery; and providing health and recreation opportunities for senior citizens with the additions of a multipurpose/media room, exercise trail, and canopy at the entrance to Woody Simpson Park.

We look forward to continuing this revitalization of one of Merritt Island's oldest and unique communities.