

Gordon River Greenway Project Update

ACRONYMS:

SFWMD – South Florida Water Management District

ACOE – Army Corps of Engineers

SDP – Site Development Plan

USCG – US Coast Guard

STATUS

1. BUILDING PERMITS - All County Building Dept. comments have been received by Kimley-Horn. Responses should be completed by next week. Separate building permits will be needed for the boardwalk and bridges. The General Contractor will obtain these.
2. SDP – Consultant to resubmit in mid-May just before ACOE and SFWMD are ready to be issued.
3. ACOE – Kimley-Horn waiting for response on the latest submittal and anticipates a June 2012 permit issuance. This and SFWMD permit are tied together.
4. SFWMD – Finalization of the Conservation Easement is the only remaining item. Kimley-Horn expects the permit to be issued in June.
5. USGS –The permit is out for public notice (30 day timeframe). They will issue the permit 60 days after the ACOE permit is issued.
6. OTHER PERMITS – All other necessary permits, except for the gopher tortoise permit, have been received.
7. GOPHER TORTOISE (GT) PERMIT AND RELOCATION PLAN– The permit work has been started. Conservation Collier will be applying for the permit and the tortoises will be trapped and moved by a consultant under the main project contract. After a cost comparison, it was determined to relocate the approx. 28 GTs from the parking lot and trail areas to the Hackeltrap Long Term Protected Site in Hendry County instead of Caracara Prairie Preserve. This provided a savings of \$62,100 because fees are higher at the Caracara Prairie Preserve, which is permitted as a Short Term Protected Site. Fees are lower in a Long Term Protected Site like Hackeltrap. The Caracara Prairie Site will be changed to a Long Term Protected Site when the USFWS/Clerk of Courts issue surrounding the Mitigation Conservation Easement is resolved. Caracara Prairie was permitted as a Short Term Protected Site to quickly facilitate small groups of tortoises in the interim, but this will not be practical for the number that require relocation in the Greenway Project. Staff will go to the Board for approval to contract with Hackeltrap for the relocation.
8. FPL – Staff is meeting with FPL and the Zoo to coordinate easements for transmission lines along shared boundary and to finalize location of transformers.

9. ZOO POND – “Community Stakeholder” meetings were held on 4/17/12 and 4/24/12 to discuss alternative plans to retain the Zoo pond. Jeff Curl participated in discussions and preparation of option drawings. Five options were developed at the first meeting, sketched out for the second meeting. The next step is to develop costs and feasibility for each of the options. Next meeting scheduled for 5/10/12.
10. DESIGN TEAM – No meeting has been held.
11. MEETINGS - The next Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for 5/18/12. Staff is holding weekly phone meeting with Kimley-Horn.