



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**AGENDA ITEM**  
**Assistant County Administrator /**  
**Department of General Services**

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**Date:** February 3, 2017

**To:** The Honorable Board of County Commissioners

**Thru:** Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

**Thru:** Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator

**From:** Beth Powell, Conservation Lands Manager

**Subject:** Permit Application Submittal to the St. John's River Water Management District for a Stream Crossing Footbridge at the Ansin Riverfront Tract Conservation Area

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**DESCRIPTIONS AND CONDITIONS:**

The Ansin Riverfront Conservation Area, located at the northeast corner of CR 510 and CR 512, acquired under the County Environmental Lands Program with cost-share funds from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) is within the St. Sebastian River Greenway (per County Resolution 2006-039), and is adjacent to the Sebastian Canoe Launch Park and the St. Sebastian River State Park.

Purchased by Indian River County in 2005, the acquisition achieved three inter-related goals. The primary conservation goal was to augment the buffer for water quality protection and wildlife corridors in the watershed of the St. Sebastian River and the State Aquatic Preserve. The acquisition also serves to provide a pedestrian connection and greenway between CR 512 and the Trans-Florida Central Railroad grade to the existing County canoe launch park, and the 23,000 acre St. Sebastian Preserve State Park. Conservation of this site also achieved a goal of protecting the South Prong of the St. Sebastian River from runoff from any future development.

**THE PROJECT:**

To improve access to the Ansin Tract in particular, the County is in the process of designing and permitting a footbridge that will cross a small stream on site (see attached location and trail maps). The footbridge will complete connector trails that have recently been established with assistance from the Florida Forest Service. This will connect the Sebastian Greenway Trail through the Ansin Tract to the Sebastian Canoe Launch where parking is available. Once completed, the Ansin Tract Conservation Area Agreement with FCT will be substantially complete and move into a 5-year reporting period with FCT.

SJRWMD general permits are required for construction and completed in house to offer a cost savings to the County. Applying for and receiving the permits does not in any way obligate the County to complete the project. Once permits from the District are received, the projects will be bid through the standard purchasing guidelines and brought to the Board for award/approval.

**FUNDING:**

The Board approved increased funding for access improvements in December 2015, through an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan's Capital Improvements Element and updated the County's 5 Year Capital Improvements Program Schedule to allocate \$2.9 million dollars over a five year period to be utilized toward public access improvements on conservation lands. Priority has been given to establishing trails and related trail structures at conservation areas that are nearing final completion with the FCT outlined obligations. This project has been identified as a top priority through this process.

The attached permit application fee of \$250 funded from Land Acquisition Bond Proceeds (account number 14514639-066390) is identified in the approved Capital Improvements Element appropriation. Anticipated project cost is expected to be in the range of \$25,000-\$35,000.

**Attachments:**

1. General Ansin location map
2. Detailed boardwalk location map