Agenda Item #: 5C 3

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	May 21, 2013	[] Consent [] Ordinance	[X] Regular [] Public Hearing			
Submitted by: For:	Facilities Development & Operations Department Parks and Recreation Department					

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to authorize: County Administrator to prepare a needs analysis and feasibility study of developing an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Park in Palm Beach County at the County's 20 Mile Bend Property.

Summary: The number of ATV owners in Palm Beach and surrounding counties continues to increase despite the lack of legal, safe areas in which to ride. Riding in areas illegally results in personal injuries and damage to personal property and the environment. Providing a safe, legal site for this highly popular recreational activity will reduce injuries, save environmentally sensitive areas from damage, resolve other conflicts and provide a boost to the local economy. Due to the limited number of ATV parks in the State of Florida, it is also possible that the Park will result in a source of local economic development as well as the potential for motorized sports tournaments and tourism. With the relocation of the public shooting park to the Mecca Property, the County-owned property at 20 Mile Bend would become available and be suitable for development of an ATV Park with little or no capital cost to the County. It is anticipated that the operation of the ATV Park would be funded through user fees and the operation, outsourced. The preparation of a needs analysis will provide the County with the information necessary to identify the potential usage, combination of facilities and capital cost estimate for the development of the park. The feasibility study will include but not be limited to, addressing; 1) environmental impacts, 2) economic impacts, and 3) a variety of other operational and risk topics. Planning and development grants are available through the T. Mark Schmidt Off-Highway Recreation Grant Program (State) and the Recreational Trails Program (Federal). The outcome of the needs analysis and feasibility study would be presented to the Board at a later date for consideration as to whether the County would proceed with an RFP. (FDO Admin) Countywide/District 6 (HF)

Background and Policy Issues: There are over 42,000 registered All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) in South Florida and 10,500 in Palm Beach County. With a limited number of legal areas in which to ride, the use of motorized recreation vehicles on public lands has become a great source of conflict. Big Cypress Preserve in Collier County is the only facility to serve all ATV users in South Florida. All other sites are in Central or North Florida. Unfortunately, some ATV users have resorted to using areas that are illegal or unsafe, resulting in personal injuries, creating a problem for law enforcement, and having a negative impact on our conservation and wilderness lands.

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Attachments:

- 1. Location/50 Mile Radius Map
- 2. 20 Mile Bend Aerial
- 3. 20 Mile Bend Property Boundary Site Plan
- 4. Surrounding Residential Properties Map
- 5. Letter of Support Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission dated 2/8/13

Recommended By:	Army Work	5/8/13
	Department Director	Date
Approved By:	ex)lu	1/13/13
	County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of	of Fiscal Impa	ict:				
Fiscal Years	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Capital Expenditures Operating Costs External Revenues Program Income (County) In-Kind Match (County						
NET FISCAL IMPACT	<u>Q</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>Q</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Q</u>	
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)			<u> </u>			
is Item Included in Current	Budget:	Yes	No		·	
Budget Account No: F	Fund	Dept	Unit		Object	
	Progra	m				
B. Recommended Source	es of Funds/	Summary of I	fiscal Impact:			
There is no fiscal impact to t	his item.	1.0	N 5	3.r	}	
C. Departmental Fiscal	Review:					
	III. <u>RE</u>	VIEW COMME	<u>NTS</u>			
OFMB Fiscal and/or CO	y styloo	M. Con	tract Developm	ent and Co heeler	bar 519) (:
B. Legal Sufficiency: Assistant County Atto		<u>//3</u>				
C. Other Department Re	eview:		÷ "			

Page 3 Background and Policy Issues - Continued

The Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department has received a number of requests from citizens for a safe and legal site to ride ATVs. It is anticipated that ATV owners within a 50 mile radius from Palm Beach and adjacent counties (Broward, Martin, Okeechobee, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, and St. Lucie) would utilize the Park (Attachment 1). The Park would provide a much needed safe, appropriate and legal location for ATV owners in Southeast Florida to ride.

The site selection criteria for an ATV park is as follows:

- Should be in Palm Beach County;
- Should be located away from residential neighborhoods due to noise created by ATVs;
- Should be larger than 20 acres, or must be suitable for development as a long linear path;
- Should be accessible by an existing roadway;
- Should not adversely affect neighboring land uses; and
- Land is in a disturbed condition due to agriculture, mining, etc.

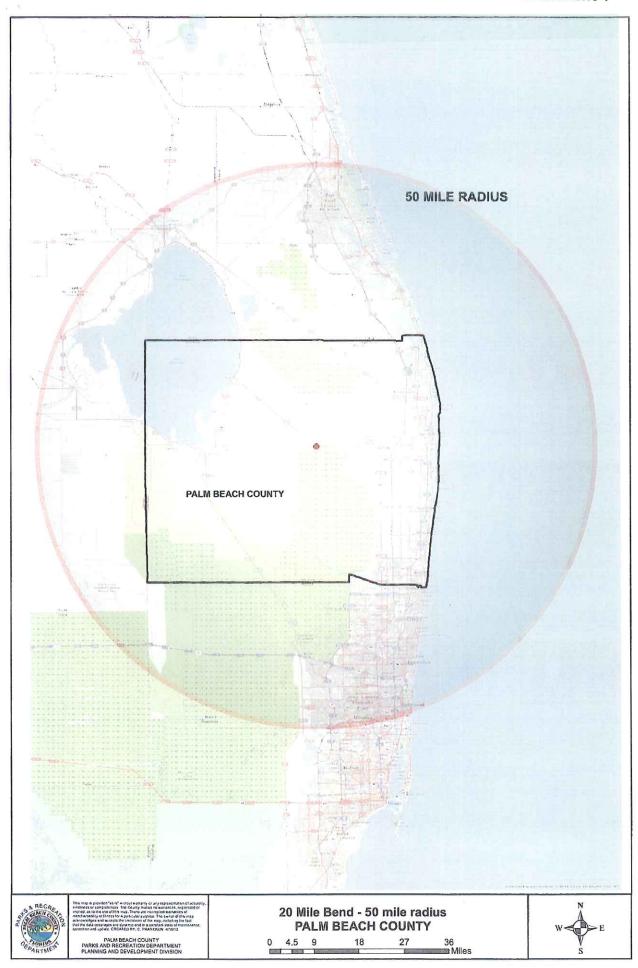
The 20 Mile Bend site is located on the Southeast quadrant at the intersection of State Road 80 and County Road 880. The County owns +/-160 acres and +/-40 acres is owned by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) (Attachment 2). Current usage includes the Sheriff's +/- 64 acre shooting range and a communication tower with the remainder of the County and SFWMD land being farmed pursuant to a District issued farm lease. While the undeveloped property has been leased for sugar cane farming, the District has determined that farming is not the best interim use of the property until the time of development and will therefore consider other uses.

The approved site plan for the 20 Mile Bend Site includes a proposed public shooting range, the existing Sheriff's shooting range, a college or university area, a SFWMD Field Station parcel (Attachment 3) and an interior roadway. With the relocation of the proposed public shooting park to Mecca, and the college providing for its criminal justice training needs at its Lake Worth campus in lieu of the 20 Mile Bend Site, there are approximately 94 acres of County property that can be made available for an ATV Park - still leaving sufficient property available for the expansion and buffering of the Sheriff's shooting range. Staff would not anticipate any adverse impact upon any of the surrounding properties (Attachment 4). The site plan would need to be amended and the conditional use approval for the public shooting park (Open Gun Club) abandoned to allow for this use and development concept, but an ATV Park is permitted by right within the existing PO Zoning District at the 20 Mile Bend Site.

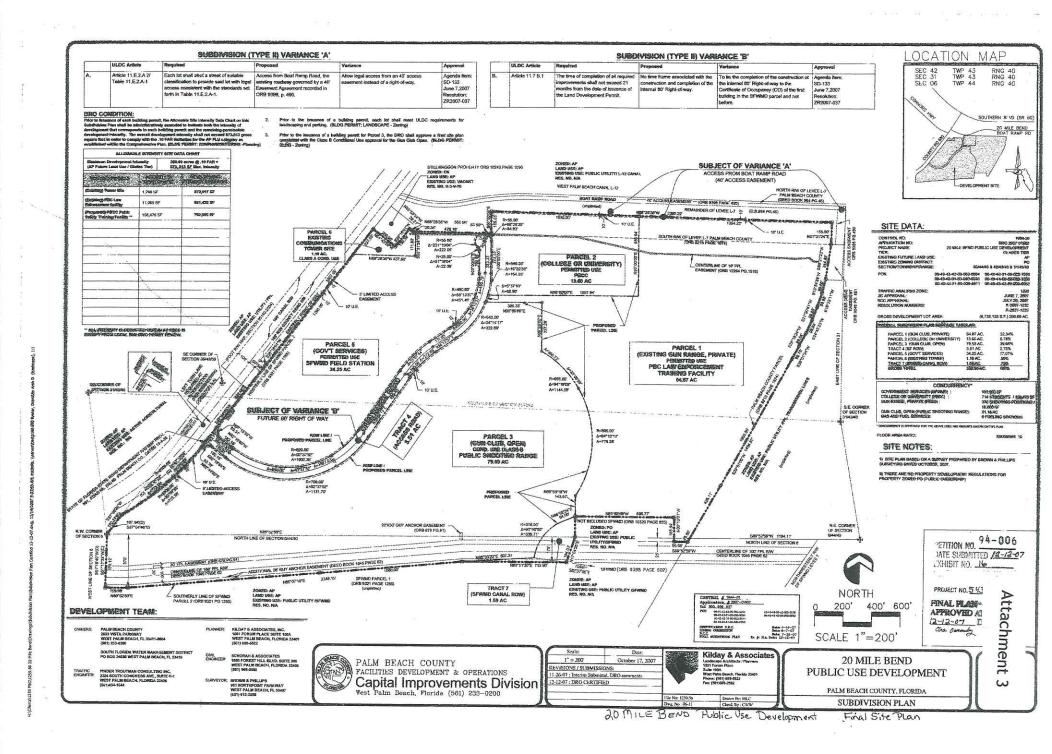
Additionally, an ATV Park is anticipated to provide economic benefits to the County, i.e., jobs, fuel, food and beverage, supplies, taxes, lodging, etc. as well as opportunities for motor sports event tourism. The economic impact study to be completed as part of the feasibility study will determine the estimated level of benefit. This information would also be used to develop the appropriate financial terms for the RFP as well as terms relating to the County's ability (through the Sports Commission) to reserve and schedule motor sports events.

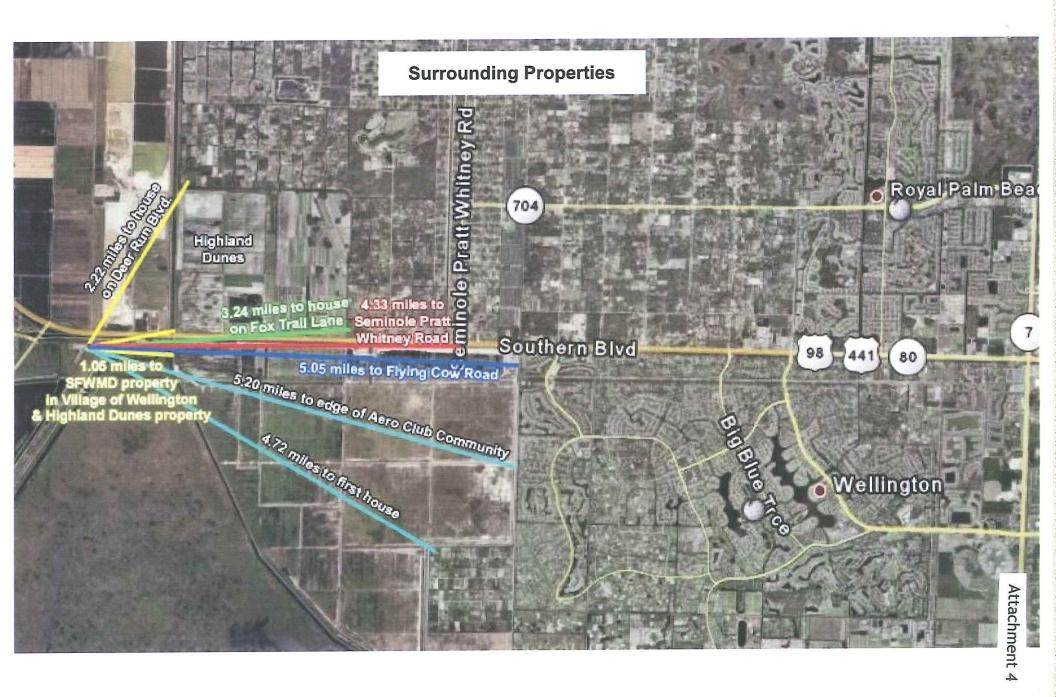
The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission supports the proposal and has submitted a letter of support which is attached as Attachment 5.

If an RFP is ultimately approved, County Staff would work with the District during its development to determine if the District is interested in including its +40 acre property in the RFP. No permanent improvements would be placed upon the District's land and the District's land would be able to be removed from the ATV Park with appropriate notice.











February 8, 2013

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Steven Abrams, Mayor and Members of the Board of County Commissioners 301 N. Olive Ave Suite 1201 West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Commissioners Kenneth W. Wright Chairman Winter Park

To Mayor Abrams and Commissioners,

Kathy Barco Vice Chairman Jacksonville

It has come to my attention that Palm Beach County is considering a proposal to create an all terrain vehicle (ATV) park on a parcel of vacant property near the PBSO training facility located close to 20 mile bend. Let me take this opportunity to applaud the county for taking this initiative. As you know ATV use is an extremely popular outdoor activity with several businesses providing these vehicles to the public throughout our area. Recreational riding is increasing in popularity due to the relatively low cost of ATV's and

Ronald M. Bergeron Fort Lauderdale

the advent of organized clubs that promote this family oriented activity.

Richard A. Corbett Tampa

Immokalee

Aliese P. "Liesa" Priddy

Charles W. Roberts III Tallahassee

Brian S. Yablonski Tallahassee

Unfortunately, there are very limited locations that provide riding opportunities our area. This has led to illegal ATV operation and the associated safety issues from recreational vehicles being used on the roads of our rural communities. Limited riding opportunities encourage illegal use and environmental impacts on county and state owned natural areas.

Executive Staff Nick Wiley **Executive Director**

I wish to take this opportunity to fully support this proposal and stand ready to offer any advice or assistance to county staff as they move forward in the process.

Greg Holder **Assistant Executive Director**

Karen Ventimiglia Chief of Staff

South Region **Chuck Collins** Regional Director

(561) 625-5122 Wildlife Alert: 888-404-FWCC (888-404-3922) Chuck Collins

Sincerely,

South Region Director

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

8535 Northlake Blvd.

West Palm Beach, FL 33412

Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Cc: Robert Weisman, County Administrator Audrey Wolf, Director of Facilities & Operations

South Region 8535 Northlake Boulevard West Palm Beach, Florida 33412-3303 Voice: (561) 625-5122 Hearing/speech-impaired: (800) 955-8771 (T) (800) 955-8770 (V)

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