

TOWN OF DAVIE

TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM/PHONE: 797-1030

PREPARED BY: Ken Cohen, Assistant Town Administrator

SUBJECT: Farm Park

AFFECTED DISTRICT: Town Wide

TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM: A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE DAVIE FARM PARK BY BROWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

REPORT IN BRIEF: The attached resolution was drafted by Councilmember Paul to acknowledge the Town of Davie and the Broward County Farm Bureau's desire to work together to assure the Davie Farm Park is a great success with minimal cost to the taxpayers of the Town of Davie. This partnership will allow the Farm Bureau to assist with:

- 1) the creation of the plans and developmen of the Farm Park,
- 2) establish organizations to help with volunteer staffing and fundraising,
- 3) identify and obtain corporate sponsorships and grants

PREVIOUS ACTIONS: Purchased 54 acres on Shotgun Road to be used as the home of the Davie Farm Park.

CONCURRENCES:

FISCAL IMPACT: not applicable

Has request been budgeted? n/a

RECOMMENDATION(S): Motion to approve resolution

Attachment(s): Resolution, Memo of Understanding, Broward County Farm Bureau letter of support, Florida Communities Trust grant documents

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF THE DAVIE FARM PARK BY BROWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Davie has received funding from Florida Communities Trust, Broward County Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program, the Davie Open Space Bond Referendum and \$20,000 from the Broward County Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, this funding has allowed the Town to purchase 54 acres on Shotgun Road, presently referred to as the Davie Farm Park; and

WHEREAS, Broward County Farm Bureau participated in the grant process to help Davie receive the necessary grants to purchase the property; and

WHEREAS, Broward County Farm Bureau wants to assure that the Davie Farm Park is a success with minimal costs to the taxpayers of the Town of Davie; and

WHEREAS, Broward County Farm Bureau is willing to help oversee the creation of the plans and development of the Farm Park; and

WHEREAS, Broward County Farm Bureau wishes to reiterate their commitment to the Farm Park as stated in the FCT Grant Application; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Farm Bureau would like to help the Town to establish a Friends of the Park organization which will provide volunteers to staff the Park and help raise funds to offset the ongoing operational expenses, and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Farm Bureau will assist the Town with identifying and obtaining potential corporate sponsorships and grants, and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Farm Bureau is committed to assisting the Town in coordinating the educational programs for the park and to oversee its daily operations by relocating their office and 2 staff members to the park in order to provide on – site support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The Town of Davie accepts Broward County Farm Bureau as a partner in the development and operation of the Davie Farm Park.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2007

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER

ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2007



BROWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

2121 North State Road 7

Margate, FL 33063

(954) 972-2525 • fax (954) 969-9543

A memorandum of Understanding

To: Davie Town Council

From: Broward County Farm Bureau

In an effort to make sure that the Davie Farm Park is a success with minimal cost to the tax paying residents of the Town of Davie, Broward County Farm Bureau is willing to help oversee the creation of the plans and development of the Park. We want to reiterate our commitment as stated in our letter of support in the FCT grant application. We would also help establish a Friends of the Park organization, to provide volunteers to staff the Park and help raise funds to offset the ongoing operational expenses. We would also assist the Town with identifying and obtaining potential corporate sponsorships and grants. In addition we would coordinate the educational programs for the park and oversee the daily operations. In order to do this we would be willing to relocate our office and staff of two for our agricultural operations to the park site. We are committed to this project and the vision the Town of Davie has shown in preserving green space and the agricultural roots and early history of Broward County. The Farm Bureau would consider it an honor to be part of this unique experience.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Fred Segal'.

Fred Segal
President, Broward County Farm Bureau



BROWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU

2121 North State Road 7 • Margate, FL 33063
Phone: (954) 972-2525 • FAX: (305) 969-9543

11/14/2005

To: Florida Communities Trust

Through: Town of Davie Grant Application

Re: Support of Application for Farm Park

From: Broward County Farm Bureau, Board of Directors

Broward County Farm Bureau is pleased to endorse the Farm Park that has been proposed by the Town of Davie. The 54-acre plan is the type of project that will provide a base for agriculture education as well as preservation of open green space. In view of the quickly evolving urban nature of our county, the Broward Farm Bureau Board of Directors believes this type of endeavor is essential for this area. The Farm Park will provide the ideal setting to enhance our citizen's knowledge of agriculture production and enable them to better understand its importance in our culture.

Since our county Farm Bureau has a history of working closely with Broward County 4-H, we feel the Farm Park will serve as an additional component in that relationship by providing the setting to demonstrate how a working crop field operates as well as teaching livestock care. We believe it will greatly enhance the education curriculum by providing a hands-on experience for many urban children who might otherwise never have this experience. It would be coordinated with and serve as a link to the Ag in the Classroom studies already in place in Broward County.

We are pleased to endorse the equestrian area that will be included in the Farm Park. The Town of Davie has many horse owners, and this can only add to the usefulness of the facility. In addition to the trails for pleasure riding, there will be a therapeutic horseback riding program for disabled children as well as a butterfly habitat and wetlands.

Broward County Farm Bureau is pleased to be an enthusiastic partner with the Town of Davie in the Farm Park project. We hope to work with other endorsers such as the Broward County 4-H Foundation, the North South Institute, the Southwest Vegetable Growers Association, Project Stable Inc., and Wagon Wheel Coffee Inc. as well as similar entities. We are proud to support the Farm Park application.

Sincerely,

Fred Segal
President, Broward County Farm Bureau

facilities in combination with the trail network development. The Vista View Trail, which borders the project site, is identified in this plan.

The Davie Farm Park furthers this adopted trail plan by directly linking the residential communities and schools along the Vista View and Oak Hill trails with 54 acres of open space, educational opportunities, and recreational amenities. It also links them to a new multi-use trail within the park. This furthers the plan's goal for the Town to continue to develop trails to meet the community's needs. The site's acquisition additionally implements the master plan's intention for the Town to continue to purchase and develop recreational facilities that complement and work with the trail network to meet the recreational needs of the community. Through the trail network, Davie residents, and residents of our neighboring municipalities whose trails link with Davie's, can access by bike, foot or horseback, a unique facility that emphasizes open space.

(c) Educational Opportunities

1. Will the project site include an interpretive kiosk or interpretive signs intended to educate visitors about the natural environment or unique history of the site? (5 points)

Yes	No
X	

If yes, describe the interpretive educational signs to be provided.

Interpretive signs will be placed along the pathway separating the working farm area from the education farm and at the observation overlook post. The signs will educate visitors about the types of crops and trees being grown, farming techniques, the type of livestock that are present and their purpose on the farm, as well as South Florida and Davie's agricultural history. Small temporary signs, which will rotate with the crops and seasons, also will be placed in various areas of the educational farm area to discuss specific crops being cultivated.

2. Will the applicant provide at least 12 environmental or historical education classes or programs per year at the project site conducted by trained educator(s) or resource professional(s)? (5 points)

Yes	No
X	

If yes, identify who will be conducting the classes or programs, describe the classes or programs to be provided, and the frequency of the planned programs.

The Davie Farm Park is designed to increase the knowledge of children and adults about agriculture production and to enable them to better understand its importance to our survival. As such, the park will provide a unique, hands-on agricultural experience for urban children who are unlikely to have such an opportunity otherwise. At least 12 educational classes or programs will be given at the Davie Farm Park each year, primarily programs for school children visiting the site on class or camp field trips.

Regularly-scheduled programs at the Farm Park will reinforce the *Ag in the Classroom* curriculum currently taught in the Broward County Schools. Davie envisions that the programs will include hands-on work by the children with crops being grown, sheep shearing, cow milking, the collection of eggs from the chicken coop, and interactive animal care with horses, goats and sheep. Additionally, the programs will include discussion about where our food comes from, the agricultural cycle from seedling to market, and the historical role agriculture played as the driving force in the settling and growth of Broward County and the Town of Davie.

The program also will stress natural resource and environmental education. Such topics may include sustainable and organic farming and the native plant and animal species present at the park. Should archaeological remains be found on the site during a survey conducted post-acquisition, related historical information will be incorporated into the park's curriculum.

Crops grown in the educational farming area will rotate with the seasons, and will reflect both species native to Florida as well as those that formed the historical agricultural base of Broward County. Because Davie was once known for its groves, the area also will include fruit trees. Unfortunately due to citrus canker and the eradication program, orange and grapefruit trees which once dominated the area cannot currently be planted. However, should these species some day be permitted, the Town would like to include citrus trees at the park because they once were central to our economy and history.

The educational programs at the Farm Park will be designed and provided by the Town of Davie in combination with volunteers from local 4H clubs, Project Stable, and the Broward County Farm Bureau (please see letters of support from these organizations in Exhibit U). The Farm Park itself will serve as an outdoor classroom, however, classroom space will be available in the barn/educational center and at the outdoor picnic pavilions.

Other types of classes also will be provided at the Farm Park by a local non-profit, Project Stable. This organization will utilize the equestrian area and the barn pasture to provide equestrian classes to mentally and physically disabled children and at-risk children. This organization also is a partner in the provision of educational programming and farm tours.

3. Will the project site include a staffed nature center, museum building, or Neighborhood Recreation Center to provide year round educational classes or programming? (5 points)	Yes X	No
---	----------	----

If yes, describe the proposed facility, the size of the proposed facility, and who will provide the programming.
Note: The facility should be a minimum of 1,000 square feet and no larger than 15,000 square feet.

The Davie Farm Park includes a staffed barn/educational center from which programming will be provided year round by Farm Park staff and volunteers from Project Stable and 4H. Davie envisions this facility to include animal stalls, a demonstration/work area, and storage for farm equipment, feed, and tack, as well as a classroom and park office. The majority of animals, however, will be kept outside in the animal holding area & pens. The barn/educational center facility is estimated at 3,200 s/f.

(d) Natural and Biological Resources

1. Does the land cover on the project site consist of predominantly natural communities that have not been impacted by human disturbance or alteration? (5 points)	Yes	No X
--	-----	---------

If yes, describe the various natural communities on the project site, including the quality of the communities, and the approximate acreage of each community. Describe the extent and acreage of the disturbances or alterations on the project site. Note: Predominately natural equates to approximately 70% coverage.

2. Does the project site contain a Priority 1 or 2 Habitat Area as identified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory? (5 points)	Yes	No X
--	-----	---------

If yes, provide a map and letter from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory that the project site contains either a Priority 1 or 2 Habitat Area.

(4) PROJECT EXCELLENCE SECTION

Does the proposed project further or exemplify "project excellence" based on issues not adequately addressed by the evaluation criteria, such as whether the proposed project exhibits strong community-based support, possesses exemplary characteristics, assists an otherwise disadvantaged community, or voluntarily helps resolve land use conflicts? (Up to 10 points)

Yes	No
X	

If yes, describe how the project provides for other community needs in a manner that was not adequately evaluated by the criteria established elsewhere in this application. Include documentation, if needed.

The Town of Davie is committed to protecting the historical semi-rural lifestyle of the community, despite the rapid urbanization occurring throughout Broward County. Our commitment includes preservation of agricultural uses in the Town, and the education of our children about Davie's, and Broward County's, agricultural history. Advertised throughout the Midwest in the early 1900s as the "first improved community in the Everglades," Davie began as a farming and grazing community. Throughout the years, Davie has seen a gradual decrease in its agricultural community, and almost no farms remain today. As the Town nears build-out, it has become imperative to protect and promote this background. The Davie Farm Park project seeks to preserve our community's history and provide a learning center to teach future generations about the community's roots in agricultural and to provide a basic understanding of how food and food production are essential to our survival.

The Farm Park will be the first and only park in Broward County that focuses on agriculture and its production. This focus will include farming (row crops and fruit trees) and livestock farming. The concept has received widespread support and enthusiasm throughout the community, as noted by the letters of support from residents, non-profits, the Farm Bureau, and Broward County included as Exhibit U. The project site also provides the unique opportunity to provide a themed park, while preserving open space. Presently, few large parcels remain in Broward County that can be preserved as open space. In addition, the project site is centrally located in the county which will enable all residents to benefit from its existence.

Educationally, the project will provide an unequalled opportunity to expand public and non-profit programs aimed at teaching children and adults about agriculture. The Broward County School Board has conducted "Agriculture in the Classroom" for over a decade, but has no facility available where children can see and implement the curriculum. This site would provide an education center for this program and provide a hands-on experience of how early Broward residents subsisted. Non-profit organizations, such as Project Stable and the 4H, will also will partner with the Town at the park and utilize the site to provide agricultural programs that focus on children with disabilities and children desiring a future in agriculture.