



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Susan Sanders

Lower West Coast Service Center

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (239) 338-2929, ext. 7715 or Cellular: (239) 229-7925

www.sfwmd.gov/news

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SFWMD Donates 20 Acres to the City of Bonita Springs *Deed to be presented at Sept. 16 City Council meeting*

Fort Myers, FL - The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board has approved the donation of 20 acres of conservation land on the Imperial River to the City of Bonita Springs.

The partnership will allow the city to fully utilize the property in conjunction with the city-owned Nature Place, an environmental center that promotes the area's ecology and fosters environmental stewardship. As a requirement of the donation, the city may only use the land for conservation, education and passive recreation.

Addition of the 20-acre parcel will provide visitors to Nature Place with direct access to the Imperial River and a hands-on opportunity to learn about the watershed. The property also adjoins Pine Lake Preserve, a 130-acre conservation area managed by Lee County. Links to the Imperial River and Pine Lake Preserve will give the city the opportunity to expand the existing trail system at Nature Place, enabling visitors to enjoy a variety of natural areas.

SFWMD Governing Board member Charles Dauray will present the property deed to the Bonita Springs City Council at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 16. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 9101 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage

and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.