

BOARD REPORT  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MARCH 14, 2022

TO: Town Council, Town Administrator O'Keefe, Town Clerk Brock

As requested, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is providing a recommendation for the area located directly south of Venezia. This 2+ acre area is currently covered in pine trees.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members gathered information about the various kinds of parks located in other areas of Florida and other states. We found a "Critter Trail" popular in another state. There is currently not one like it in Florida. This trail is a mulched winding trail of just a few hundred feet. This means at least a few of the pine trees would need to be removed. The trail has posts about 3'-4' tall with a laminated QR code attached. Each QR code is a clue about a "critter" generally seen in the area. The clue is a brief video made on YouTube that anyone with a cell phone could access. There is no cost for this part, except perhaps an app charge to make a YouTube video. Some of the QR codes could include very brief videos on hummingbirds, bats, turtles, frogs, opossums, dragonflies, sharks, alligators, various birds, etc. Sometimes, the park this idea came from, has one of their staff walk around in an animal costume to entertain children and help keep the children on the trail. Howey could become known throughout Florida for this unique park.

We also are recommending a fenced dog park in that location. Perhaps one similar to Lake Idamere dog park, in Tavares.