

News Release



News Release

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Bagdad Mill Site Park Kicks Off Improvement Project

The kick off for the Bagdad Mill Site Park Improvement Project will begin with a demolition of the existing buildings and structures on August 4 at 9:30 a.m. at the Bagdad Mill Site located at 6953 Main Street in Bagdad. The demolition will take place after a sledge hammer wielding ceremony.

After the demolition and debris removal, the site will be ready for further development which will include the construction of a .45 mile walking trail, a trailhead facility in the park, an entertainment pavilion, a kayak launch, fishing pier, and other amenities.

The 21 acre Bagdad Mill Site, located at the union of Pond Creek and Blackwater River in Bagdad, was previously the location of the Bagdad Land and Lumber Company Saw Mill which was in operation from 1835 through 1939. More recently, the property was used to manufacture pre-stressed concrete products and asphalt paving material. The site was acquired by the State of Florida Board of Trustees in 2000 and was leased to Santa Rosa County for development in 2004 as a passive recreation area. Inspections determined that the buildings were unsafe and should be demolished. Recently, the State of Florida Office of Greenways and Trails authorized a contribution in the amount of \$10,000 to assist Santa Rosa County with the demolition of these structures.

The majority of the funding and support for development of the park will come from various state and federal grants, District Two recreational funds, tourism funds and the State of Florida Office of Greenways and Trails.

For more information contact Sheila Harris at (850) 983-1848.

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