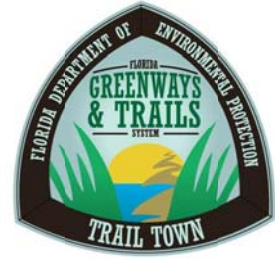


## EVERGLADES CITY TRAIL TOWN – One Year Update - February 12, 2020



Everglades City was designated a Trail Town in January 2019 and since our last report in June 2019, the City has continued to make progress in completing the goals for our Trail Town initiatives. The following is a list of what we have accomplished which is the result of the efforts by many in our community, including non-profit organizations, the Mayor and the Everglades City Council and Staff.

### **New Visitor Center / Trail Town Headquarters:**

On February 1, 2020, the City celebrated the Grand Opening of the new Visitor Center and Trail Town Headquarters located across from the historic district at 207 West Broadway in the heart of Everglades City. There were over 100 guests who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony by Mayor Howie Grimm, including U.S. Congressman Mario-Diaz Balart, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio's representative, Collier County Tourist Development Council Executive Director Jack Wert, Everglades City Councilperson Elaine Middelstaedt, Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos, OGT Regional Coordinator Katie Bernier and Florida Greenways & Trails Council member Chuck Barrowclough among many others. The Center is open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**Signage:**

- 1) Maps of Everglades City / Chokoloskee have been installed at the following locations:
  - a) Kiosk on CR29 coming into town
  - b) McLeod Community Park in the center of town
  
- 2) Trail Town Signs have been installed at the following locations:
  - a) On the “Welcome to Everglades City” sign on CR29 coming into town
  - b) At the boat ramp at the Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Visitor Center in Everglades City
  - c) On the maps at the Kiosk on CR29 and at the Community Park
  - d) Lobby entrance at City Hall
  - e) On the “Welcome to the Everglades” sign at the new Visitor Center / Trail Town Headquarters
  
- 3) Everglades City will install two new directive blue signs with arrows pointing to the new Visitor Center / Trail Town Headquarters





### **Bicycle Amenities:**

- 1) Two new bicycle rental companies have opened – *Tour the Glades* and *Island Ryders*
- 2) A “Dolphin” Bike Rack & a Dero Bike Repair Station have been installed at McLeod Community Park
- 3) Eight new bicycle racks were distributed to area restaurants, hotels, and businesses



### **Other Improvements:**

- 1) New street signs and speed limit signs were installed throughout town with 15 mph approaching the school, 25 mph in all residential areas and downtown Everglades City, and 40 mph on the main road coming into town CR29/Collier Blvd.
- 2) The local Lion’s Club raised funds to landscape McLeod Community Park with native plants and purchase new playground equipment for the children of residents and visitors.



- 3) A Naples Boy Scout troop cleaned out the historic goldfish pond which was built by Barron Collier on West Broadway; it is being refurbished as an outside art project.
- 4) Many businesses have made landscaping improvements, and a new garden club has been established which will assist residents and businesses in setting up raised gardens which will benefit the residents and the community. Residents are being encouraged to prepare whole foods and establish healthier life styles.
- 5) The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Sprint Triathlon/Duathlon was held on February 1, 2020, to encourage more physical exercise. Many residents participated in this event which was sponsored by several Collier County bicycle and running clubs in coordination with local representatives. Proceeds from the event will be used to benefit the local community.
- 6) A Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee was organized to make recommendations to the City and to the Collier MPO for road improvements to benefit cyclists and pedestrians.
- 7) Economic Development progress in Everglades City - Within the past six months, several private enterprises have invested in major renovations and improvements:
  - a) The Everglades Fishing Company purchased the Marathon Gas Station and expanded its services to include a bait and tackle shop and a popular new restaurant Nely's Corner.
  - b) The Oyster House Restaurant & Glades Haven Store (across from the Everglades National Park), damaged by Hurricane Irma in 2017 and left abandoned for two years, were recently purchased and now undergoing major renovations.
  - c) A new pizza and sandwich restaurant (Hole in the Wall Pizza) opened in the Right Choice Supermarket offering a wide variety of Italian dishes.

**To be completed:**

- 1) New street lights for the entire town -Solar street lights (92) have been approved by the City Council – installation for the first 30 lights should be completed within the next few months; the remaining lights will be installed in stages.
- 2) Bicycle Repair Shop - Bike Repair Station at the Park seems to be sufficient at this time; it is being utilized by residents and visitors and very much appreciated.