



# PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

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*"Bringing Opportunities Home"*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR THE OPENING OF THE STARKEY TRAIL CONNECTION THROUGH JAY B. STARKEY WILDERNESS PARK TO THE TRAILHEAD AND SUNCOAST TRAIL

NEW PORT RICHEY, FL – The Starkey Trail projects that connect Starkey Boulevard and Wilderness Park Road to the trailhead in Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park and the Suncoast Trail are now open to pedestrians and cyclists. Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park is located within the Starkey Wilderness Preserve, which is owned by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, and jointly managed by Pasco County and the District. There is a new eight-foot asphalt Multi-Use Path along the east side of Starkey Boulevard from Alico Pass to Wilderness Park Road, a new eight-foot concrete Multi-Use Path on the north side of Wilderness Park Road and a new ten-foot asphalt Multi-Use Trail that meanders through the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park to the trailhead and Suncoast Trail. These projects were constructed with funding from the Penny for Pasco Local Option Sales Surtax and will add 2.34 miles of bicycle trails to Pasco County. There will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., on the trail, adjacent to the Starkey Environmental Education Center at 10500 Wilderness Park Road, New Port Richey, 34655, and the Welcome Center Kiosk. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic will be temporarily diverted during the Ribbon Cutting ceremony. During the ceremony, Pasco County will take this opportunity to recognize and remember the contributions of Robert (Bob) J. Tietz, Pasco County Biologist from September 14, 1998 to June 1, 2010, on the trail project through Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park. Bob Tietz was instrumental in developing the alignment, assisting with the design, and securing the permit for this section of the project. In recognizing his contribution and his passion for the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, the County will be placing a plaque adjacent to the bicycle trail, in his memory.