

The Michael Biel Park is a privately owned parcel by Foundation of the Gulf Coast Inc., Conservation; Big Waters Land Trust and by agreement is managed by the City of Venice. More information concerning the Michael Biehl Park is detailed online (see link below).

[Michael Biehl Park – Big Waters Land Trust](#)

Property Record Information for 0407140025

Map

Print Summary

2024 TRIM

2024 Record Card

Tax Bill

Account #/Parcel ID

View Another Parcel

Ownership:

FOUNDATION OF THE GULF COAST INC CONSERVATION  
PO BOX 902, OSPREY, FL, 34229-0902  
[Change mailing address](#)  
Situs Address:  
180 W TAMPA AVE VENICE, FL, 34285

Land Area:

13,501 Sq.Ft.

Municipality:

City of Venice

Subdivision:

0540 - VENICE GULF VIEW SEC OF

Property Use:

8250 - Parks - Neighborhood

Status:

OPEN

Sec/Twp/Rge:

07-39S-19E

Census:

121150023042

Zoning:

VA - VENICE AVENUE

Total Living Units:

0

Parcel Description:

LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5, BLK 49, GULF VIEW SEC OF VENICE, LESS PORTION OF LOTS 1 & 2 FOR TAMIAMI TRL R/W AS DESC IN ORI 2000017972, TOGETHER WITH S 1/2 OF VACATED CALLE REAL LYING N OF LOTS 1 THRU 5 AS DESC IN ORI 2007022643, SUBJ TO 886 SF UTILITY ESMT TO CITY OF VENICE AS DESC IN ORI 2007022644

Buildings

Vacant Land

Parks & Recreation Minutes 1/10/2005

### 3. Application for Naming of Two Parks

Mr. Caillouette outlined the application for the proposed Foundation Park which is located on property acquired by the Sarasota Conservation Foundation with the assistance of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice. He added that the property is adjacent to the Venice Little Theatre. The name Foundation Park would permit applying for grant funds and soliciting donations. After a park name has been approved, the conceptual site plan will be prepared.

Mr. Caillouette stated the proposed name for previously approved Venice Gulf View Park was Graser Square (Merle L. Graser, Mayor of Venice, 1993 – 1998). Mayor Graser was an instrumental member of the Land Acquisition Committee in acquiring this property for use as a park.

Ms. Stoddard discussed recognizing the achievements of Robert E. Clark and Dorothy Clark Dekle, her grandfather and mother, who were instrumental in the development of Venice.

Mr. Caillouette outlined the park naming process, which includes the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board sending a recommendation to City Council. He stated foundations require some form of name recognition when funds are donated.

(4:02) Ms. Stoddart moved to recommend to City Council the names of Robert E. Clark or Dorothy Clark Dekle to rename Foundation or to name a park in the future in order to recognize the Clark family as instrumental in the layout of the City of Venice. Seconded by Ms. Silk.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Stoddart, YES; Mr. Gelormino, NO; Mr. Andrews, NO; Mr. Jennings, NO; Mr. Osborne, YES; Mr. Feinsod, NO; Ms. Silk, YES. MOTION FAILED.

## II. CITY PARKS TOUR

Mr. Heath gave a brief history of the Venice park system as the tour began. The park tour included the following parks with comments as noted: Heritage Park, Venice Municipal Beach where the observation deck and beach pavilion were pointed out, and Graser Park. Mr. Heath noted Chauncy Howard Park is leased from the state for public access to the beach, Higel Marine Park, Humphris Park where the mitigation reef is located, Prentiss French Park, Hecksher Park, and City Hall Park. Mr. Heath gave a description of trees contained in John Nolen Park, he talked about the statues donated to Dr. Fred Albee Park, he outlined the future walkway plans for Centennial Park, and that Foundation Park has all native Florida plantings, construction is almost complete and is being renamed Michael Biehl Park. Mr. Heath gave a brief history of Fountain and Ponce de Leon Parks. Mr. Andrews reviewed the status of the Venice Arboretum at East Blalock Park. The tour continued with West Blalock Park, Venezia Park, Chuck Reiter Park, Brohard Park, Service Club Park, the Fishing Pier area where construction is underway for parking and an additional restroom and Paw Park. Mr. Heath reviewed conceptual plans for the Tramonto Vista Park and Mr. Andrews gave an update on the construction for the east side of the Venetian Waterway Park. The board toured the Marina Park, Boat Ramp Park, Mundy Park, East Gate Park, Wellfield Park and Mr. Heath gave a brief description of the future development of the Venice Myakka River Park. The tour continued with Sawgrass Park, Patriots Park, North Trail Head of the Venetian Waterway Park, and concluded with another view of Fountain Park (Michael Biehl Park), Centennial Park and Hecksher Park.

There was discussion on the use of parks in the system, having volunteers painting murals under the bridges near the Venetian Waterway Park, and maintenance of all parks.

Mr. Willson answered questions regarding the decision maker for naming parks, Foundation Park name changing to Michael Biehl Park, and the one cent sales tax renewal survey.

**TO:** Martin A. Black, City Manager  
**FROM:** L.A. Heath, Jr., Director of Public Works  
**DATE:** March 16, 2007  
**SUBJECT:** Michael Biehl Park (Foundation Park)

**Background:**

The city of Venice leased this property from Sarasota Conservation Foundation, Inc. and by agreement was responsible to construct, maintain and use the property as a public park and open space under mutual consent of Sarasota Conservation Foundation, Inc. The property was constructed by design/built concept and the contractor was Jon F. Swift, Inc. with the project substantially completed on January 17, 2007. The approved contract and budget for this project was \$355,981 and totally funded by Park Impact fees.

As a result of field changes of site conditions, the city was given a credit for a trench drain indicated on the plan that was not installed. The proposed connection of the fountain discharge had to be altered to a new direct sewer tap of the sanitary sewer system with alley base and surface repairs. This change was more than the previous credit by \$1,150. We executed a work directive to the contractor to document this work.

By agreement, Sarasota Conservation Foundation, Inc. is responsible for naming of the park and at the beginning of the project the name was not finalized. As a result of mutual agreement, the city has concurred with the cost of park lettering and installation for approximately \$1,600. The Sarasota Conservation Foundation, Inc. has officially names the park as Michael Biehl Park.

**Requested Action:**

Therefore, city staff is requesting authorization to increase CP #433 identified as Foundation Park by \$3,000 for changes to the fountain sewer tap connection and signage costs of the project.

**Funds Availability:**

We are recommending \$3,000 of available Park Impact fees be utilized to increase the funds for this project in account 001-9620-572.65-72.