

Okaloosa County News Release

7/20/2012

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us

NR12-107

Work Can Begin on Okaloosa Isle Property Lease Agreements Approved for Aqua Green & Wild Willy's

Okaloosa County has already begun to make improvements on this naturally pristine property on the Island, and now work can begin on the Aqua Green Project and Wild Willy's Adventure Park to provide additional economic activity on Okaloosa Island. "I think this is a terrific partnership, providing needed opportunities for our fishing industry and economic activity, as well as appreciation and education opportunities for our natural areas and wildlife to the local community, stated Chairman Don Amunds, Okaloosa County Commission.

"Okaloosa County Commissioners, with the help of local citizens and groups such as Audubon, parks committee members, business people, and others worked hard to bring this industry and the Wildlife Refuge together with the county to have entities that enhance the island property."

Okaloosa County is adding boardwalks, additional boat parking and upgrades to the property, along with the Wildlife Refuge that will also make improvements and provide their services, along with education. Residents, groups at the Emerald Coast Conference Center and visitors take advantage of this beautiful, natural setting. "The idea is that the commercial venture will pay for the upkeep of the property," added Amunds.

The major component of Aqua Green's Fish Hatchery will provide local fish and increase supplies in the Gulf of Mexico. The Florida Restaurant Association is supportive of any assistance in providing local fish in local restaurants. Leases for Aqua Green and Wild Willy's were approved at the Okaloosa County Commissioner meeting on Tuesday, therefore the fundraising and work can begin.

###