



Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
c/o Parks and Recreation Director Chris Linsbeck
Hernando County Administration Office
15470 Flight Path Dr.
Brooksville, FL 34604

Re: Letter of Support —Ernie Wever Park, Brooksville, Florida

Dear Director Linsbeck and Members of the Hernando County Board of
County Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of Coastal Engineering to express our full support for the proposed expansion of Ernie Wever Youth Park in Brooksville, Florida. We strongly encourage the Board of County Commissioners to support this initiative and to provide the resources necessary to bring it to fruition.

Ernie Wever Youth Park is more than a recreational facility it is a cornerstone of this community. Situated on 113 acres along U.S. 98 North, it stands as Hernando County's largest sports complex and currently serves thousands of families through its football, baseball, softball, tee-ball, and soccer programs. The Hernando Youth League, which has called this area home since its founding in 1958, has provided generations of Hernando County youth with a place to grow, compete, and belong. What began as a modest three-team baseball program has evolved into a multi-sport organization that has shaped the lives of countless young people in this county. That evolution did not happen by accident. It happened because community leaders, coaches, and local government chose to invest in our youth and that investment paid dividends far beyond the playing field.

The proposed expansion, which would provide additional dedicated baseball and softball fields along with a dedicated football and soccer complex, represents exactly the kind of forward-thinking investment that a growing community like ours needs. The park's existing infrastructure already serves a tremendous volume of youth activity, and demand continues to grow alongside our population. Families are choosing where to live and put down roots in part based on the quality of life a community offers their children.

Youth sports bring families together on weekday evenings and weekends, and they teach children how to handle adversity, work as a team, and take pride in something larger than themselves. They create a sense of place and identity that stays with people long after their playing days are over.



I speak from personal experience when I say that the Hernando Youth League is something truly special. I grew up in this organization, participated in countless work days alongside friends and family, and took genuine pride in caring for our fields. Some of the closest friendships I have today began at four years old on the tee-ball fields of Ernie Wever Youth Park. Organizations like this are living proof of how participation in organized sports shapes character — and a reminder of how the absence of adequate facilities can limit opportunity for the children who need it most.

The legacy of Ernie Wever Youth Park is already well established. Expanding it is an opportunity to extend that legacy to the next generation of Hernando County families. The Hernando Youth League is fortunate to have strong, dedicated leadership in place today, leadership that is willing to invest personal time and energy into the betterment of this park and the children it serves. Coastal Engineering is ready to do the same. We are proud to stand in support and coordination with the Hernando Youth League on this effort, and we remain committed to offering our assistance as this project moves forward whether through master planning, local community support, or fundraising as needed.

I respectfully urge this Board to lend its full support to Director Linsbeck's efforts on behalf of Parks and Recreation and to take the necessary steps to make this expansion a reality.

Thank you for your time and your continued commitment to the residents of Hernando County.

Respectfully,

Ford Manuel
General Manager
Coastal Engineering Associates, Inc.