

Hernando Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 1678, Brooksville, FL 34605

www.hernandoaudubon.org

November 12, 2025

Christopher Linsbeck
Hernando County Community Services Director
15470 Flight Path Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604
Email: clinsbeck@hernandocounty.us

Re: Letter of Support for Rebuilding the Tower at Linda Pedersen Park

Dear Chris,

On behalf of Hernando Audubon, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for rebuilding the tower at Linda Pedersen Park. We surveyed Hernando Audubon members who frequent the sites of the three options mentioned in the Coastal memo to gauge their opinion on the best location for a replacement tower. Their choice was unanimous; the Linda Pedersen Park site is best suited for rebuilding the tower. The reason for this selection is that the best view of the surrounding landscape would be from another tower placed at the existing location, especially for manatees during the winter season. I've personally climbed the tower many times at Linda Pedersen Park with my grandsons and it is a spectacular view.

As was stated in the Coastal memo, the view from the proposed Weekiwachee Preserve location would be Hernando Beach housing to the west. To the east, even if the tower was located closer to the lakes within the Preserve, there would be little of interest to view. This is because the lakes are so deep, no littoral zone has developed around the periphery that would attract waterfowl or wading birds. And putting the tower in the exact spot where the current boardwalk at Bayport Park was destroyed by storm surge does not seem reasonable.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tom St Clair

Tom St Clair, PhD
President and Conservation Chair, Hernando Audubon
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