



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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TheBus Announces Brand-New Mermaid Route to Pine Island Park

(Brooksville, FL) – TheBus is excited to unveil its newest addition to public transportation service in Hernando County — Route 9: The Mermaid Route, launched on Monday, July 21, 2025.

This scenic new route will provide direct and convenient service from Walmart on US 19, traveling north along Shoal Line Blvd., then west on State Road 50, all the way to Alfred McKethan Pine Island Park, before returning the same way back to Walmart on US 19. Route 9 is designed to offer both residents and visitors a stress-free, reliable transportation option to one of the county's most popular beach destinations.

"We're thrilled to offer an easier way for people to get to Pine Island Park and local businesses, especially during busy weekends and holidays when parking in the area is often full," said Darlene Lollie, Hernando County Transit Administrator of TheBus. "By taking the Mermaid Route, aka Route 9, passengers can park at Linda Pedersen Park and enjoy a quick, relaxing ride to the beach without the hassle of searching for parking."

Key Features of Route 9 – The Mermaid Route:

- Direct service to Pine Island Park, Roger's Park, Bayport, and Jenkins Creek
- Convenient park-and-ride option at Linda Pedersen Park
- Access to scenic coastal areas along Shoal Line Blvd.
- Affordable, accessible, and environmentally friendly





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Look for Mermaid Route signage and bus stop information around town and follow TheBus on social media (<https://www.facebook.com/TheBusHernando>) or download the Token Transit app for real-time updates by visiting <https://tokentransit.com/app>.

For full route details, schedules, and fares,
please visit www.HernandoBus.com or call 352-754-4444.

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Hernando County, FL was established in 1843 and named in honor of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto. Also known as Florida's Adventure Coast, over 206,000 residents live amongst a vast array of freshwater rivers and springs, state forests, preserves and Gulf waters, calling it home. Just north of Tampa and west of Orlando, Hernando County's economic impact in aviation, aerospace, manufacturing, distribution and logistical industries foster a strong workplace for business growth and prosperity. Businesses, residents, and tourists are drawn to this location because of the affordability, accessibility and abundant space to relocate or expand. Learn more about Hernando County by visiting www.HernandoCounty.us and get the latest updates by liking Hernando County Government's Facebook page [@HernandoCoGov](https://www.facebook.com/HernandoCoGov).

