

Martin OKs water lines into state park

Work now can begin on \$1.84 million education center

By Suzanne Wentley
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With a debate over how best to restore healthy conditions to the Loxahatchee River in the background, Martin County commissioners on Tuesday agreed to stop one potential pollution source.

With changes in the county's comprehensive plan approved, sewer and water lines can now be extended into Jonathan Dickinson State Park for a new \$1.84 million education center, which park officials said could be under construction by June.

River advocates have been lobbying for the change in county rules for nearly a decade, with the goal of ending the potential of untreated

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sewage being dumped directly into the river's federally designated wild and scenic northwest fork.

Now, those activists have turned to the plan by water managers to add more freshwater to the river in an effort to reverse the negative ef-

fects of salt-water intrusion from the Jupiter Inlet without harming the brackish estuary or freshwater floodplain.

On Tuesday, Rick Dent, the executive director of the Loxahatchee River District, said state water managers planned to model three new options for delivering fresh water over the Lainhart dam and down the river's three main tributaries.

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