Ormond Beach park planners plan on public input

This patch of empty land will one day be Andy Romano Beachfront Park.

By Jason Wheeler, Volusia County Reporter

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ORMOND BEACH --

While the opening of Andy Romano Beachfront Park is nearly two years away from happening, the civil engineering firm hired to plan the $5.5 million park is counting on public input for designing it. Beth Lemke with Zev Cohen and Associates tells News 13 there are certain things the park will have to have, such as parking spaces, and dunes. But they want to know what those who will use this park want from it.

A first community meeting will be held Tuesday night at 6 at The Casements, at 25 Riverside Drive and a second is Wednesday night at 7. That meeting will be at the Senior Center at 351 Andrews Street.

The city bought the property last year, after a bond referendum was approved by local voters. There is a lack of off-beach parking in the area, and driving on the beach is becoming increasingly difficult with soft, orange sand moving south down the coast. That's forced the county to limit driving along the city's northern section of beach off limits to all but 4-wheel drive vehicles.

Janett Moberly, an Ormond Beach resident tells News 13 she's looking forward to the park and parking lot. She spent about 15 minutes trying to find a spot adjacent to the park site. Plus, after seeing the empty lot for so long, "it'd be better than the eyesore it is now."