

Bowlees Creek condo project wins Manatee OK

A condominium development with boat slips and possibly a boat storage facility may occupy the 19-acre site of a former driving range and a mobile home park demolished more than three years ago.

On Thursday, the Manatee County Commission approved two options for Sarasota-based Gulfside Homes to pursue for a development on the cleared property on Bowlees Creek, just west of U.S. 41 and south of Trailer Estates:

- 144 condos, a 200-rack boat storage facility and 53 boat slips
- Or, if the boat storage facility does not prove to be marketable, 162 condos and 53 boat slips.

The development is to include a clubhouse, a pool and more than eight acres of open space. The buildings will be a mix of four and two stories, with ground floors used for parking. The property is the former site of the Bowlees Creek mobile home park, which was demolished in 2006. Mark Barnebey, attorney for Gulfside Homes, regarded the project as an example of the "urban infill" development that the county wants to encourage along the Tamiami Trail. In January, the Planning Commission voted 5-1 to recommend the project. Planning Commissioner Marilyn Stasica objected to the county's allowing residences in an evacuation zone.