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ON the ROADS

Why did state buy golf course, recently sold to Davie, to dump runoff from I-595?

Runoff will be channeled first to golf courses before it is discharged into canals

Michael Turnbell, on Transportation

Sun Sentinel Columnist

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Q: I am perplexed as to why the state purchased a golf course along Interstate 595, which was then recently bought by the Town of Davie. How can that be when there is a large canal running along the north side of I-595?

Brett Radler, Plantation

A: Long before construction began, engineers concluded that the new I-595 would need the equivalent of 60 acres of ponds where runoff could collect before being redirected to regional canals.

"The North New River Canal is an environmentally sensitive area. If storm water were to drain directly into (the canal) it could carry debris and cause erosion," said project spokeswoman Laila Haddad.

The state came up with a solution to buy Arrowhead Golf Course for \$7.4 million and easements at Pine Island Ridge and Lago Mar golf courses. Davie agreed to buy the Arrowhead course for \$4.63 million.

Runoff from I-595 and State Road 84 is directed into drains, then into collection boxes where skimmers collect larger debris and pollutants. The water is then discharged into the detention ponds on the three golf courses to let the water settle.

Water from Arrowhead and Lago Mar is re-directed into the canal. Water from Pine Island Ridge flows into the N-11 Canal to the south.

The drainage work was completed last year and all three golf courses are ready to receive runoff from I-595.