

Budget Detail Request - Fiscal Year 2016-17

Your request will not be officially submitted unless all questions and applicable sub parts are answered.

1. Title of Project: BIG CYPRESS BEND BOARDWALK PROJECT in the FAKAHATCHEE STRAND PRESERVE STATE PARK
2. Date of Submission: 01/08/2016
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Kathleen Passidomo

4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No
If answer to 4a is ?NO? skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? No
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request (Note that Column E will be the total of Recurring funds requested and Column F will be the total Nonrecurring funds requested, the sum of which is the Total of the Funds you are requesting in Column G):

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2015-16 (If appropriated in FY 2015-16 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2016-17 (If no new Recurring or Nonrecurring funding is requested, enter zeros.)			
	Column: A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column A + Column B)	Recurring Base Budget (Will equal non-vetoed amounts provided in Column A)	INCREASED or NEW Recurring Requested	TOTAL Nonrecurring Requested (Nonrecurring is one time funding & must be re-requested every year)	Total Funds Requested Over Base Funding (Recurring plus Nonrecurring: Column E + Column F)
Input Amounts:					0	5,365,000	5,365,000

- e. New Nonrecurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:
 Operating Expenses Fixed Capital Construction Other one-time costs
- f. New Recurring Funding Requested for FY 16-17 will be used for:
 Operating Expenses Fixed Capital Construction Other one-time costs

5. Requester:

- a. Name: Tom Maish
- b. Organization: Friends of Fakahatchee 501 c3
- c. Email: tommaish@aol.com
- d. Phone #: (239)992-5963

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

- a. Name: Friends of Fakahatchee, Inc
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended) Collier
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding) Collier

7. Write a project description that will serve as a stand-alone summary of the project for legislative review. The description should summarize the entire project's intended purpose, the purpose of the funds requested (if request is a sub-part of the entire project), and most importantly the detail on how the funds requested will be spent - for example how much will be spent on positions and associated salaries, specifics on capital costs, and detail of operational expenses. The summary must list what local, regional or statewide interests or areas are served. It should also document the need for the funds, the community support and expected results when applicable. Be sure to include the type and amount of services as well as the number of the specific target population that will be served (such as number of home health visits to X, # of elderly, # of school aged children to receive mentoring, # of violent crime victims to receive once a week counseling etc.)

The Fakahatchee is the largest Park/Preserve with few facilities for the public and no gate to collect admission fees.

The Friends of Fakahatchee are requesting the Legislature to invest in this Park/Preserve by adding the following improvements to the Park.

Construct restrooms at the BoardWalk site	\$ 345,000.
Rebuild the deteriorating boardwalk	\$1,370,000.
Rebuild the gravel road Janes?Scenic and replace collapsing culverts	\$ 300,000.
Build an Outdoor Education Classroom	\$ 150,000.
Build an Intrepretive Visitor Pavilion	\$ 700,000.
Build an ADA access elevated Canopy Walk	\$ 2,500,000.

All designed to attract more Visitors to this Jewel of the Everglades

Current visitation is 126,164 visitors per year contributing \$9,327,733.00 to the local economy with Sales Tax receipts of \$652,941.00. All with no restrooms or safe parking at the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk!

With a gated entrance to collect fees an additional \$378,492.00 could be contributed to the Park Service in the quest to make Florida's Parks 100% self sufficient.

The Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk currently draws some 80,000 plus Visitors each year who have heard of it or just stop by because they see cars parked along the berm of US41. Our project is ?shovel ready? with application for the final permits in process.

Investment from the Legislature could mean that the total project could be completed within one year.

We estimate with proper parking ; the new attraction of the Visitor Pavilion ,ADA friendly no rail boardwalk and elevated Canopy Walk that the count could easily increase to 160,000 and more.

The project has potential to be the largest environmental attraction between Miami and Naples!

The economic impact to the local economy could increase from the current \$9,327,733.00 to \$15,985,500.00 per year!

Plus the entrance fees to the Park Service could jump from almost zero to \$480,000.00 per year.

Currently the DEP has funding from their general budget to construct the deceleration lane and safe parking off of US41, but nothing more.

The Fakahatchee is a part of the "Real Florida" and draws foreign Visitors during the "off season" months. Collier County Commissioners Donna Fiala , Tim Nance and Mr Jack W Wirt, Executative Director of The Naples Marco Island Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau are solid supporters.

In addition many civic and business leaders have signed letters of support for the Friends

Florida Parks Director ; Donald Forgione is 100% in favor of project.

Funds for planning and construction of the proposed deceleration lane and parking area off of US41 have been appropriated from the general DEP Park Service budget.

The Friends of Fakahatchee have spent or committed about \$150,000.00 to assist the Park Service with: engineering studies, project facilities design by a L.E.E.D designated architect firm and completion of an Interpretative Master Plan that has incorporated the suggestions of the Park Service.

If the project is fully funded in the 2016-2017 Budget there will be no further funds needed. Admission fees will cover staff and maintenance expenses.

In addition the Friends of Fakahatchee provide approximately \$69,000. Per year for the needs of the Park.

8. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2016-17 from all sources of funding:

Federal: 0

State: 0 (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column G)

Local: 0

Other: 69,000

9. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

No