

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: Lovers Key State Park Environmental Education Center
2. Date of Submission: 11/23/2015
3. House Member Sponsor(s): Matthew Caldwell

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	1,500,000	1,500,000

- 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: Mark Generales
- b. Organization: Lee County private citizen
- c. Email: MGENERALES@southerntrustfinancial.com
- d. Phone #: (239)676-5676

6. Organization or Name of Entity Receiving Funds:

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

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.)

Lovers Key State Park is the second most-visited park in Florida with over 976000 visitors last year yet the park does not have a Visitor Center/Environmental Education Center. The Park generated more than \$70 million in economic impact to the region and has sustained some 1000 jobs according to information provided by the State Park Service. Friends of Lovers Key (FOLKS) is a non-profit support organization (a CSO) for the park and has undertaken the task of building the Environmental Education Center with the consent of, but not the funding support from the DEP. The State Park System (part of the DEP) receives no State general revenue funds. To date FOLKS has raised funds to complete a conceptual design for the proposed building, has completed an extensive survey of the site, and has established Building, Fundraising, and Exhibit Committees. The design and construction activities will clearly contribute to jobs in the local construction industry. The adjacent communities of Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach, and Estero as well as the Lee County Commissioners are all enthusiastically in support and familiar with the plans for the Education Center and the benefits that such a new attraction will afford their citizens, businesses and work force. The amount requested in this application is \$1,500,000 which represents the hard costs necessary to start up and complete construction of the 3600 sf. LEED certified, elevated, building to include final design, engineering, and site work. See Exhibit A for a cost breakdown. The building's conceptual design has received preliminary approval from the Park Service and when completed it will present a new facility focused on preserving our important natural environment. It will house a state of the art exhibit hall, flexible space for classes and community meetings, book store, rest rooms and an observation/teaching deck overlooking a beautiful backwater estuary. The completed Environmental Education Center will present a new and exciting facility focused on learning about and protecting our precious natural environment. The Building will inspire and provide visitors a new reason to visit Lovers Key State Park and to learn the importance of stewardship of our unique barrier island ecosystem. The park staff will now have an indoor facility in which to conduct tours of the exhibits and hold classes, meetings, laboratories, displays, and to provide lectures to school and environmental groups, as well as tourists; and to offer the use of the facility

to the community. As Florida continues to grow and as tourism continues to contribute to the Lee County economy, visitors of all ages and abilities will learn that Lovers Key is much more than a beautiful beach and they will be introduced to the role we all must play in protecting our fragile ecosystem and preserving it for future generations to enjoy.

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: 1,500,000

Other: 33,000

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

Yes