#### FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, FEBUARY 11, 2025 - 9:45am, Ryall house/South Prong Preserve

#### CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

CALL FOR ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S) - pp. 2-3

TREASURER'S REPORT - pp. 4-10

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Linus 40 acres on St. Sebastian River-IR County ELAP, IRLT SSR purchase

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1) Adopt-a-Road IR County for route 512 segment awaiting County Attorney approval of new contract
- 2) St. Sebastian River road signs Buzz contacted Joe Earman

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocacy - Herrmann

- 1) SJRWMD permits City of Fellsmere, Kentucky Ave. stormwater greenway improvements permit #226651
- 2) ACOE permits none
- 3) Palm Bay FLUM map amendment, 133 acres Micco Rd, currently has a land use of commercial and residential, requesting to amend to Urban Mixed Use p. 11
- 4) MRC Lagoon Action Assembly, July 2024, full report https://lovetheirl.org/science/action-assemblies
- 5) FL Nonprofit Alliance sign-on letter pp. 12-14
- 6) Sierra Club of FL, State Parks Protection sign-on pp. 15-16
- 7) Sierra Club of FL, 2025 Budget cons. Funding priorities pp. 17-22
- 8) Headwaters Heritage & Cultural Center, Fellsmere p. 23
- 9) Opossum Pipefish Preserve proposed project/IRLNEP grant submission p. 24

#### Education/Outreach - Bolton/Stephen

- 1) General Meetings Mar. 25, MRC IR Lagoon Report update, May 27 ORCA/SSR pollution mapping
- 2) Wimbrow Park/River manatee signs
- 3) Roseland Community Celebration, Roseland Community Center, Feb 22, 9am to 2pm
- 4) SSR PaddleFest, Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9am to 1pm
- 5) City of Palm Bay 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Sustainability Fair, May 3, 4 to 7pm
- 6) Sebastian Library 2025 meeting facility contract pp. 25-26
- 7) Tree for Graham, southern magnolia at South Prong Preserve, memorial plague samples pp. 27-28
- 8) AmeriCorps NCCC program, requirements pp. 29-30
- 9) Marketing design samples tent, tablecloth, flags pp. 31-34

#### Financial - Greene

Governance – Herrmann, expiring terms: Glover, Greene, Herrmann, Stephen, Zingman; Officer election Information – Glover – no update

Membership – Herrmann, Feb. renewals- Dodds; Greene, Gregory & Donna; Grudens; Loftus; Moss; Rutz; Shipley; Thomason; Zingman; new members – Bruce Masters

Publicity - Penny Phillips

Volunteer – vacant – South Prong Preserve volunteer dates Feb. 16 or 17?

#### Round robin -

#### Adjournment

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Next BOD meeting March 11, 9:45am, Ryall house
- 2) Roseland Women's Club/Community Park workday, Feb. 19, 9 to 11am
- 3) IR County Cons. Lands, Lakela mint habitat restoration volunteer, Hallstrom farmstead, Feb. 21 (third Friday), 9amnoon, RSVP at https://indianriver.gov/parksandrecreation and click on "Program Registration."
- 4) Roseland Women's Club/Community Celebration, Roseland Community Park, Feb 22, 9am to 2pm
- Clean Water Coalition of IRC, Duane DeFreese Lagoon Champion Award Celebration, Jones Pier, 7700 Jungle Trail, Vero Beach, Friday, Feb. 28, 3pm
- 6) Sebastian Earth/Arbor Day, Riverview Park, Saturday, April 26, 2025

# FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 'MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 2025--9:45 am, RYALL HOUSE, SOUTH PRONG PRESERVE

CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE--Pres. Glover called the meeting to order at 9:46 am. In attendance were Herrmann (vice-pres.), Greene(treas.), Peterson(secy.), and directors Bolton, Stephen, and Zingman. Advisory director Hinck was also present.

CALL FOR ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA--Herrmann asked that the Calis be asked to join as advisory directors-to be added to Governance

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S)(AP, pp.2-3)--Bolton made a motion, seconded by Greene, to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2024; all voted in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT--Bolton made a motion, seconded by Greene, that we intend to reinvest the funds from the first purchased CD. All voted in favor that the report as of Dec. 31st be accepted for audit.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT--Ryall house debris cleanup update--Glover reported that the latest volunteer cleanup on Jan. 3rd included removing a fallen tree from the River. He also recently received an email from Larry Reisman re a \$7000 fine having been imposed against the railroad for lead paint pollution under the St. Sebastian River bridge.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 1)Adopt-a-Road--IR County for Rte. 512 segment--awaiting County Atty. approval of new contract
- 2)St. Sebastian River road signs--no update-Herrmann will contact Susan Adams by letter. NEW BUSINESS-Environmental Enhancement Award:

Graham Cox, certificate vs. plaque/memorial tree--Directors decided to honor Dr. Cox's memory with latest planting of a magnolia tree on the property. Bolton will check in with Graham's daughter for wording to place on the attached stone/plaque.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Advocacy-Herrmann

- 1)SJRWMD permits-Sebastian Highlands Unit 17, 125 Empress Ave., permit #163077 2)ACOE permits-none
- 3)FL DEP Barefoot Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility permit renewal(AP, p.12)
- 4) MRC Lagoon Action Assembly, July 2024, full <u>report-https://lovetheirl.org/science/</u> action-assemblies
- 5) City of Sebastian septic conversion vs. sewer--city will comply with 2020 mandate
- 6) IR County Legislative Delegation, St. Sebastian River, "Outstanding FL Water-FL Administrative Code--Glover attended and presented our proposal to include the SSR in the Malibar to Vero Beach Aquatic Preserve as an Outstanding FL Water.
- 7) FL Right to Clean Water Campaign assistance(AP, pp.13-15)--Bolton made a motion, seconded by Greene, that we send a \$100 donation to support the cause; all voted in favor. A link will be added to our Facebook page.

Education/Outreach-Bolton/Stephen

- 1) General Meetings:
  - a) Jan. 28, Jim Moir, IR Lagoonkeeper

- b) Mar. 25, MRC IR Lagoon Report update
- c) May 27, ORCA/SSR pollution mapping
- d) Sept. 23, Justin Teall, SSR Preserve State Park/park tour?
- 2) Wimbrow Park/River manatee signs-no update
- 3) PIAS Landscape Conference--Bolton and Hinck will set up booth in lobby. Glover, Greene, and Peterson will form a committee to research mats. to improve the look of our public display table, beginning with a new table cloth and tent cover.
- 4) Roseland Women's Club/Community Celebration, Feb. 22nd(AP, p.16)--we will attend.
- 5) City of Sebastian Natural Resources Board, developing Sustainable Sebastian action plan(AP,pp.17-19)
- 6) City of Sebastian Natural Resources Board/PIAS, Air Potato Round-Up, Englar Dr. Stormwater Park, Feb. 8(AP,p.20)
- 7) City of Sebastian Natural Resources Board development of an Environmental Stewardship Award(AP,pp.21-23)

Financial--Greene, new CD established, IR Lagoon Small Grants(AP, pp.24-31)

Governance--Herrmann will contact Calis as to their interest in becoming advisory dirs.

Information--Glover-no update

Membership--Herrmann, Jan. renewals--Chambreau, Demott, Peterson, Stieglitz; new members, none

Publicity--Penny Phillips-none

Volunteer-vacant-South Prong Preserve volunteer dates?-Glover hopes to set up another date soon.

Round Robin--Greene will bring unsweetened iced tea to Jan. general meeting at library.

Adjournment--Herrmann made a motion, seconded by Bolton, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:00am. All voted in favor.

NEXT BOD MEETING: FEBRUARY 11, 2025 at 9:45 am

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lynn Peterson, FSSR Secretary

Could Jun Pak

# Friends of St. Sebastian River Profit & Loss

January 2025

	Jan 25
Ordinary Income/Expense Income 43400 · Direct Public Support	
43450 · Individ, Business Contributions	258.28
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	258.28
47200 · Program Income 47230 · Membership Dues	195.00
Total 47200 · Program Income	195.00
Total Income	453.28
Gross Profit	453.28
Expense 60100 · Public Relations 60102 · Contributions	150.00
Total 60100 · Public Relations	150.00
62100 · Contract Services 62150 · Outside Contract Services	144.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	144.00
62800 · Facilities and Equipment 62890 · Rent, Parking, Utilities	33.37
Total 62800 · Facilities and Equipment	33.37
65000 · Operations 65040 · Supplies 65050 · Telephone, Telecommunications	56.37 10.01
Total 65000 · Operations	66.38
65100 · Other Types of Expenses 65160 · Other Costs	184.52
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	184.52
68300 · Travel and Meetings 68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	150.00
Total 68300 · Travel and Meetings	150.00
Total Expense	728.27
Net Ordinary Income	-274.99
Net Income	-274.99

# Friends of St. Sebastian River Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2025

	Jan 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Checking 10020 · Without Donor Restrictions	12 204 22
10030 · With Donor Restrictions	13,384.33
10031 · Geo Schum Memorial Fd	1,000.00
10033 · Archie Laird Memorial	585.00
10034 · Grants	422.54
Total 10030 · With Donor Restirctions	2,007.54
Total 10000 · Checking	15,391.87
10100 · Petty Cash	45.00
10200 · PayPal	807.09
10210 · Zeffy	150.00
10220 · Wells Fargo CD 04/11/2025	10,140.00
10221 · Wells Fargo CD 05/02/2025	10,000.00
Total Checking/Savings	36,533.96
Other Current Assets	07.00
12000 · Undeposited Funds	95.00
12100 · Inventory Asset 12110 · Puppets	300.50
12120 · Clothing	137.05
12130 · Miscellanoous Inventory	4.82
12140 · Hats	116.64
12100 · Inventory Asset - Other	1,236.59
Total 12100 · Inventory Asset	1,795.60
Total Other Current Assets	1,890.60
Total Current Assets	38,424.56
TOTAL ASSETS	38,424.56
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	22.27
20000 · Accounts Payable	33.37
Total Accounts Payable	33.37
Total Current Liabilities	33.37
Total Liabilities	33.37
Equity	A
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	316.73
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets Net Income	38,313.69 -239.23
Total Equity	38,391.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	38,424.56

# Friends of St. Sebastian River Reconciliation Detail

10000 · Checking, Period Ending 01/31/2025

Туре	Date	Num	Name	Clr	Amount	Balance
Beginning Balance						25,869.36
Cleared Transa						
	l Payments - 11	items				
Transfer	01/02/2025	D0	Nedico Dedecidio	X	-10,000.00	-10,000.00
Check	01/02/2025	DC DC	Native Butterflies	X	-26.75	-10,026.75
Check Check	01/02/2025 01/07/2025	1055	Google Roseland Communit	X X	-3.60 -50.00	-10,030.35 -10,080.35
Bill Pmt -Check	01/07/2025	DC	FPL	X	-32.81	-10,000.33
Check	01/10/2025	DC	Track It Forward	X	-144.00	-10,257.16
Check	01/11/2025	DC	Ooma	X	-6.41	-10,263.57
Check	01/13/2025	DC	CHECKS IN THE M	X	-56.37	-10,319.94
Sales Tax Payment	01/14/2025	1056	FL Dep Rev	Χ	-43.06	-10,363.00
Check	01/22/2025	DC	Sturgis Lumber & Pl	Χ	-157.77	-10,520.77
Check	01/24/2025	1057	Indian River North C	Χ _	-150.00	-10,670.77
Total Check	s and Payments				-10,670.77	-10,670.77
•	nd Credits - 5 ite	ms				
Transfer	01/02/2025			X	50.00	50.00
Deposit	01/14/2025			X	15.00	65.00
Deposit	01/14/2025			X	105.00	170.00
Deposit	01/24/2025 01/29/2025	1143	Charities Aid Found	X X	40.00 83.28	210.00 293.28
Sales Receipt	01/29/2025	1143	Chanties Aid Found	^ -	03.20	293.20
Total Depos	its and Credits			_	293.28	293.28
Total Cleared T	ransactions			=	-10,377.49	-10,377.49
Cleared Balance					-10,377.49	15,491.87
Uncleared Trai	nsactions					
	I Payments - 1 it		Florido Bioletto Olor		400.00	400.00
Check	01/28/2025	1058	Florida Right to Clea	_	-100.00	-100.00
Total Checks	s and Payments			_	-100.00	-100.00
Total Uncleared	d Transactions			_	-100.00	-100.00
Register Balance as o	of 01/31/2025				-10,477.49	15,391.87
New Transacti						
Check and	I Payments - 1 it 02/02/2025	em DC	Google		-3.60	-3.60
Total Checks	s and Payments			_	-3.60	-3.60
Deposits an	nd Credits - 2 ite	ms				
Sales Receipt	02/03/2025	1144	Charities Aid Found		83.28	83.28
Deposit	02/03/2025			_	95.00	178.28
Total Depos	its and Credits			=	178.28	178.28
Total New Tran	sactions			_	174.68	174.68
Ending Balance					-10,302.81	15,566.55

# Initiate Business Checking<sup>sм</sup>

January 31, 2025 ■ Page 1 of 5



FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER, INC. SEBASTIAN RIVER INC PO BOX 284 ROSELAND FL 32957-0284

#### Questions?

Available by phone Mon-Sat 7:00am-11:00pm Eastern Time, Sun 9:00am-10:00pm Eastern Time:
We accept all relay calls, including 711
1-800-CALL-WELLS (1-800-225-5935)

En español: 1-877-337-7454

Online: wellsfargo.com/biz

Write: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. (287)

P.O. Box 6995

Portland, OR 97228-6995

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Update your account security settings

The new year is a great time to make sure your security settings are up to date. Take a few minutes now to update your passwords, ensure we have your current contact information (mobile phone number, email), set up or fine tune account alerts\*, and enable biometric sign on for the Wells Fargo Mobile® app, if you haven't done so yet. Learn more at www.wellsfargo.com/securitytools.

\*Sign-up may be required. Availability may be affected by your mobile carrier's coverage area. Your mobile carrier's message and data rates may apply.



#### Statement period activity summary

 Beginning balance on 1/1
 \$25,869.36

 Deposits/Credits
 293.28

 Withdrawals/Debits
 - 10,670.77

 Ending balance on 1/31
 \$15,491.87

Account number:

(primary

account)

FRIENDS OF ST. SEBASTIAN RIVER, INC. SEBASTIAN RIVER INC

Florida account terms and conditions apply

For Direct Deposit use

Routing Number (RTN): 063107513

For Wire Transfers use

Routing Number (RTN): 121000248

#### **Overdraft Protection**

This account is not currently covered by Overdraft Protection. If you would like more information regarding Overdraft Protection and eligibility requirements please call the number listed on your statement or visit your Wells Fargo branch.

#### Transaction history

Date	Check Number	Description	Deposits/ Credits	Withdrawals/ Debits	Ending daily balance
1/2	Number	Recurring Payment authorized on 01/01 Google *Gsuite_Fss	cicuis	3.60	Dalance
1/2		CC@Google.Com CA S385001409356159 Card		3.00	
1/2		Withdrawal Made In A Branch/Store		10,000.00	15,865.76
1/3		Zeffy US Zeffy US St-H1V6W6Y7M5B8 Friends of St Sebastia	50.00	10,000.00	10,000.70
1/3		Purchase authorized on 01/02 Sq *Native Butterf West		26.75	15,889.01
		Melbourn FL S305002644483129 Card			
1/8		Fpl Direct Debit Elec Pymt 01/25 1232872117 Ppda Friends of		32.81	15,856.20
		St. Sebasti			
1/10	1055	Check		50.00	15,806.20
1/13		Recurring Payment authorized on 01/10 Track It Forward (		144.00	
		WWW.Trackitfo CA S305010675812867 Card			
1/13		Recurring Payment authorized on 01/10 Ooma,Inc		6.41	15,655.79
		888-711-6662 CA S385010724099564 Card			
1/14		eDeposit IN Branch 01/14/25 12:51:31 PM 1524 US Hwy 1	120.00		15,775.79
4 /4 5		Sebastian FL		E/ 07	45.740.40
1/15		Purchase authorized on 01/13 Checks IN The Mail		56.37	15,719.42
1/17	1056	800-733-4443 TX S585013769295300 Card Check		43.06	15 (7/ 2/
	1056				15,676.36
1/22		Purchase authorized on 01/22 Sturgis Lumber and Plywoo Vero Beach FL P465022770675195 Card		157.77	15,518.59
1/24		eDeposit IN Branch 01/24/25 10:01:29 Am 1524 US Hwy 1	40.00		15,558.59
1/24		Sebastian FL	40.00		13,330.37
1/29		Cybergrants-Cafa Cybergrant ACH_8904743 Friends of St	83.28		15,641.87
1,2,		Sebastia	00.20		10,011.07
1/30	1057	Check		150.00	15,491.87
Totalo			¢202.20	¢10 (70 77	
Totals			\$293.28	\$10,670.77	

The Ending Daily Balance does not reflect any pending withdrawals or holds on deposited funds that may have been outstanding on your account when your transactions posted. If you had insufficient available funds when a transaction posted, fees may have been assessed.

#### Summary of checks written(checks listed are also displayed in the preceding Transaction history)

Number	Date	Amount	Number	Date	Amount	Number	Date	Amount
1055	1/10	50.00	1056	1/17	43.06	1057	1/30	150.00

#### Monthly service fee summary

For a complete list of fees and detailed account information, see the disclosures applicable to your account or talk to a banker. Go to wellsfargo.com/feefaq for a link to these documents, and answers to common monthly service fee questions.



Merchant Account ID:

PayPal ID: info@fssr.org

1/1/2025 - 1/31/2025

#### Statement for January 2025

Friends of St. Sebastian River, Inc. PO Box 284 32957 Roseland

#### Balance Summary (1/1/2025 - 1/31/2025)

	Available beginning	Available ending	Withheld beginning	Withheld ending
USD	207.09	807.09	0.00	0.00

Page 1



Merchant Account ID: PayPal ID: info@fssr.org 1/1/2025 - 1/31/2025

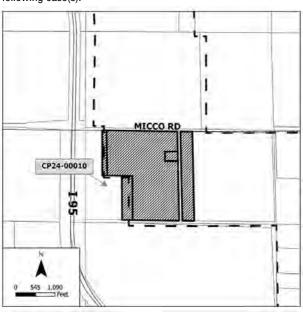
## Activity Summary (1/1/2025 - 1/31/2025)

	USD
Beginning Available Balance	207.09
Payments received	600.00
Payments sent	0.00
Withdrawals and Debits	0.00
Deposits and Credits	0.00
Fees	0.00
Ending Available Balance	807.09

Page 2

# NOTICE OF FUTURE LAND USE MAP AMENDMENT PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency on February 5, 2025, and by the City Council on February 20, 2025, both to be held at 6:00 p.m., in the City Hall Council Chambers, 120 Malabar Road SE, Palm Bay, Florida, for the purpose of considering the following case(s):



 CP24-00010 - Banack Family Limited Partnership; Wilton R. Banack; Lynn M. Banak (Jake Wise, P.E., Construction Engineering Group, LLC, Rep.)

A Large-Scale Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map Amendment from NC, Neighborhood Commercial (Brevard County) and RES-1, Residential 1 Unit Per Acre (Brevard County) to UMU, Urban Mixed-Use.

Tax Parcels 501, 502, 503, 504, and 751 of Section 13, Township 30, Range 37, Brevard County, Florida, containing approximately 133 acres. Located south of and adjacent to Micco Road SE, in the vicinity east of Interstate 95

If an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the Planning and Zoning Board/Local Planning Agency or the City Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, a record of the proceedings will be required and the individual will need to ensure that a verbatim transcript of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based (FS 286.0105). Such person must provide a method for recording the proceedings verbatim.

Please contact the Palm Bay Land Development Division at (321) 733-3041 should you have any questions regarding the referenced case(s).

Chandra Powell Planning Specialist

#### NONPROFIT MEMORANDUM

or

## An Open Letter to Members of the 119th Congress

**TO:** House and Senate Members of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

**RE:** Four Facts About the Charitable Sector Congress Needs to Know

**DATE:** February [3], 2025

We, the charitable sector, offer our congratulations as you start the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress. As organizations active throughout America, we are deeply proud of our nonpartisan efforts to support every community and constituents in every district and state. Charitable nonprofits are significant employers, economic drivers, and community problem solvers on whom your constituents rely. Every day.

Our work today carries forward the longstanding American tradition of residents coming together at the local level to recognize community challenges and solve local problems. In the coming weeks and months, you will be called upon to decide momentous policy questions that can have a profound impact – positive or negative – on the ability of your local nonprofit organizations to improve lives, strengthen communities, and advance the public good. No two charitable organizations are alike, but their common ground is important to consider in the policy debates. As you engage in public policy development, we ask that you keep front of mind the reality that charitable nonprofits are essential to the U.S. economy and society in many ways, including the following:

- **Significant Employers:** Charitable organizations accounted for 12.8 million jobs, or nearly 10% of the private-sector workforce, in 2022. In several states, including Maine, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, employment at charitable organizations exceeded 15%.<sup>2</sup> Yet, federal policy often focuses solely or primarily on for-profit workplaces and ignores the economic impact of nonprofit employment.
- **Taxpayers**: Charitable nonprofits, despite being labeled "tax exempt," pay more than \$65 billion each year in payroll, unrelated business income, and other taxes.<sup>3</sup> While generally exempt from income taxes, all charitable organizations must consistently

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville, 1835.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Nonprofits accounted for 12.8 million jobs, 9.9 percent of private-sector employment, in 2022, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Aug. 16, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Calculation provided by the National Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute.

- earn this exemption by investing revenues into mission, preventing personal benefit, and focusing on the public good.
- Partners with governments at all levels. Typically, governments hire charitable
  nonprofits through grants and contracts to provide vital services to your constituents.
  The reason is simple: charitable organizations can provide services more efficiently
  and with greater impact.
- **Nonpartisan** in law, fact, and purpose. The vast majority of charitable organizations, including 98% of evangelical preachers, support maintaining the longstanding law requiring that they refrain from engaging in partisan, election-related activities.<sup>4</sup> This protection is necessary to maintaining public trust, preventing abuse, and ensuring a singular focus on the public good. In part because of this protection, charitable nonprofits are continually ranked among the most trusted organizations in the nation.<sup>5</sup>

To varying degrees, charities of all types rely on donations by individuals to fund their missions in your communities. The federal charitable tax deduction has been a centerpiece of federal support for this work for more than 100 years. Unfortunately, the 2017 tax law changes inadvertently resulted in only 7.5% of taxpayers (down from about 30%) receiving a federal income tax incentive for contributing to charitable organizations. This has accelerated a disturbing trend in the decline of the share of households that donate to the work of charitable organizations. One bipartisan solution that has nearly universal support in the charitable sector is the creation by Congress of a non-itemizer charitable deduction that would overcome the unintended consequences of increasing the standard deduction and ensure that all taxpayers have an incentive to give back to their communities.

Charitable organizations will continue to earn the trust of your constituents by addressing human needs while uplifting faith and spirit, by stepping in and stepping up during times of natural disasters, and building community neighborhood by neighborhood. We encourage you likewise to work to enable your charitable nonprofits to continue to advance their missions that regularly benefit so many of your constituents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Should Pastors Endorse Politicians From the Pulpit?, May/June Evangelical Leaders Survey, National Association of Evangelicals, July 31, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Trust in Nonprofits and Philanthropy, Independent Sector, June 24, 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> SOI tax stats - Individual statistical tables by size of adjusted gross income, Internal Revenue Service, October 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Giving Environment: Giving During Times of Uncertainty, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, October 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> See, e.g., Charitable Act (H.R.3435/S. 566, 118th Cong.).

As you consider legislation, we ask that you recognize that our nation's charitable nonprofits are already working to solve many of the problems you will encounter, and that empowering their work is in the best interests of your constituents and communities. We stand ready to be a resource and provide subject-matter expertise as you embark on this important work.

Sincerely,

**National Organizations** 

**State and Local Organizations** 

#### February X, 2025

The Honorable Gayle Harrell Florida State Senator 404 Senate Building 404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Jennifer Bradley Florida State Senator 406 Senate Building 404 South Monroe St Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable John Snyder Florida State Representative 303 House Office Building 402 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Senator Harrell, Senator Bradley, and Representative Snyder,

Thank you for addressing the concerns of millions of Floridians who opposed recent proposals to develop state parks with golf courses, recreational courts and lodges by putting forth SB 80 and its companion, HB 209.

We applaud your effort to foster public awareness and engagement by proposing changes that would require 30-day advance notice for public hearings related to land management plans, among other provisions in Section 2 of the bills. We also agree that an inventory of deferred maintenance projects is prudent, as described in Section 6 of the bills.

However, the organizations identified below are concerned that the proposed language fails to prevent future proposals from being eligible for consideration. As such, we request the following changes:

- Include within Section 1 language that further defines the legislative intent to conserve lands within state parks and promote nature-based recreation rather than activities that require alteration of the natural landscape and management directives to ensure implementation of the State Park Preservation Act.
- Remove references that encourage developing disturbed areas. Such areas often have the potential to provide important wildlife habitat and other ecosystem services when appropriately restored and many land management plans include restoration of the areas

in their management goals. Specifically, remove the phrase "and using disturbed upland regions to the maximum extent practicable."

- Include language that clarifies what types of "unsolicited proposals" will be considered, or direct FDEP to create policies to address Ch. 255.065 FS.
- Remove terms such as "to the maximum extent practicable," "significant harm," and "avoid" which can be construed to allow the activities the legislation is intended to prevent.
- Add a section that includes explicit prohibitions, as well as definitions of specific terms in order to remove ambiguity in interpretation.
- Include state forests and state wildlife management areas to the types of public land addressed in the bills. In addition to state parks, the state's Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) also approves the management plans for these lands.

This legislative session presents an opportunity to close the gaps in Florida's law that allowed for development proposals that would have irreparably harmed our state parks in the first place. The massive, bipartisan outcry from Floridians to stop the plans is a clear indicator that citizens will passionately protect our public lands. Please consider our recommendations. We look forward to working with you and putting the full support of our organizations behind these good bills.

Sincerely,

[signatories will be listed in alphabetical order by organization]

March X, 2025

The Honorable Senate The Honorable House The Capitol 400 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Legislator,

The undersigned organizations respectively request you adopt the budget recommendations detailed below. It is our position that these recommendations, at a minimum, are those that best reflect the long-standing public support for the continued protection of Florida's lands, waters, and wildlife.

#### Florida Forever

Florida's budget should include a minimum of \$500 million to fund land acquisitions through the Florida Forever program.

Development pressure and land acquisition costs continue to increase throughout the state, making now the opportune time to invest in conservation and recreation land acquisition. Serving as the state's flagship program for exemplary, transparent, and established conservation and recreation land acquisition efforts, the Florida Forever program represents this state's commitment to boldly conserving critical natural resources and preserving important cultural heritage sites.

The funding mechanism for Florida Forever is tax revenue tied to growth, development, and real estate transactions (commonly known as "doc stamp" taxes). A byproduct of a robust economy and real estate growth is an acceleration in habitat loss and fragmentation and an intensified need for conservation efforts to counteract these damaging impacts. The Florida Legislature must provide sufficient funding to continue its commitment to conservation.

Florida's budget must reflect the urgency with which we need to acquire conservation land to secure Florida's heritage, underscored below:

- Florida's population is expected to increase by almost 5 million, or 23%, by 2040.
- Florida is on track to lose 1 million acres of natural and agricultural land due to development by 2040.

- The estimated cost to acquire the remaining acres slated for conservation through Florida Forever is over \$23 Billion. Source: EDR Assessment of Florida's Conservation Lands
- Development pressure is fueling rapid increases in the cost of acquiring land, e.g., from 2021 to 2023 the estimated cost of the Lake Wales Ridge Florida Forever Project increased by 131%

The return on investment for conserving Florida's natural lands is exemplified by its benefits to the state's water resources. Florida Forever funding supports downstream water quality and receiving water bodies. By acquiring and preserving large forested areas, Florida Forever ensures that spring recharge zones remain intact, maintaining the flow of freshwater needed to sustain Florida's iconic springs. Similarly, the program complements Everglades restoration by safeguarding wetlands and uplands critical for water storage and filtration, which improve water quality and help restore the natural flow of water southward. By buffering nutrient runoff, many Florida Forever acquisitions also make the state's Water Quality Improvement Grant dollars go further, maximizing the impact of these investments. Conservation land enhances resilience to climate change impacts by protecting coastal and floodplain areas, reducing the effects of storm surge and sea level rise on communities and ecosystems. Preserving upland habitats adjacent to coral reef systems minimizes sediment and nutrient runoff, supporting healthier marine environments. Springs restoration, Everglades restoration, resilience initiatives, and coral restoration all benefit from Florida Forever funding and subsequent land acquisition. By funding Florida Forever, the state ensures that land-based conservation efforts work to enhance these targeted restoration projects, amplifying their effectiveness and securing long-term conservation success.

#### **Rural and Family Lands**

Separate supplemental funding should be provided for less-than-fee-simple acquisitions through the Rural and Family Lands Program. Like Florida Forever, the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program is especially urgent now, given the development pressures in Florida. This program secures vital connections throughout the Florida Wildlife Corridor and gives landowners an opportunity to ensure their legacy of land stewardship carries on into future generations.

#### **Florida Communities Trust**

Florida's budget should include at least \$30 million to fund the Florida Communities Trust program. Florida Communities Trust assists local governments in creating local recreational opportunities, ensuring public access to our beautiful beaches, protecting our historical and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> (3 million acres \* \$7703/acre = \$23,109,000,000)

cultural resources, preserving Florida's commercial fishing heritage and traditional working waterfronts, and providing clean air and drinking water essential to creating livable communities.

#### **Indian Gaming Revenue Trust Fund**

In 2024, the Florida Legislature established the Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services and s. 380.095 F.S. for dedicated funding for conservation lands, resiliency, and clean water infrastructure.

This funding is designated for distribution to the following agencies, initiatives, and trust funds:

- \$100 million to support the wildlife corridor.
- \$100 million for the management of uplands and the removal of invasive species, which is divided as follows:
  - \$36 million to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), of which:
    - \$32 million for state park land management activities;
    - \$4 million for implementation of the Local Trail Management Grant Program;
  - \$32 million to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for land management activities;
  - \$32 million to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for land management activities;
- \$100 million to the DEP to the Resilient Florida Trust Fund;
- The remainder to the DEP to the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund.

We commend the legislature for implementing this forward-thinking approach to supplementing, not supplanting, funding for conservation land management and restoration.

#### **Everglades Restoration**

Florida's record investment in Everglades restoration in recent years has created unprecedented momentum for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Florida allocated more than \$769 million in 24-25 for restoration, including \$550 million for CERP projects, \$64 million for Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Plan (NEEP) projects and \$50 million for Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Plan initiatives. This funding is beginning to pay dividends.

However, significantly more land to store, clean and convey water south remains a critical unaddressed need. The state should act ahead of federal dollars and allocate significant funding to acquire needed lands in the Everglades Footprint now to ensure they are acquired at a lower cost and are not lost to development pressures.

Many of these properties, especially in Miami-Dade County, are not a priority on the Florida Forever Acquisition list but are just as important to acquire as soon as possible. The Environmental Endangered Lands Program over the years has taken on the role of funding and buying land in Miami Dade County but now that program is out of funding to acquire new land. Additional funding will ultimately be needed to complete restoration to allow clean water to flow south to the Everglades and Florida Bay and prevent harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee, St. Lucie, and Lake Worth Lagoon estuaries.

#### **Springs Restoration**

Florida's budget should include a minimum of \$150 million for springs restoration to slow the continued degradation of Florida's springs, rivers, and groundwater resources. Springs restoration has been continuously underfunded compared to other environmental priorities in Florida, typically receiving only \$50 million per year, the minimum allowable under Florida Statutes.

The Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) public workshops to update the Outstanding Florida Springs Basin Management Action Plans adopted in 2018 have exposed significant declines in springs water quality. Despite FDEP's target, adopted by rule, of reducing springs pollution by 30% between 2018 and 2023, nitrogen pollution in Florida's most important and iconic springs has steadily increased over this time period. At the public workshops, FDEP staff identified a lack of funding from the legislature as a major cause for their failure to achieve water quality goals.

Experience tells us that the \$50 million currently proposed by FDEP in their legislative budget request is insufficient to even maintain the status quo, much less make any meaningful improvement to the health of Florida's springs and springfed rivers. To make progress in protecting Florida's springs and rivers, the Legislature should significantly increase funding available for springs restoration projects and provide robust funding for fee-simple land acquisition projects within priority springsheds in the 2025 budget.

Florida's springs are important cultural landmarks and economic drivers in rural areas; they are the flow that feeds our rivers like the St. Johns, Suwannee, Santa Fe, and Withlacoochee, as well as the coastal estuaries where these rivers meet the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico; and they are our window to the Floridan Aquifer, the source of two-thirds of Floridians' drinking water. If

we continue to fail to provide adequate springs funding we will lose much more than just Florida's springs.

#### Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program and Resilient Florida

According to FDEP, 52% of Florida's sandy beaches are critically eroded and will need to be managed in perpetuity (DEP's Critically Eroded Beaches of Florida Report). At the same time, about 95% of all Florida tourism occurs in coastal or Orlando-area counties, and these counties generate 88% of Florida's GDP (Federal Reserve Economic Database 2023, Rockport 2023). As the State of Florida responds to sea level rise, it is critical that investments in solutions that maintain our sandy beaches, such as dune plantings and living shorelines, are prioritized. Engineered solutions, including seawalls, rock revetments, geotubes, and other gray infrastructure, lead to further erosion and pose a threat to our critically important wildlife. Instead of funding these reactive, beach-altering responses to sea level rise, the State should prioritize land acquisition and infrastructure transition away from highly erosional areas..

One simple way that the State can begin to achieve this goal is by terminating the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program on July 1, 2025. This program provides grants to private beachfront property owners to carry out dredge and fill projects, as well as temporary and permanent armoring projects, to protect their private properties. The Legislature's ongoing funding of private coastal armoring is an unconstitutional expenditure of public funds without serving a public purpose, and must be ended immediately. Any purported benefits of coastal armoring are solely to private property owners. Conversely, the beachgoing public and Florida's coastal public trust resources will be significantly harmed by taxpayer-funded coastal armoring.

Instead of underwriting harmful coastal armoring activities, the state should allow the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program to expire and revert those funds to Resilient Florida. While Resilient Florida has enjoyed robust levels of funding since its inception, the proposed budgets the past two years represents a marked decrease from \$300 million to \$200 million for eligible resiliency projects. Local need for these funds remains high, last year, the program received 143 eligible applications for implementation projects – a total of \$834 million requested. In the wake of Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton - which have led to billions of dollars in damage - the state should be prioritizing comprehensive resiliency investments to ensure that Floridians, critical infrastructure, and coastal environments in vulnerable areas are adequately protected from the impacts of flooding, sea level rise, and storms.

#### **Resiliency - Wastewater Infrastructure**

Another result of increasingly violent hurricanes is sewage spills from aging or faulty infrastructure. Failing wastewater infrastructure is not only harmful to the environment, it also

poses a risk to human health and our state's economy. According to an analysis of pollution spills reported to the FDEP after Hurricane Milton, more than 70 million gallons of polluted effluent spilled into waterways, communities and neighborhoods all across the state. Most of those reports were for raw sewage or partially treated wastewater. A combination of flooding, overwhelmed equipment and old faulty infrastructure was the cause in over 90% of cases. The estimated volume from this one storm alone is conservative, given that over 100 reports were still missing the amount spilled, the real number is likely much higher. The largest spill recorded was roughly 20M gallons of partially treated wastewater from the city of Bradenton that flowed directly into the Manatee River. What is even more telling from the pollution reports is that even during a month without a hurricane, like May, over 100 reports of pollution spills roll in. Many are caused by broken, aging and faulty equipment.

FDEP currently has pollution reports that spell out where the worst cases of infrastructure failure occur, documented by repeated sewage spills. That data should be leveraged to help identify and drive funding appropriations to update some of our state's most at-risk infrastructure systems.

As more wastewater infrastructure reaches the end of its useful life, additional funding will be needed to inspect and repair aging and failing systems. According to the Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research's most recent 20-year needs analysis, \$62.29 billion is anticipated for project-related wastewater utility expenditures with an additional \$77.24 billion for operation and maintenance expenditures. The costs associated with these repairs often fall on municipalities and taxpayers. For far too long Florida has relied on the fallacy that sprawling new development pays for itself. Growth management policies need to acknowledge that the cost of sprawling development consistently exceeds the revenue generated by it. Furthermore, additional sustainable funding sources must be identified to maintain and repair existing infrastructure. Functional infrastructure is core-responsibility of the government to protect public health and the wildlife and waterways we hold so dear in Florida.

Respectfully,

[signatories will be listed in alphabetical order by organization]

2/9/25, 9:48 AM Fellsmere | FWC



MENU

Site Search

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# Fellsmere



#### FELLSMERE FRESHWATER FISHING RULES UPDATE – JUN. 7, 2022

The rule changes in the Fellsmere Water Management Area include catch and release of all largemouth bass and the required use of circle hooks when fishing with natural bait greater than three inches in length.

Site Description Current Forecast Regulations

## **Indian River County**



Fellsmere Reservoir, also known as Headwaters Lake or Lake Egan, is a 10,000-acre manmade lake in Indian River county adjacent to Stick Marsh/Farm 13. Water levels are managed by the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and extensive habitat work was conducted by FWC and SJRWMD prior to flooding the lake. Numerous underwater structural features and habitat were created in hopes of providing the ideal bass fishing lake. There were already a number of existing small ponds and pits on the property prior to flooding that

contained bass and other sport fish. Once the lake was flooded, nearly 1,000,000 Florida bass were stocked along with bluegill, redear sunfish, and crappie. The bass population has flourished in this habitat rich environment. There are thousands of acres of submerged vegetation, mostly hydrilla, along with thousands of acres of emergent vegetation, such as cattails and spatterdock pads. Flooded timber is present in small amounts. The average depth is approximately 6 feet deep with some areas deeper than 30 feet.

Anglers can catch and release more than 40 bass on a good day at Fellsmere, with the chance at a bass over 8 pounds. The average size bass is 1.5 to 3 pounds. With the abundance of vegetation, the most productive lures are topwater lures and weedless soft plastic jerkbaits or stickbaits.

The lake is located off Fellsmere Grade Road less than 10 miles west of Fellsmere, FL off I-95. Parking for around 44 trailers and restroom facilities are currently available. See the <u>News Release</u> for more information about the newly-completed boat ramp here. Note that additional parking is available 2 miles away at the Stick Marsh/Farm 13 boat ramp.





#### CONFIRMATION FOR NORTH IRC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

1001 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian, Florida 32958 772-400-6360 \* Fax 772-388-3697 Email: sbachmann1@ircgov.com

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** Friends of St. Sebastian River

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 284, Roseland, FL 32957

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY:** Tim Glover

TELEPHONE: 772-202-0501; info@fssr.org

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:** Environmental Education

MEETING ROOM REQUESTED: Large Meeting Room

DATE(S) REQUESTED: Nov. 26, 2024; 2025, Jan 28, March 25, May 27, Sept. 23

**DATES NOT AVAILABLE:** 

TIME REQUESTED: 6-8 pm

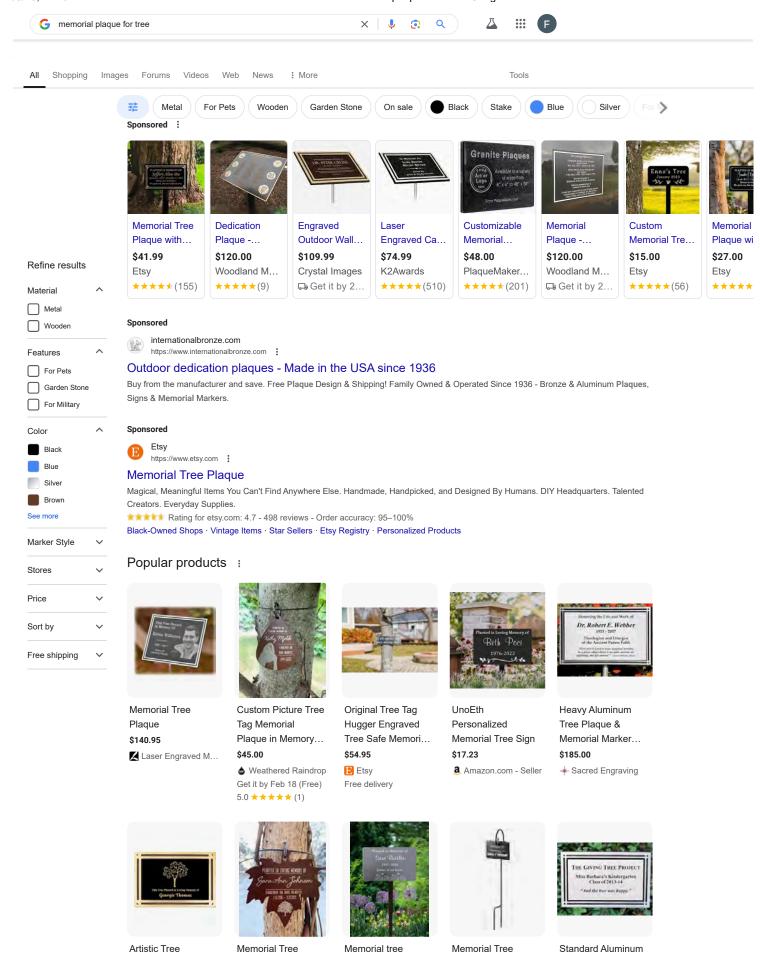
**MEDIA EQUIPMENT NEEDED:** (Please see request form enclosed)

#### PLEASE READ AND INITIAL THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF THIS ROOM.

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4.	NO REFRESHMENTS ARE ALLOWED UNLESS YOU ARE USING LARGE MEETING ROOM
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8.	PERSONS ATTENDING CANNOT BE CHARGED A FEE AND NO SALES OF ANY NATURE WHATSOEVER ARE ALLOWED
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14.	EACH ORGANIZATION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RENEWING THEIR CONTRACTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR. ROOMS ARE BOOKED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS
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**7	THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT A CONFIRMATION UNTIL IT HAS BEEN SIGNED AND RETURNED WITH A YMENT.
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	STAFF USE ONLY
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26

**PAID:** 



plaque, personalized... Plaque With Stake,

Grave Marker, Tre...

Tree Plaque &

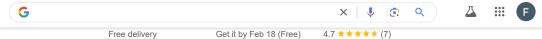
Memorial Marker...

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Memorial Plaque

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\* Sacred Engraving

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PARTNER HOW IT WORKS

# **AmeriCorps NCCC**

Strengthen communities and develop leaders though projects designed for direct, team-based service.

#### **HOW IT WORKS**

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential service program for 18-26 year-olds. AmeriCorps members serving in the NCCC program represent a wide variety of socioeconomic, cultural, geographic, and educational backgrounds.

AmeriCorps members serving in the NCCC program are assigned to one of four regional campuses and then placed into teams ranging between 8-12 members. The teams complete a variety of service projects, which are generally 3 to 13 weeks in duration, and respond to local communities' needs throughout the United States and territories. Each team has a specially trained Team Leader who serves and resides with the team. Each team is provided with one 15-passenger van and fuel is covered by AmeriCorps (for locations in the continental US). Each team is also allocated funds for food and laundry. All members are background-checked and fully insured by the Federal Tort Claims Act and Federal Employees Coverage Act.

Teams live in the communities they serve to better understand the culture, participate in service-learning, and build leadership and life skills.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

The following organizations are eligible to be a project sponsor:

- Nonprofits, secular, and faith-based organizations
- Local municipalities or city government
- State government
- Federal government
- Native American and Alaskan tribes
- National or state parks, forests, and other public lands
- Schools

AmeriCorps' NCCC program was designed to assist agencies on a short-term basis. In order to adhere to this programmatic structure, and to strengthen visibility across the nation by serving with more agencies, the AmeriCorps NCCC program has put limits on the amount of resources a project sponsor can access from the AmeriCorps NCCC program.

An NCCC program project sponsor may receive AmeriCorps resources for up to 60 weeks, contingent upon application approval. Exceptions can be granted for strategic, mission critical projects and disaster response and recovery projects.

## Responsibilities and Expectations of Project Sponsor

Sponsors of an AmeriCorps NCCC team want to respond to a need in their community. Sponsors provide a meaningful experience for AmeriCorps members during their 3 to 13 weeks of service with the organization or entity.

#### What do Project Sponsors provide?

- On-site technical oversight and direction with the team each day
- At least 40 hours of enriching service per week, per member
- Project supplies, equipment, materials, and any necessary building permits
- Schedule of work & training plan
- Lodging with showers (Eg: Churches, community centers, dorms, campsites, cabins, etc.)
- Cooking facilities (unless meals are provided)
- Service-learning support and opportunities to understand community impact
- Inclement-weather work plan

# **How to Apply - NCCC Traditional**

#### 1. Contact your regional campus

Determine the appropriate AmeriCorps NCCC Regional Campus for your point of contact. Reach out to campus staff to discuss your ideas for a project, clarify questions, and learn more about the NCCC program, as well as other AmeriCorps programs.

Find your regional campus

#### 2. Download application instructions and complete concept form

First, download the NCCC application instructions below. Then, complete and submit an AmeriCorps NCCC Project Concept Form\*. This form provides a brief overview of the applying organization and a tentative project plan for the team. \*Not required for immediate disaster response projects.

Please note: Download the following documents directly to your computer. Open and complete the document using Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat.

NCCC Service Project Application Instructions: <u>English</u> | Spanish AmeriCorps NCCC Project Concept Form: <u>English</u> | Spanish

#### 3. Submit an application

Upon review of the Project Concept Form, AmeriCorps will invite the organization to submit a full application or request additional information.

Applications are reviewed and awarded a team with consideration to:

- Compelling Need
- Geographic Distribution
- Availability of Teams
- Costs related to Team Deployment
- Additional Evaluation Criteria Listed in the Application Instructions

Please note: Download the following document directly to your computer. Open and complete the document using Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat.

NCCC Service Project Application: English | Spanish

## Sample tent layout - ExpoPrint





# Friendsof St. Sebastian River







# Friends of St. Sebastian River





## Table cloth skirt sample







Friends of St. Sebastian River