



Friends of Fakahatchee 2022 Funding Needs

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Renovation of Janes Scenic Drive Visitor's Center

Renovation of Janes Memorial Scenic Drive Visitor's Center: This Visitor's Center is the first stop for many Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park visitors along the historic Janes Memorial Scenic Drive - an old logging tram road that cuts through the heart of the Fakahatchee strand for approximately 11 miles. The truly wild Florida experience on Janes Memorial Scenic Drive affords its visitors with the chance to encounter some of the imperiled plants and animals that call the park home, as well as enjoy the many recreational activities the park offers. The Visitor's Center provides a critical starting point where guests can meet, learn about the park's wildlife and beauty, and plan for the various adventures possible in the Fakahatchee. Today it remains closed until the Friends can finance the necessary renovation work required to re-open. This work is outside of the State's budget.



Boardwalk Expansion Project

The Friends have been instrumental in working with Florida legislators to secure funds and resources to expand The Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk all the way out to Lake Heron, which will include additional miles of trails and boardwalk, observation points and a new Visitor's Interpretive Educational Pavilion. The Friends are working with local artists to create and fund the educational video, *Fakahatchee: Window on the Everglades*, which will play in the new Visitor Pavilion. The video will educate visitors about Fakahatchee's importance in the Everglades ecosystem.





Preservation

The Friends sponsor various projects working with local and state biologists to restore, understand, and protect the vast array of threatened and thriving unique plant and animal life in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. The Friends also work directly with Park staff in assessing and maintaining the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk and trails of the Fakahatchee, and fund critical park equipment in collaboration with park staff.



Education

The Friends partner with park staff and conduct various educational initiatives throughout the Fakahatchee, including swamp walks and tram tours -- our newest Moonlit Tram Tour brings Fakahatchee visitors the unique experience of the park at night!



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