



SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL PARKS TRUST

Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center Donor Opportunities

Individual, corporate and foundation donors can support the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center by underwriting specific exhibits. All gifts at the levels described below will be acknowledged as part of the exhibit and on a Big Cypress Honor Wall inside the center.

Stewardship Circle	\$25,000 +	Habitats of the Big Cypress Big Cypress Watershed History of Big Cypress (interior) All About Alligators Big Cypress Wild Cam Discover Big Cypress
Big Cypress Pioneers	\$10,000 +	Panther CSI Inches Make a Difference Animal Shelters
Big Cypress Patrons	\$5,000 +	Wet and Dry Seasons in the Swamp Why Wetlands Matter Green Design History of Big Cypress (exterior) Welcome Home
Big Cypress Partners	\$2,500 +	Amazing Orchids and Bromeliads Critical Burn: Fire in Big Cypress Field Guide to South Florida Wildlife Uninvited Guests

Big Cypress Donor Benefits

All donations of \$1,000 or more to the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center will be recognized on the donor wall inside the new visitor center and the Web site of the South Florida National Parks Trust, and receive a special commemorative gift to document the donor's role in supporting the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center; donors who sponsor individual exhibits will receive recognition on the exhibit itself, as well.

Donor Opportunities for Welcome Center Exhibits

Ecology Exhibits

Funding Opportunities

1. Habitats of the Big Cypress (interior) \$75,000 (\$5,000 Committed)

Interior exhibit showcases five distinct habitats in the Big Cypress and features a sound dome where visitors can listen to “swamp songs” – the sounds of the Big Cypress at night.

2. Big Cypress Watershed (exterior breezeway) Committed

An interactive display demonstrates how water once flowed through the Big Cypress and how that flow has been altered over time.

3. Wet and Dry Seasons in the Swamp (exterior breezeway) Committed

Graphic panels illustrate the stark difference between wet and dry seasons in the Big Cypress; with accompanying text that explains the source of water in the Big Cypress basin.

4. Why Wetlands Matter (exterior breezeway) Committed

One large graphic panel explains why wetlands are important, and why they are worth preserving.

5. Inches Make a Difference (interior) Committed

Graphic panel and original mural illustrate how small changes in elevation lead to dramatic differences in the Big Cypress. The exhibit draws a comparison to the Rocky Mountains.

6. Critical Burn: Fire in Big Cypress (exterior rear) Committed

Exhibit explains how fire plays a critical role in maintaining biodiversity in the Big Cypress.

7. Green Design (interior) Committed

Interior exhibit showcases the “green” features of the new building.

History Exhibits

Funding Opportunities

8. History of Big Cypress (interior) \$100,000 (\$25,000 Committed)

Interactive exhibit introduces the history of the Big Cypress with a display of historic and contemporary objects used in the swamp, and invites visitors to explore some resource issues that land managers confront – the control of exotic species, the allocation of water and development pressure, for instance..

9. History of Big Cypress (exterior front) Committed

Exhibit sketches the history of the Big Cypress Swamp by tracing the pathways laid down by successive generations, beginning with the earliest inhabitants of the land.

Wildlife Exhibits

Funding Opportunities

10. All About Alligators (exterior breezeway)

\$30,000

Exhibit offers visitors a chance to peer inside an alligator's nest while learning about the lives of Florida's most famous reptiles.

11. Panther CSI (exterior front)

\$15,000 (\$7,500 committed)

Interactive display invites visitors to track panthers by looking for signs of the big cats, including tracks, droppings and evidence of a fresh kill.

12. Big Cypress Wild Cam (interior)

\$30,000

There's a lot happening in the Big Cypress Swamp, at all hours of the day. Visitors will get a gator's eye view of the swamp on a video monitor linked to a remote camera placed in the preserve.

13. Animal Shelters (exterior breezeway)

\$12,500

Graphic panel and mural illustrate how protecting habitat for top predators allows other species to thrive.

14. Amazing Orchids and Bromeliads (exterior rear)

Committed

Orchids and bromeliads thrive in the Big Cypress because of the microclimate that the swamp creates.

15. Field Guide to South Florida Wildlife (exterior rear)

Committed

Meet the residents of the Big Cypress Swamp.

16. Uninvited Guests (exterior rear)

Committed

Burmese pythons and other exotic species have made themselves at home in South Florida. Why do so many of these transplants flourish, and what impact do they have on the ecosystem?

Big Cypress Orientation

Funding Opportunities

17. Welcome Home / Orientation Kiosk (exterior front)

Committed

An orientation kiosk in front of the Welcome Center introduces visitors to the public lands that make up the Big Cypress Swamp, with maps and a trip planner for those who wish to explore.

18. Discover the Big Cypress (interior)

\$25,000

A satellite map introduces visitors to the public lands that protect portions of the Big Cypress Swamp.

About the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center

The Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center is a multi-agency center that will introduce Collier County residents and visitors to the Big Cypress Region of the Greater Everglades; the public lands and recreational opportunities within the region; and the environmental issues facing the protection of this ecosystem. The facility will consist of a visitor center, auditorium and restroom facilities with “green” technology employed throughout. The center is expected to attract 250,000 visitors a year after opening in March 2010.

- **Location:** The Welcome Center is located in eastern Collier County on the south side of US 41, approximately 10 miles from Everglades City, 20 miles from Interstate 75; 35 miles from Naples, 82 miles from Fort Myers; and 78 miles from Miami.
- **Funding:** Construction is being funded with a \$2.2 million federal transportation grant. The South Florida National Parks Trust has launched a campaign to raise \$250,000 in public and private funds to purchase permanent exhibits for the center.
- **Project Status:** Construction was completed in summer 2009; installation of the exhibits is scheduled for early 2010. The Welcome Center will officially open to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 20, 2010.

About the South Florida National Parks Trust

The South Florida National Parks Trust is an independent 501(c)(3) organization established to support South Florida’s four national parks: Everglades, Biscayne and Dry Tortugas National Parks, and Big Cypress National Preserve. As the primary fund-raising partner for these parks, the Trust raises money from individuals, businesses and foundations to support park programs and projects in five critical areas: Environmental Education; Visitor Services; Resource Protection; Volunteer Activities; and Community Outreach. Since 2002 the Trust has successfully funded more than 30 projects in South Florida’s parks representing an investment of more than \$2 million. For more information, visit www.southfloridaparks.org