



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 Underwater Camera Discover Big Cypress
Big Cypress Pioneers	\$10,000 +	Panther CSI Inches Make a Difference Animal Shelters (exhibit and mural)
Big Cypress Patrons	\$5,000 +	Wet and Dry Seasons in the Swamp Why Wetlands Matter Green Design Paths of Time 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

Official Opening Events in February 2010

All exhibit underwriters will be invited to attend a VIP reception and participate in a public ribbon-cutting ceremony in February 2010 when the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center officially opens its doors. All gifts at the levels described above will be acknowledged as part of the official program that day, and donors will receive preferred seating at the event.

Additional benefits for Big Cypress Donors are described below.

Donor Opportunities for Welcome Center Exhibits

Ecology Exhibits

Funding Opportunities

1. Habitats of the Big Cypress (interior) \$75,000
Interior exhibit showcases six 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) \$2,500
Exhibit explains how fire plays a critical role in maintaining biodiversity in the Big Cypress.
7. Green Design (interior) \$6,000
Interior exhibit showcases the “green” features of the new building.

History Exhibits

Funding Opportunities

8. History of Big Cypress (interior) \$100,000/minimum donation \$25,000
Interactive exhibit introduces the history of the Big Cypress with graphic panels, a display of historic objects, and invites visitors to explore some issues that land managers confront – the control of exotic species, the tug of war over water, development pressure and setting rules for recreational activities.
9. Paths of Time (exterior front) \$7,500
A lot can happen in the life of a cypress. A slice of Old Growth Cypress serves as a timeline for human settlement of the Big Cypress Swamp.

10. History of Big Cypress (exterior front) \$5,000

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

11. 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.

12. Panther CSI (exterior front) \$15,000

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

13. Underwater Camera (interior) \$30,000

There's a lot that goes on underneath the water's surface in the Big Cypress. Visitors can get a gator's eye view of the swamp on a video monitor linked to an underwater camera.

14. Animal Shelters (exterior breezeway) \$12,500

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

15. Amazing Orchids and Bromeliads (exterior rear) Committed

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

16. Field Guide to South Florida Wildlife (exterior rear) Committed

Meet the residents of the Big Cypress Swamp.

17. 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

18. 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.

19. Discover the Big Cypress (interior) \$25,000

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

Big Cypress Donor Benefits: All exhibit underwriters will receive:

- **Donor Recognition:** Recognition on the exhibit of their choice (when available); a prominent listing on the Welcome Center's interior donor wall (with video installation); and recognition on the SFNPT Web site, with link.
- **Official Opening Event:** An invitation to the VIP reception before the official opening of the Welcome Center in February 2010; preferred seating at the opening event; recognition in the official program; and recognition on the day of the event.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Special VIP (Volunteers in Parks) opportunities for families, corporate employees and other groups.
- **Special Events:** Invitations to special events organized by the South Florida National Parks Trust and the four South Florida national parks.
- **Commemorative Gift:** A special commemorative gift to document the donor's role in supporting the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center.

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 February 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 is scheduled to be complete in summer 2009, with installation of the exhibits to follow in late 2009. The Welcome Center will officially open to the public with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in February 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