



**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of Colt Creek State Park, Inc. +

Mailing Address: PO Box 2655 Lakeland, FL 33806

Telephone Number: 863-660-0682 CSO President

Website Address (required if applicable): friendsofcoltcreek.org

X Check to confirm your Code of Ethics is posted conspicuously on your website.

Statutory Authority:

Section 20.2551, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit; public records; partnerships. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements, operational parameters, duties of a CSO to support the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), or individual units of the Department, use of Department property, audit requirements, public records requirements, and authorizes public-private partnerships to enhance lands managed by the Department.

Section 258.015, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit. In summary, the statute defines a CSO, requires authorization by the Division of Recreation and Parks, and specifies the use of property. This statute authorizes the Partnerships in Parks (PIP) program for state parks, the program’s operational parameters, CSO’s operational parameters, and donor recognition.

YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR’S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

CSO’s Mission: (Consistent with your Articles and Bylaws)

Our Mission is to raise funds to help with park needs, improvements and enhancements. We host events to bring visitors to the park and recruit volunteers to help with events, projects and resource management. We serve as Ambassadors to the park and as helping hands and support to park staff to make sure visitors enjoy their Colt Creek experience.

Describe Last Calendar Year’s Results Obtained: Brag! (List or discuss the past calendar year’s accomplishments and contributions. Cite specific support from last calendar year’s Annual Program Plan.)

We organized 3 annual events: First Day Hike, Turkey Trek, Equestrian Scavenger Hunt AND added a new event...Tunes on the Lake. We held numerous Butterfly Garden workdays and helped with the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and the Christmas Party. We added the ability to take credit cards and increased our merchandise sales. We started a redo of our website and membership database. Our most exciting accomplishments had to do with communications and outreach. We have 6,466 Facebook followers—an increase of 1,018 during the year. We started an Instagram account and have 105 followers. We started a YouTube channel at the end of the year. We have 26 videos and had 5,191 views in the first month! We’re starting a series of trail markers using QR codes featuring our 2-minute videos as informational content. We sent out 4 newsletters to our 588 subscribers. We published 6 ads in the Horse and Pony Newspaper to reach our Equestrian users. We had 2 articles published and did a radio show on Listen Lakeland which is posted on their website +

Describe the CSO’s Plans for the Next Three Calendar Years:

Over the next three years we plan to host at least two “Tunes on the Lake” events each year, increase membership in the CSO and help the Park with the exciting new Ranch Headquarters Project that was funded through the state. We’ll assist with the planning and publicity.

We’ll continue our community outreach and increase our numbers across all social media. We’ll continue to bring new visitors to the park and offer more events and informational programs at Colt Creek.

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership:

Total Number of Board of Directors:

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors (From VSys - Work with your parks' volunteer manager):

PARK & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

Do not duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained. Below, describe the relationship.

Park Manager's Comments on the CSO & Park Relationship and Support:

Provide your perspective on

- Changing developments of the park provided by the CSO.
- Effectiveness of the organization in fulfilling their purpose to support the park(s).
- Effectiveness of the Board of Directors in completing their Annual Program Plan.
- The relationship between the park and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

The Friends of Colt Creek are a well organized, supportive, and helpful partner organization. Some of the main goals of the Friends are to raise awareness of the park, host events, raise funds, and support the park in anyway they can, and they are excited to help when and where they can. The park has continued to grow and become more popular, and the Friends have stepped up with the increased user demand at the park. The park will continue to grow in the future as a multi-million dollar state funded project is in the works, and the Friends have expressed a willingness to lend support and enhance the new development area where they can. Social media presence, events, and smaller projects increased over the last year and they have found creative ways to better serve park visitors.

The lines of communication between the park and CSO are always open and ideas and updates are shared through regular communication and meetings. Park staff and CSO board have a mutual respect for one another and are helpful, cooperative, and work collaboratively together.

The Board has diverse backgrounds and are effective at fulfilling their goals as a CSO.

CSO President's Comments on the CSO & Park Relationship and Support:

Provide your perspective on the relationship between the park and CSO. What went well? Are there areas of improvement?

We are very fortunate that our CSO Board works so well together and has no internal conflicts. As a small unified and enthusiastic group, we meet regularly with our Park Manager, Scott Duncan, and any staff he brings to meetings. We freely share information and keep each other in the loop.

We understand our role as a CSO to offer assistance to the Park's mission. As President, I have a very friendly and professional working relationship with the Park Manager and staff. We have set up good lines of communication and assist each other in a timely manner. We communicate by phone, text and email. We address funding requests quickly. We coordinate scheduling of events in a cooperative and efficient manner. Scott and I even do radio shows and speaking engagements together. It truly is a partnership.

While there is always room for improvement, things are running very smoothly and without drama or conflict between the CSO and our Park partners.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT PARK(S) SUPPORT & REVENUES:

Program Services are costs related to providing your organizations’ programs or services in accordance with your mission. Describe and provide expenses that directly support the park(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expenses of the organization. For the last calendar year provide the total \$ for each that apply. Do not use commas.

Building improvement, construction, or renovations	\$ 0
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$ 0
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$ 79.00
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$ 140.88
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$ 0
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$ 0
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$ 0
Park employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or recognition)	\$ 363.82
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$ 0
Park exhibits, displays, signage	\$ 0
Park publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$ 0
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$ 0
Other program services	\$ 975.69
Total Program Service Expenses	\$ 1559.39

Visitor Services Revenue are revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on park property. Do not use commas.

Park gift shops, craft stores, and concession sales	\$ 0
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$ 7237.61
Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.)	\$ 750.25
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$ 1116.25
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	\$ 0
In-park donation boxes	\$ 634.57
Other visitor services revenue	\$ 0
Total Visitor Services Revenue	\$ 9738.68

NET ASSETS: \$

Organizations end of last year’s Total Assets minus Total Liabilities. This is not the above’s Visitor Service Revenue minus Program Service Expenses.

CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:
Last Calendar Year’s Total Expenses (including grants) \$

Are the CSO’s annual total expenses \$300,000 including grants? Then Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards ([U.S. GAO Yellow Book](#)). The audit is **due by September 1** (9 months after the CSO’s calendar year ends) to the Florida Auditor General and to the Department.

CONFIRM ATTACHMENTS:

- Code of Ethics
- The most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N receipt. All IRS Form 990’s must be **complete** with Part III Program Service and **all** appropriate Schedules (A, O, and others as appropriate). If filing an IRS extension, attach the IRS 8868 receipt and the most recent complete 990 and schedules.

2023 CSO Legislative Report Acknowledgement

This information is complete to the best of my knowledge pursuant to Section 20.058 Fi

Signature: Paula B. Dockery
Print name: Paula B Dockery, CSO President
Friends of Colt Creek State Park, Inc.

Date: May 20, 2023

Signature: Scott Duncan Digitally signed by Scott Duncan
Date: 2023.05.25 17:44:27 -04'00'
Print name: Scott Duncan, Park Manager

Date: 05/25/2023

Friends of Colt Creek State Park, Inc.

CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of Friends of Colt Creek State Park, Inc. (herein “CSO”) that its board members, officers, and employees be independent and impartial and that their position not be used for private gain. Therefore, the Florida Legislature in Section 112.3251, Florida Statute (Fla. Stat.), requires that the law protect against any conflict of interest and establish standards for the conduct of CSO board members, officers, and employees in situations where conflicts may exist.

- (2) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state that no CSO board member, officer, or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties for the CSO. To implement this policy and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people in Citizen Support Organizations, there is enacted a code of ethics setting forth standards of conduct required of Friends of Colt Creek State Park, Inc. board members, officers, and employees in the performance of their official duties.

STANDARDS

The following standards of conduct are enumerated in Chapter 112, Fla. Stat., and are required by Section 112.3251, Fla. Stat., to be observed by CSO board members, officers, and employees.

1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, award, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the CSO board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when the person knows, or, with reasonable care, should know that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the CSO board member, officer, or employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

3. Salary and Expenses

No CSO board member or officer shall be prohibited from voting on a matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a CSO board member or officer, as provided by law.

4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position

A CSO board member, officer, or employee shall not corruptly use or attempt to use one's official position or any property or resource which may be within one's trust, or perform official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption.

5. Prohibition of Misuse of Privileged Information

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall disclose or use information not available to members of the general public and gained by reason of one's official position for one's own personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

6. Post-Office/Employment Restrictions

A person who has been elected to any CSO board or office or who is employed by a CSO may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the CSO of which he or she was a board member, officer, or employee for a period of two years after he or she vacates that office or employment position.

7. Prohibition of Employees Holding Office

No person may be, at one time, both a CSO employee and a CSO board member at the same time.

8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

A CSO board member or officer shall not vote in official capacity upon any measure which would affect his or her special private gain or loss, or which he or she knows would affect the special gain or any principal by whom the board member or officer is retained. When abstaining, the CSO board member or officer, prior to the vote being taken, shall make every reasonable effort to disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the CSO board member or officer to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

9. Failure to Observe CSO Code of Ethics

Failure of a CSO board member, officer, or employee to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the removal of that person from their position. Further, failure of the CSO to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection terminating its Agreement with the CSO.

Form 990-N

Electronic Notice (e-Postcard)

OMB No. 1545-2085

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

for Tax-Exempt Organization not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ

2022

Open to Public Inspection

A For the **2022** Calendar year, or tax year beginning **2022-01-01** and ending **2022-12-31**

B Check if available

- Terminated for Business
 Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less

C Name of Organization: **FRIENDS OF COLT CREEK STATE
PARK INC**

**PQ Box 2655, Lakeland, FL,
US, 33806**

D Employee Identification
Number **46-5083225**

E Website:

friendsofcoltcreek.org

F Name of Principal Officer: **Paula Dockery**

**PO Box 2655, Lakeland, FL,
US, 33801**

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice: We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws.

The organization is not required to provide information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. The rules governing the confidentiality of the Form 990-N is covered in code section 6104.

The time needed to complete and file this form and related schedules will vary depending on the individual circumstances. The estimated average times is 15 minutes.

Note: This image is provided for your records only. Do Not mail this page to the IRS. The IRS will not accept this filing via paper. You must file your Form 990-N (e-Postcard) electronically.