



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM
Department of General Services
Parks & Recreation**

Date: July 6, 2022

To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners

Through: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator

From: Beth Powell, Director Parks & Recreation

Subject: Funding Award from the Indian River Lagoon Council – National Estuary Program for the Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Phase 4 (Contract # IRL2022-07)

DESCRIPTIONS AND CONDITIONS

The Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area (LTICA) was purchased in 2003 with funds from the Florida Communities Trust. The 508-acre site is located in the Central Indian River Lagoon (IRL) approximately 0.75 miles north of the SR 60 boat launch on the barrier island. In 2002 the Town of Indian River Shores and the City of Vero Beach entered into an interlocal agreement with the County for the purchase and maintenance of the site. The LTICA is the second largest publicly-owned island system that is protected in Indian River County, and includes more than 10 miles of shoreline habitat. The LTICA ecological enhancement project will be the largest lagoon-based enhancement project undertaken by Indian River County.

On October 15, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Cost-Share Agreement Between Indian River Lagoon Council (IRLC) and Indian River County for the Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Ecological Enhancement Plan Design & Engineering, Contract #IRL2019-18. This grant was successfully completed and the County is awaiting reimbursement from this grant award.

To further the objectives outlined in the design and engineering plan, the County initiated exotic plant removal on Duck Head Island earlier this year. In an effort to move the restoration work further, the County submitted a second grant application to the Indian River Lagoon Council for Phase 4 which will include mechanical treatment of non-native vegetation, site maintenance, and replanting with native species. Additionally, the County will conduct two environmental education/community engagement projects as part of the grant deliverables. To close the project, the County will provide the IRLC with monitoring and status reports including photographic documentation and monitoring of clean-up events.

FUNDING

Through this grant award, the County will commit to a 77% match of the proposed budget for work completed as described in the attached Cost-share Agreement/Attachment A – Statement of Work.

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Funding Award from the Indian River Lagoon Council – National Estuary Program for the Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Phase 4

Available funds for the cash match will be made through Optional Sales Tax\Parks\Lost Tree Conservation Area, account number 31521072-066510-20001, as identified in the December 3, 2021 update to the Capital Improvement Element of the Comprehensive Plan for the Lost Tree Islands Enhancement, Restoration & Public Facilities/Trails/Boardwalk as the funding source for this project. Grant funds from the IRLC will leverage the ability of the County to provide enhancement and restoration objectives for the islands.

	Description	Account Number	Amount
IRL NEP GRANT	Grant Funds – National Estuary Program	N/A	\$50,000
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY	Optional Sales Tax\Parks\Lost Tree Conservation Area (cash match) In-Kind Services	31521072-066510-20001	\$161,900 \$3,904.08
TOTAL			\$215,804.08

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff respectfully recommends that the Board accept the Cost-Share Agreement between the IRL Council and Indian River County for the Phase 4 Restoration for the Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area – Contract # IRL2022-07; Encumbrance #GL01-1895/GL01-2205 after review and authorize the Chairman to sign in duplicate and return to staff to forward to the IRLNEP for signatures.

ATTACHMENTS

- Cost-Share Agreement Between the IRL Council and Indian River County for the Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Phase 4, Contract #IRL2022-07

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR JULY 12, 2022