



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

Date: October 8, 2019

To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners

Through: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator
Kevin Kirwin, Director Parks & Conservation Resources

From: Beth Powell, Assistant Director Parks & Conservation Resources

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

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 publically-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.

The deliverable for the project will be a fully designed and engineered plan that will be ready for submittal of the required construction permits. The County will submit for permit approvals upon completion of the design. Engineered plans will include preparation of technical specifications to be used for project bidding purposes. The design will be produced to allow for flexibility in construction timeframes; thus the construction may be completed in phases based on logistics, and funding opportunities. The County will generate a Request for Qualifications, advertise, select, and award the project agreement upon Board approval.

The project objectives for design and engineering of the LTICA habitat enhancement plan are briefly summarized as follows:

- Site design that is resilient and versatile, and by its nature will be adaptable during extreme weather events and climate change
- Water quality benefits through creation and enhancement of wetland communities
- Establishment of endemic habitat, including, but not limited to:
 - High marsh habitat which is a rare resource in Indian River County
 - Strategically located mangrove wetlands
 - Maritime hammock habitat
 - Salt flats and open sandy beaches for shorebird nesting
 - Seagrass habitat (based on appropriateness and feasibility)

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- Oyster reefs (based on appropriateness and feasibility)
- Expanded nursery areas for fish and invertebrates
- Incorporation of innovative, low maintenance elements for shoreline stabilization
- Incorporation of green technologies where appropriate and feasible
- Provide for educational engagement on the ecological issues facing the Lagoon
- Provide passive recreational opportunities that promote ecotourism, educational awareness, local responsibility and facilitates informed community input
- Minimization of mosquito production
- Elimination of nuisance and exotic plant species such as Australian pine and Brazilian pepper
- Minimization of long-term maintenance, management, and capital costs

FUNDING

Through this grant award, the County will commit to approximately 74% match of the proposed budget for the design and engineering of the proposed plan detailed in the attached Cost-share Agreement / Attachment A – Statement of Work. Optional Sales Tax was identified in the December 4, 2018 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 IRL NEP will leverage the ability of the County to provide a comprehensive design effort for the enhancement and restoration objectives for the islands.

	Description	Account Number	Amount
IRL NEP	Grant Funds – National Estuary Program	N/A	\$65,000
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY	Optional Sales Tax/Parks/Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Enhancement	31521072-066510-20001	\$184,800
TOTAL D&E			\$249,800

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests that the Board accept the Cost-Share Agreement between the IRL Council and Indian River County for the Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Ecological Enhancement Plan Design & Engineering, Contract #IRL2019-18. Authorize Chairman to sign and return both sets to Parks and Conservation Resources staff to submit for Indian River Lagoon Council to execute. Staff also requests authorization to proceed with a Request for Qualifications for design and engineering of the project.

ATTACHMENTS

- Cost-Share Agreement Between the IRL Council and Indian River County for the Lost Tree Islands Conservation Area Ecological Enhancement Plan Design & Engineering, Contract #IRL2019-18
- IRC Grant Form – Lost Tree Islands/Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program Grant 2019

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR OCTOBER 15, 2019