



Florida Department of Environmental Protection
CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT
(pursuant to Section 20.058 Florida Statutes)

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: **Friends of Alafia, Inc.**

Mailing Address: **14326 County Road 39 South, Lithia, FL 33547**

Telephone Number: **(813) 672-5320**

Website Address (*required if applicable*): **<https://www.friendsofalafia.org>**

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: **Protecting, preserving, and supporting Alafia River State Park in providing resource-based recreational opportunities to the public.**

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.*

- Purchased a Club Car Carryall 550 UTV for campground hosts using funds left over from a Mosaic grant for a parking lot engineering project.
- Kept the park supplied with mountain bike trail maps (went through better than 10,000 of them during the year).
- Maintained all hiking trails (~9 miles) and mountain bike trails (~20 miles) while making incremental improvements to both types of trails. We also placed some optional obstacles/jumps off to the side of several equestrian trails.
- Performed a major update to our website integrating Facebook and Instagram feeds.
- Started using MailChimp for newsletter and membership announcements.
- Due to COVID-19, our major fund-raising source, event fees, disappeared resulting in a shortfall of our projected annual revenue in excess of \$20K.
- Kept our visitors apprised of the changing safety requirements and visitation limitations at the park via social media and newsletters.
- Successfully argued that the value in the Unit Management Plan for "Carrying Capacity" was faulty and that this number should not be used to limit visitation at the park.
- Joined the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce.
- Helped the new park manager transition into his position, first as the interim PM, then as the full-time PM.
- Banded together with a couple of other mountain bike clubs to form the Florida Off Road Trails (FORT) coalition. Our mission statement is: "We advocate for expanding use of public lands for recreational purposes. Focused on natural surface trails." So far, we have a professional logo, a presence on Facebook, have added another

- organization to the coalition, and are working on a digital portfolio of professional pictures and videos. We are also involved with the Hillsborough County Greenways Committee.
- Purchased volunteer apparel for the park.
 - Strengthened partnership with Kiwanis and local Key Clubs. Reached out to high school students who can earn their service hours working at the park, thus increasing our volunteer base for park clean up days

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

- Build a skills park to improve the skill level of mountain bike riders, which should result in less injuries.
- Build a pump track to draw more people to the park as well as improve the skill of riders.
- Build more hiking trails to increase the number of people who come to the park to hike.
- Allow hikers to park by the barn to take advantage of the hiking trails that are closer to the campground as opposed to the Day Use Area.
- Continue to raise funds and apply for grants to buy needed equipment for the park.
- Keep Trail Forks up-to-date regarding trails (equestrian, mountain biking, and hiking) at the park.
- Get back to doing Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful cleanup events.
- Increase the number of Friends of Alafia outreach days to better inform guests of how the park operates, is funded, discuss recreational opportunities and encourage membership.

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: **Note, for reporting purposes we count family memberships as two people, even though many families include children. At the end of calendar year 2020, we had five corporate sponsors, 39 family memberships, 46 individual memberships, and seven senior memberships.**

Total Number of Board of Directors: **Seven**

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors (*Hours from VSys. Work with your parks' volunteer manager*): **2,558.75**

PARK & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

Keep the summary simple. Save time. Don't duplicate by describing accomplishments and contributions in the summary. Brag in the above Results Obtained. Describe the relationship here.

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?*

Friends of Alafia plays an important role here at Alafia River State Park by providing volunteer recruitment, expertise in mountain biking, financial support to up keep and maintain the mountain bike trails at the park. It simply couldn't get done without them. The CSO is always looking at ways to improve and to grow better awareness of the park to local community leaders and to better market the Florida Park Service and its involvement with the mountain bike trails system. FOA pushed through the challenges from COVID and still find ways to support and to carry on their mission statement.

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?

2020 was challenging due to COVID. Although the park closed, as all others did, and when it reopened, it was with a capped attendance, the CSO and the park staff continued to work as partners to help the public have outstanding resource-based recreational opportunities. The fact that fees from outside events did not stay with the CSO (these

fees when to DEP) curtailed the purchases that we had planned for park equipment. Nevertheless, we continued to support the park financially, albeit at a reduced rate as indicated below.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, SPECIFIC PARK(S) SUPPORT:

Program Service Expenses are costs related to providing your organization's programs or services in accordance with your mission. For CSO's provide expenses that directly support the park(s). For established nonprofit organizations, program service expenses generally represent most of the overall expense of the organization. For the last calendar year provide totals \$ for each that apply.

Building improvement, construction or renovations	\$
Cultural resources (e.g., historic structure restoration/ renovation)	\$
Natural resources (e.g., native plants, natural lands restoration)	\$
Maintenance equipment (e.g., mowers, chippers, blowers, chainsaws)	\$605.77
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$10,584.10
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$340.00
Park employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or recognition)	\$828.50
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$
Park exhibits, displays, signage	\$
Park publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$1,550.00
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$
Other program services	\$
Total Program Service Expenses	\$13, 908.37

Total Operating Expenses (Overhead including fees, memberships, postage, rent, utilities, etc.) **\$2,486.73**

Visitor Services Revenue

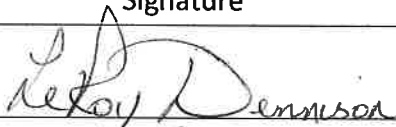

Park gift shops, craft stores and concession sales	\$
Merchandise sales (e.g., plants, firewood, ice, t-shirts, hats, etc.)	\$5,032.09
Programs and Special Events (e.g., fundraising workshops, seasonal events, concerts, etc.)	\$1,756.40
Vending (e.g., drink machines, penny press, laundry, Wifi, etc.)	\$
Rentals (e.g., bikes, canoe, kayak, SUPs, etc.)	\$
In-park donation boxes	\$1,000.00
Other visitor services revenue	\$7,656.79
Total Visitor Services Revenue	\$15,445.28
Net Assets	\$-949.82

CSO AUDIT:

Total of Last Calendar Year's Expenses (including grants) \$20,027.15

Section 215.981(2), Florida Statute requires an independent CPA audit using Government Audit Standards ([U.S. GAO Yellow Book](#)) when the CSOs annual expenses are \$300,000 including grants. 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.

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

Title	Name	Signature	Date
CSO President	LeRoy Dennison		24 May 2021
Park Manager	Dusti Allen		5/28/2020

- CSO's Code of Ethics is attached
- CSO has attached 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 990 and schedules.

Friends of Alafia, Inc.
CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

(1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of Friends of Alafia (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 Alafia board members, officers, and employees in the performance of their official duties.

(3) Friends of Alafia is committed to promoting diversity and ensuring equal opportunities are provided for all individuals regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, religious beliefs, marital status, protected veteran status, genetic information or any other protected category.

STANDARDS

The following standards of conduct are enumerated in Chapter 112, Fla. Statutes., and are required by Section 112.3251, 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, reward, 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.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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

2020

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2020 Calendar year, or tax year beginning 2020-01-01 and ending 2020-12-31

B Check if available

 Terminated for Business Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or lessC Name of Organization: FRIENDS OF ALAFIA INC14326 County Road 39South, Lithia, FL, US, 33547

D Employee Identification

Number 27-0872589

E Website:

<https://www.friendsofalafia.org>F Name of Principal Officer: LeRoy Dennison12403 Driftstone Way,Riverview, FL, US, 33569

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 time 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.