



**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 Our Florida Reefs

Mailing Address: 180 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach, FL 33004

Telephone Number: 954-290-7673

Website Address (*required if applicable*): <https://www.floridareef.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 20.058, F.S., Citizen support and direct-support organizations. In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements to submit an annual report each year for each designated CSO and to post that information on the Departments website.

YOUR MISSION AND LAST CALENDAR YEAR'S PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

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

Friends of Our Florida Reefs (FOFR) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit citizen support organization dedicated to conserving and protecting over 100 miles of vital coral reefs (directly offshore SE Florida between Miami-Dade and Martin Counties) by enhancing and complementing the critical efforts, programs and activities of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Reef Conservation Program.

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.)

2023 was FOFR's 8th full year as a CSO for the DEP CRCP and its regional partners raising approximately \$17,411. This year FOFR officially became the citizen support organization for DEP's Coral Protection and Restoration program as well. FOFR donated \$5,000 to support unprecedented coral rescue efforts for the summer 2023 bleaching event at The Reef Institute in West Palm Beach. FOFR sponsored the Coral Carnival at the Cox Science Center, supported DEP CPR and CRCP workshops and meetings and assisted with SEAFAN and BleachWatch training and expenses such as new shirts for BleachWatch instructors. Outreach FOFR attended was the SOS Ocean Conservation Day, the Broward Sierra Club Earth Day Event, and the Tortuga Music Festival. FOFR's biggest accomplishment of 2023 was embarking on a website overhaul and new social media and email marketing campaign. FOFR hired marketing contractors to take on the task and the response has been outstanding. Standard yearly donations have doubled as has followers and general interest.

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

FOFR's plans for the next 3 calendar years include continued support for DEP CRCP and CPR programs as needed including outreach and education, citizen science (e.g. BleachWatch), and reef cleanups. FOFR commits to maintaining significant unrestricted funds available for FDEP CRCP should a rapid response need occur. FOFR also commits to

promoting the coral program by attending outreach events and giving presentations (both virtual and in-person). This will be accomplished by embarking on a volunteer recruiting and training program set to begin the summer of 2024. FOFR's marketing contractors will lead this effort in training volunteers to attend more outreach events which will hopefully expand our reach. Many volunteers have already expressed interest in this effort through the social media campaign. FOFR also commits to continuing the social media and email campaigns by searching for funding mechanisms such as brand partnerships and grants which are already being explored and pursued.

CSO's LAST CALENDAR YEAR STATISTICS:

Total Number of CSO General Membership: N/A

Total Number of Board of Directors: 8

Total Volunteer Hours for the Board of Directors: ~1000

ORCP & CSO RELATIONSHIP:

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

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

Provide your perspective on

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

The CSO Agreement was updated to include support for the Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Protection and Restoration Program (CPR) along with the support they have been providing the Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP). There is consistent communication/coordination between CRCP/CPR and the CSO. They provided support with public outreach events, and have been increasing their efforts to reach out to the local community and increase connections with CRCP/CPR. Both programs are grateful for the continued support and commitment of our CSO.

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

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

As the CSO president I have open communication with my ORCP Site Manager at FDEP CRCP. My site manager provides timely and helpful support whenever I need it.

SUMMARIZE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY FOR LAST CALENDAR YEAR, DIRECT SUPPORT & REVENUES:

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

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)	\$
Other facilities and landscape maintenance	\$
Vehicles (e.g., trucks/cars, UTVs, golf carts, accessible devices, etc.)	\$
Amenities (e.g., water fountains, benches, picnic tables, recreational equipment, kiosks etc.)	\$
ORCP employees or volunteers support (e.g., interns, training, uniforms, awards, or recognition)	\$
Big ticket visitor center exhibits or interpretation updates	\$
Managed area exhibits, displays, signage	\$
Managed area publications, brochures, maps, etc.	\$
Programing/interpretation support material purchases	\$
Other program services	\$

Total Program Service Expenses \$17,665.17

Visitor Services Revenue

Describe revenues and the sources generated from fundraising on managed area property. Replace examples with your information.

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

*Other Revenue – (Misc Donations) - \$17,411.97

NET ASSETS: \$

Organizations end of last year's Total Liabilities minus Total Assets. This is not the above's Visitor Service Revenue minus Program Service Expenses. \$33,270.76

CSO AUDIT THRESHOLD:

Last Calendar Year's Total Expenses (including grants) \$17,665.17

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 (or 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	Melissa Sathe	Melissa Sathe	5/20/2024
ORCP Manager	Alycia Shatters	Alycia Shatters	5/23/2024

- 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 complete 990 and schedules.