



FDWPSP 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Following the devastating impact of Hurricane Ian, the Friends offered their full support to Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park staff as they began to repair, restructure, and return to daily operations. As soon as possible after Ian's Sept 2022 landfall, vegetation and debris were cleared, parking lots were scraped, and sand was sifted. Once the sifting was completed, we worked with park staff to open the park to visitors. Unfortunately, in late August 2023, the park sustained some damage from Hurricane Idalia which required additional clean-up. During the park's recovery, our park manager, Terrance Torvund, prioritized the safety of his staff, the safety of park visitors, and the protection of park resources. Throughout the year, the Board of Directors allocated funds for needed park equipment and supplies. Volunteer time was also provided by The Friends to support the activities summarized below.

- November, December 2022: Participated in Koreshan State Park's Farmer's market. Displayed information and had a donation table.
- January, April: Held membership meetings.
- April: Held two workdays to construct turtle nest cages.
- April: Staffed an Information table and fundraising event at Lowe's, Estero
- April: Along with park staff, installed rope fences to protect dunes and guide visitors to open park areas.
- May: Cleared vegetation along parking areas and "dunes".
- May: Purchased and installed two litter clean-up stations on the beach.
- May 12: Held Ranger/Volunteer Appreciation Day at the park: Taco/teambuilding event".
- May 15: Celebrated CSO Day/ Grand Opening of the park; provided information and a donation table.
- April-November: Ran the turtle nest adoption program.
 - Cage installation, monitoring, and paperwork.
- July: Assembled beach wheelchairs (purchased with Friends funds and grants from CC and Bonita Beach Shelling Club). Funded construction of beach wheelchair shelters. Staff installed signs (October) to recognize Friend's contributions.
- August: Purchased supplies for the installation of two additional litter stations along with posting of Friends donation signs.
- October: Celebrated the season with Trunk or Treat
 - 77 total volunteers, including students.
- November: Purchased US flags and set up in park to recognize Veterans Day and other holidays.

- July, October, November, December: Organized Saturday Pop-up merchandise/fundraising activities. Two pop-ups are also scheduled for Jan 2024 (13th and 27th).
- December 16th: Holiday Party
 - Celebrated and collected donations for Helping Hands Pantry and Toys for Tots.
- December: Purchased and set up of a “Friends” shed in shop area for storage of supplies/inventory.

Major funds (>\$500) donated to the park in 2023 for purchases of equipment and supplies:

- Volunteer shirts for the park.
- Water repairs to the park managers home, shop area, and ranger station.
- Purchase of riding blower, ATV tires.
- Purchase of supplies to repaint/stripe parking lots.

As we move into 2024, the Friends plan to provide more activities for our members. Please follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/friends.delnorwiggins> to get a heads-up on calls for help—and to see beautiful park pictures. You can also find information on our website: <https://www.delnorwiggins.org>

And finally, please don't forget to read your Friends' emails announcing park updates, volunteer opportunities, and calls to renew your membership.