

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-67

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE DEERING ESTATE FOUNDATION AND THE USE OF PROPERTIES WITHIN THE PARK; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE STATE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. [Sponsored by Mayor Eugene Flinn].

WHEREAS, within the municipal boundaries of the Village of Palmetto Bay, along the edge of Biscayne Bay, lies the 444-acre Deering Estate at Cutler, an environmental, archaeological, and historic preserve that offers unique opportunities to experience Florida's natural resources. The Deering Estate is managed by Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces on behalf of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, for over 25 years, the Deering Estate Foundation ("Foundation") has served as the philanthropic arm of the Deering Estate and, in this capacity, the Foundation serves as the steward of the property and assists with development and operational matters at the Deering Estate; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2014, Marta Weeks-Wulf affirmed the gift of her Palmetto Bay homestead to the Deering Estate Foundation. The 8.75 acre multi-million dollar property, located on the west edge of Old Cutler Road between SW 162 and 164 Streets adjacent to the Deering Estate, includes more than seven acres of pristine native tropical hardwood hammock that Weeks-Wulf has managed and maintained under an Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) covenant. In addition, the property includes a 10,500 square foot energy efficient home that was custom built by Ms. Weeks and her late husband L. Austin Weeks, petroleum geologist and former director of Weeks Petroleum; and

WHEREAS, the perpetuation of the Weeks' legacy of environmental responsibility, appreciation for higher learning, and caring for our natural resources should continue to provide an outstanding environment to further the Village's landscape for teaching and learning, further supporting the Estate's conservation efforts and hands-on environmental education programs; and

WHEREAS, this gift to the Deering Estate Foundation will provide a field station to offer scientists and environmentalists a center of research, conversation, education, and public outreach, which, in turn, provides an economic driver to the Village of Palmetto Bay and surrounding South Dade communities; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Palmetto Bay and the Deering Estate Foundation have been great partners in working together to maintain the outstanding natural preserve that is The Deering Estate and this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents of the Village of Palmetto Bay, and all of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

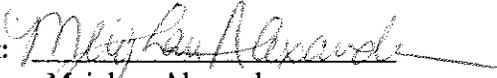
Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

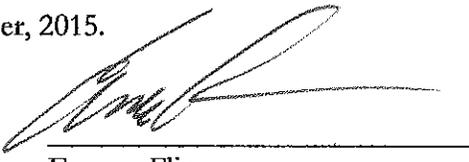
Section 2. The Village of Palmetto Bay remains supportive of the 2016 legislative funding requests (exhibit A to this resolution) and the efforts of the Deering Estate Foundation to continue the planning and improvements to the properties within the Deering Estate.

Section 3. The Village Clerk is authorized on behalf of the Village to provide executed copies of this resolution to the Clerks of the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives, the Mayor of Miami-Dade County, each member of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners, as well as each municipal clerk in Miami-Dade County for the purpose of distributing copies to members of their respective governing councils.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 2015.

Attest: 
Meighan Alexander,
Village Clerk


Eugene Flinn,
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA ONLY:


Dexter W. Lehtinen
Village Attorney

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

Council Member Katyn Cunningham	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Tim Schaffer	<u>YES</u>
Council Member Larissa Siegel Lara	<u>YES</u>
Vice-Mayor John DuBois	<u>YES</u>
Mayor Eugene Flinn	<u>YES</u>

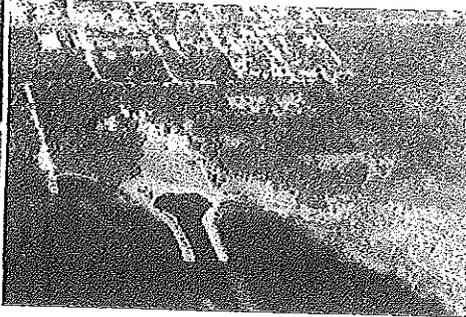
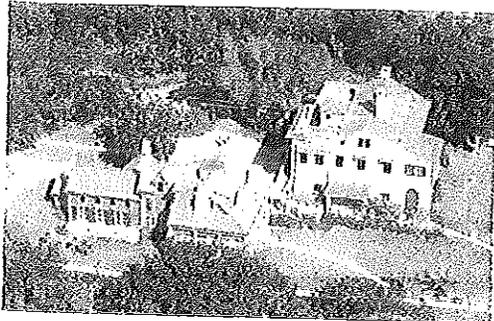


DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER

Cultural & Ecological Field Station, Field School, Enhanced Access to Public Land

State Funding Request: \$1,450,000, one-time, non-recurring

Project Cost Estimate: \$8,500,000



*Entity: Deering Estate
Owned by the State of Florida,
Managed by Miami Dade County*

*Contact: Mary Pettit
Executive Director, The Deering
Estate Foundation, Inc.*

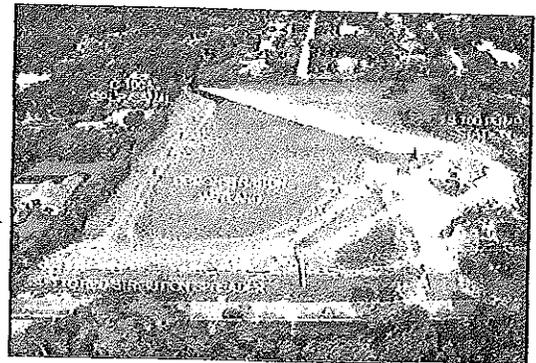
PettitMary@bellsouth.net

Public Match includes Miami Dade County General Obligation Bond Funds and community funds raised through a Deering Estate Foundation Capital Campaign

Background: The Deering Estate, owned by the State of Florida and managed by Miami-Dade County Parks Department, was purchased with CARL Trust funds in 1985. The 450+ acre coastal public park and Florida heritage site recently completed an archeological survey & assessment showing 11 new Paleo Indian, Tequesta and early Pioneer sites for further investigation. The 10+ acre Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands/Cutler Slough Rehydration Project located on site is part of the statewide CERP projects and is the only Everglades Restoration site accessible to the general public – punctuating its value as an ecological scale model of Everglades restoration, public awareness and support of overall Everglades restoration efforts in local voting communities. The Deering Estate also contains 119 acres of globally endangered pine rockland (amongst 8 other South Florida natural habitats), shares management of submerged resources of Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, is designated as an Important Bird Area/Atlantic Flyway, & was designated as a historic district in 1986 with 5 historic buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located in a residential community & contributes culturally, environmentally, and economically to the region as an attraction and highly diverse conservation & archeological site. Component projects are “shovel ready” and have not received state budget funds. The requested funding is non-recurring.

\$1,450,000 Request; \$8,500,000 Total Project Cost (83% Public Match). Public funds raised by the Deering Estate Foundation include \$5 million investment in the Deering Estate’s Institute for Conservation Research & Learning used as a biological and archeological field school by public universities including Florida International University and University of Florida.

- *(\$400,000) Fixed capital outlay to field school for resource library and research access point, site access enhancements for visiting faculty, researchers, and students.*
- *(\$1,050,000) Fixed capital outlay for wetland observation platform, soil/water quality monitoring lab, public access enhancements*
- *(\$2,050,000) Additional Public Match - Operating funds for expanded staffing for resource monitoring & research, wildlife protection barriers, recreation trails, & public access areas.*



ROI/Broader Statewide Impact: The Cutler Slough Rehydration Project provides an opportunity for broad public engagement in environmental decision making and an opportunity to study environmental feedback from the effects of urbanization and management decisions regarding hydrology in Central/South Florida. The project is linked to other communities statewide through shared research, ecological monitoring, student/faculty training, best land management practices, and collaborative K-12 environmental education programs. Collaborations like those the Deering Estate has with Archbold Biological Field Station, connect rural communities at the headwaters of Everglades restoration in Venus, Florida to the many coastal communities of South Florida. The project additionally provides student and faculty training to public universities, enhancing interest and career pathing in STEM related professions, while improving the public’s understanding, access to, and support of wetland restoration projects and these sites’ sense of place - essential to local communities’ long term sustainability, public land preservation efforts, and ability to maintain quality of life ideals for residents and visitors.



DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER

Local Match: Balance of Project Paid for with Miami Dade County General
Obligation Bond Funds and Deering Estate Foundation Capital Campaign

PetitMary@bellsouth.net - T. 305.235.1668 x2266, F. 305.233.3074 - 16701 SW 72 Avenue, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

