

BEACH BUZZ

September – November 2002

Volume 3, Number 3

a publication of B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation and its Chapters
view more Beach Buzz articles online by clicking here

"Keeping Our Beaches Bare"

B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation Obtains Grant Funding for Haulover Beach Improvements

In July 2002, B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation submitted a grant proposal to the Miami-Dade Park Department for funding capital improvements at Haulover Beach Park, which was approved by the department review board on August 14th. The items to be funded with this grant include:

- Two electric beach wheelchairs, available for the free use of disabled visitors to Haulover Beach Park.
- Four mini pavilion size Native-American built open-air thatched "chickee" huts to provide a location for beachside special events, our "BeachMall" information booth, as well as other approved organized activities for beach users.
- Two new showers. Preliminary discussions with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) indicate that the location of these showers will be within the dunes rather than on the sand. This location should allow beach users to take a shower before dressing to leave the beach. While the shower construction will be contracted out, under our proposal B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation and South Florida Free Beaches will be seeking volunteer labor from Haulover users to assist in site preparation and the removal of exotic plants from the new shower area.

The latter two items are provisions included in the Haulover Master Plan that had not yet been funded, and that might otherwise take years for implementation. The funding for these improvements now comes from a pool of money annually

allocated by the Park Department for grant requests from 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporations. Needless to say, there is more involved than just asking for the money, and the grant proposal package we submitted weighed about a pound. The acceptance of our proposal insures that

The funding for these improvements now comes from a pool of money annually allocated by the Park Department for grant requests from 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporations. Needless to say, there is more involved than just asking for the money, and the grant proposal package we submitted weighed about a pound.

Naturist citizens of the county will have a fair share of their tax dollars allocated for the timely implementation of improvements to Haulover Park. While our proposal is still awaiting the final approval of the County Commissioners, they customarily pass Park Department recommendations without modification. We hope to have the wheelchairs and shelters in place by the end of 2002, with the showers to follow in 2003.

In furtherance of its mission of establishing partnering efforts with government and the community for the enhancement of amenities and services on public recreational land, B.E.A.C.H.E.S. has submitted two additional grant proposals: A further proposal to the Miami-Dade Park Department would help fund a monthly Wellness Day at Haulover Beach, providing for free skin cancer screenings, swimming safety workshops for children, and other public health and safety services, while a proposal to the Miami-Dade Department of Environmental Resource Management would fund the production and distribution of environmental literature and a bi-monthly environmental workshop at Haulover, primarily aimed at the participation of families with school age children.

Both these county departments award funds annually to qualified nonprofit organizations. Proposals are evaluated on a points system and, as the amount of grant funds requested usually exceeds the amount of funds allocated, not all programs will be funded. We should receive word on our proposals by the end of September. It should further be noted that these county grant programs are not designed to totally fund projects. Additional funding for these programs would come from sponsor contributions to B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation and South Florida Free Beaches, from donated in-kind services, and from volunteer time donated by SFFB/FNA sponsors and other Haulover beach users. ☆