



123 NW Highway 19
Crystal River, FL 34428
352-795-4216 P
www.crystalriverfl.org

Memorandum

TO: Steve L. Howard
County Administrator, Citrus County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Douglas G. Baber
City Manager, City of Crystal River

DATE: 01/02/2024

SUBJECT: Hunter Springs Park Tourism Mitigation Resubmittal

Following our discussions since the December 13th denial, please see the City of Crystal River's Tourism Development Council resubmittal below.

Hunter Springs Park is a significant place as the only public, free admission spring in the state of Florida, attracting tourists from around the world. The park serves as a vital hub for various recreational activities such as swimming, manatee watching, kayaking, and relaxation. With approximately one million annual visitors to Citrus County, Hunter Springs Park is a cornerstone of tourism in the County.

The dire need to add an additional restroom building at Hunter Springs Park is evident, given the heavy usage experienced throughout the year. The current facilities are not equipped to handle the impact of the significant visitation, and the requested \$350,000 total cost is a crucial step toward addressing this issue. The City of Crystal River is prepared to offer a 25% match in the amount of \$87,500. Leaving the remaining 75% in the amount of \$262,500 for the Board of County Commissioners and the Tourism Development Council to fund.

We appreciate the opportunity for the resubmission and look forward to working together to address the impact that tourism has on all of Citrus County. The burden of funding tourism infrastructure is one we must all share considering the widespread benefits and economic contributions that tourism brings to the regional community. The enhancement of the Hunter Springs Park restrooms are vital to ensure a positive experience for tourists and maintain the park's status as a premier destination. Positive guest experience directly results in additional tourists.



123 NW Highway 19
Crystal River, FL 34428
352-795-4216 P
www.crystalriverfl.org

Tourism management and infrastructure investment is essential for the long-term success and sustainability of Citrus County and Crystal River as a tourist destination. Taking into account the critical importance of Hunter Springs Park, I believe approval of this item is paramount.

Sincerely,

Douglas G. Baber
City Manager
City of Crystal River