



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

August 23, 2021

To whom it may concern:

The Office of Greenways and Trails supports the efforts of the Everglades Society of Historic Preservation (ESHP) to renovate the old Bank of Everglades Building, a dignified landmark in the unique historic Everglades City in southwest Florida. Plans for the restored building include a Visitor Center/Trail Town Headquarters for the Everglades Area on the first floor. It will serve as a welcome center to tourists from around the world and provide extensive information about Everglades City as a State of Florida Trail Town with opportunities for biking, hiking and paddling in the surrounding area.

ESHP is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit company that was gifted the building by its owner in March 2021. The neo-classical edifice, dating from 1927, has fallen into disrepair over the years. It needs considerable expenditure for the rehabilitation so that it can, once again, be a focal point that attracts visitors and promotes the local economy.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Katie Bernier via email, katherine.bernier@floridadep.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie Bernier".

Katie Bernier, Regional Coordinator
Division of Recreation and Parks
Office of Greenways and Trails