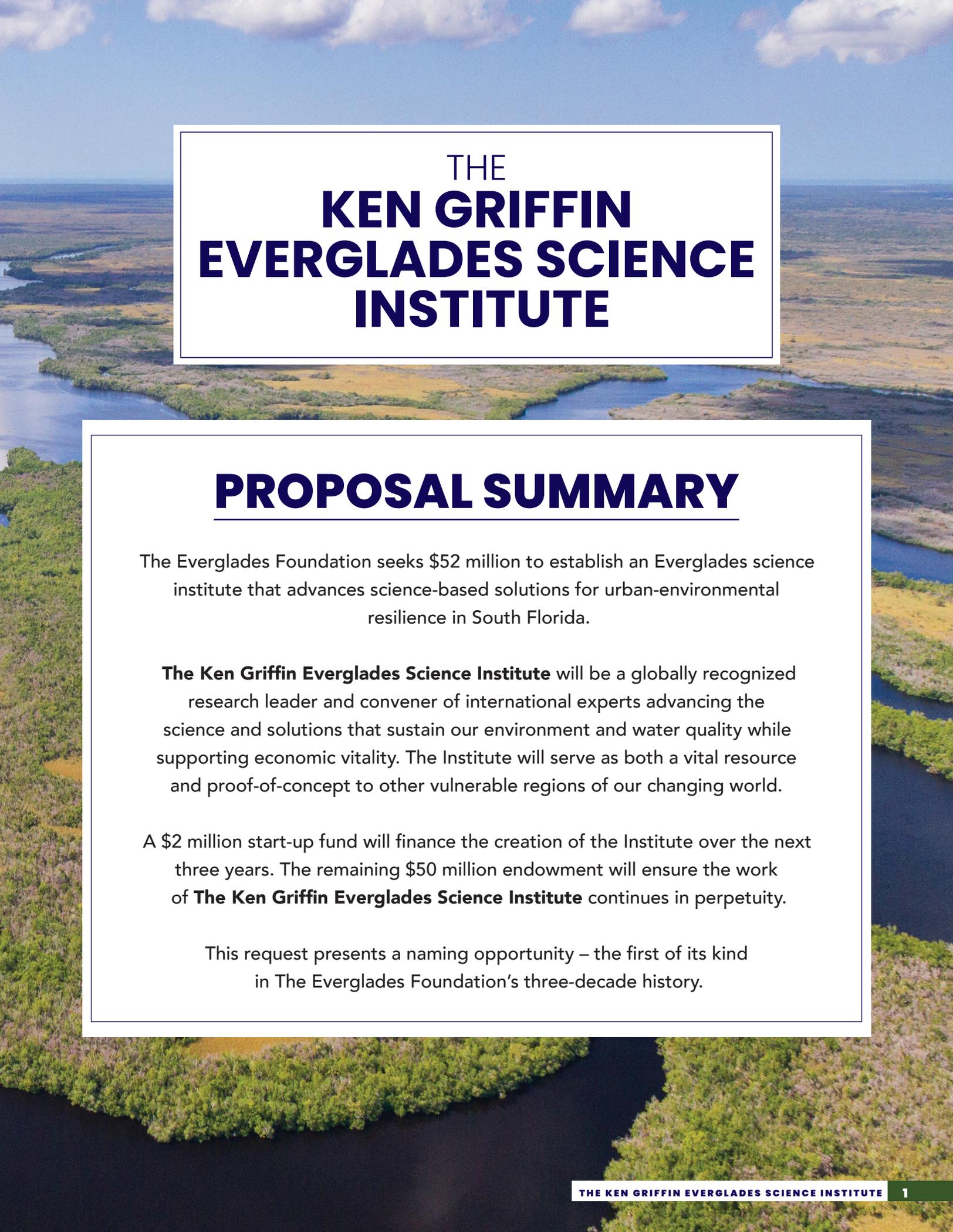


THE  
**KEN GRIFFIN  
EVERGLADES SCIENCE  
INSTITUTE**







# THE KEN GRIFFIN EVERGLADES SCIENCE INSTITUTE

## PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The Everglades Foundation seeks \$52 million to establish an Everglades science institute that advances science-based solutions for urban-environmental resilience in South Florida.

**The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will be a globally recognized research leader and convener of international experts advancing the science and solutions that sustain our environment and water quality while supporting economic vitality. The Institute will serve as both a vital resource and proof-of-concept to other vulnerable regions of our changing world.

A \$2 million start-up fund will finance the creation of the Institute over the next three years. The remaining \$50 million endowment will ensure the work of **The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** continues in perpetuity.

This request presents a naming opportunity – the first of its kind in The Everglades Foundation’s three-decade history.

# PROPOSAL DETAILS

## Mission Statement

**The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will lead, facilitate, convene, and support Everglades and water systems research and innovation to advance solutions that build and maintain resilience at the nexus of our natural and built environments.

**The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will build on three decades of scientific excellence and research that informs the world's largest ecosystem restoration project and provides the science needed to secure abundant, clean freshwater resources for the people, landscapes and economies of South Florida. **The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will lead the field through its research and global networks to address the impacts of climate change in South Florida – one of the world's most vulnerable regions. The science and solutions produced through the Institute's work will provide critical data and innovation to communities locally and around the globe to demonstrate the value of the protection and investment in natural systems as a critical tool for resilience and sustainability. The world will need this information, and **The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will be the ideal laboratory to provide it.

## The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute will:

- Engage regional and global experts in science, engineering, infrastructure and economics.
- Advance solutions and innovations needed to restore the Everglades and other environmental resources while building much-needed urban and economic resilience.
- Advise policymakers on science-based and economically-sound solutions that will protect vital Everglades ecosystem services and water quality in South Florida.
- Foster continued development and advancement of promising scientists to meet the evolving needs of our growing economy and changing climate.
- Provide thought leadership and science-backed statements for global media outlets on initiatives, advances and implications for America's Everglades.

**The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will ensure The Everglades Foundation will continue its legacy as a scientific center of excellence that will complete Everglades restoration within 15 years and tackle other challenges that will threaten our environment and economy for decades to come, advancing the science-based solutions that build and maintain urban-environmental resilience in South Florida. **The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will serve as a convener of solutions-oriented science, a hub of international recognition that collaborates with global experts in science and engineering, and a resource and proof-of-concept for vulnerable regions around the world.

**The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute will include:**

- A full-time staff of eight scientists with renowned leadership in the fields of hydrology and hydrologic modeling, civil engineering, water resources engineering, water quality, quantitative ecology and economics.
- Support for research, travel and advanced-degree research scholarships.
- Support for strategic academic partnerships with leading institutions to fill research gaps to extend our academic reach to a global community of researchers, developing the pipeline of talented, diverse students who will continue to help address the sustainability challenges and resilience needs of the future.
- **The Griffin Visiting Scholars Program** to develop collaborative research initiatives, convene global talent in South Florida, and collaborate on high-priority Everglades-focused projects to advance knowledge, publications and policy.



# SCIENCE DRIVING SOLUTIONS

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## *Why Invest in The Everglades Foundation?*

The Everglades Foundation cultivates technical expertise to ensure restoration planning and water management are guided by sound science and economics. Our respected leadership in restoration science requires a dedicated team of hydrologists, engineers, ecologists, economists and water quality scientists. Through original research, modeling and synthesis of existing science, we translate science into action.

- The Everglades science team spent the past three years developing, analyzing and influencing a historic balanced plan for the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual. The new rules will provide substantial benefits to the Everglades and South Florida coastal communities, with a value equivalent of more than \$2 billion in new water infrastructure.
- After 16 years of political delay, our science team was instrumental in modeling, analysis and justification for the \$3.5 billion Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir that will cleanse and send much-needed water to the Everglades during the dry season and reduce by 55% toxic lake discharges that shutter businesses, make people sick and harm tourism.
- After more than two decades of delay, our science-based advocacy led to the bridging of Tamiami Trail, removing a 100-year-old barrier to water flow in Everglades National Park. Although it was a designated federal project, we secured \$90 million in state funding to expedite the efforts. The entire Tamiami Trail project will be completed in July 2024.
- In 2012, our science team was instrumental in negotiating a water quality compromise between the federal government and the state of Florida. These efforts led to the state's \$880 million "Restoration Strategies" water quality plan, which expands treatment wetlands that clean polluted agricultural runoff before flowing water south to the Everglades.



**EAA Reservoir**



**Lake Okeechobee Operations**



**Tamiami Trail Bridges**

# STATEMENT OF NEED

Florida's economy runs on clean water. America's Everglades, which connects nearly three million acres of wetlands to our bays and beaches, is an economic engine for the state, providing world-class recreational opportunities for water enthusiasts, habitat for endangered and threatened species, and the water supply for nine million Floridians (42% of our state's population) and millions of tourists each year. We must restore and protect what is left of this River of Grass.



*Coastal communities impacted by toxic blue-green algae.*

South Florida is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, which threatens water supply and increases flood risk to millions. South Florida is also one of the most unique regions, with a massive (18,000-square-mile) wetland watershed managed via 2,200 miles of canals, 2,100 miles of levees, and nearly 1,000 pumps and water control structures – all immediately adjacent to a densely-populated and growing urban corridor that includes Greater Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach.

The global economic-environmental connection is becoming ever more obvious as heat, diminished freshwater availability, sea level rise and other environmental changes threaten our communities and businesses, as well as our natural systems and biodiversity. Without thoughtful, science-based interventions that incorporate and balance the needs of the environment with growing urban populations, we will not be able to sustain essential ecosystem services that provide storm surge attenuation, flood control, aquifer replenishment, water quality protection and carbon sequestration. Key to the successful implementation of these interventions is sound science coupled



*The Everglades and encroaching development.*

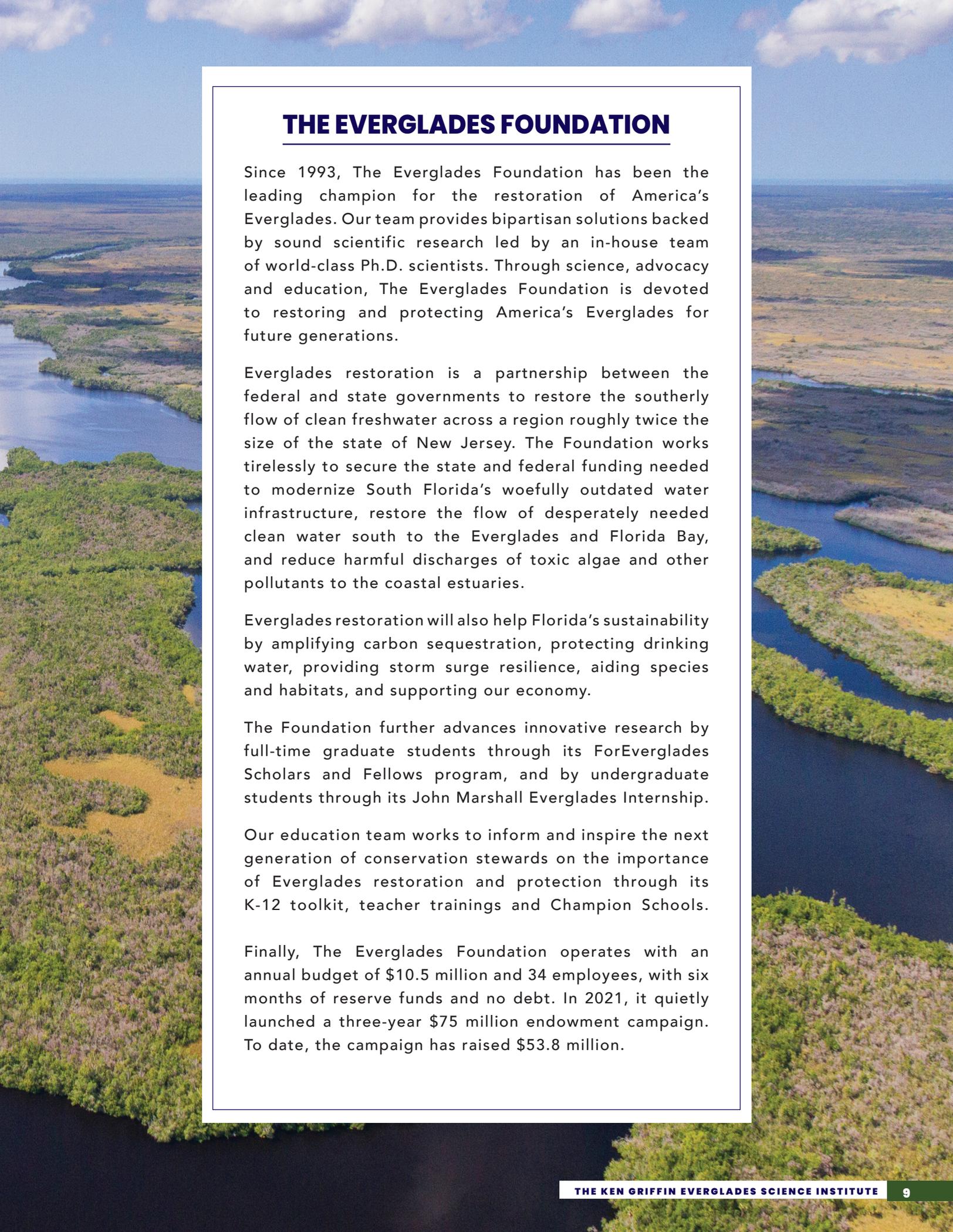
with strong bipartisan advocacy and effective engagement with communities, businesses and elected officials.

Building urban resilience while protecting essential ecosystem services provided by a restored Everglades is essential to ensure the continued viability and economic strength of this region. No government, university or organization is better positioned to address this challenge than The Everglades Foundation.

As a science-based nonprofit, The Everglades Foundation operates at the boundaries of science and policy, transforming the latest scientific research into economically sound policy solutions for local, state and federal governments. The Everglades Foundation understands the challenges of implementing ecosystem restoration and protection, and has unique experience in guiding state and national leadership to invest in and restore one of our nation's great treasures and one of the world's most important wetland ecosystems – America's Everglades. We will apply these same approaches and skills to ongoing urban resilience planning efforts at local levels of government, integrating our specialized knowledge of Everglades restoration, water infrastructure and operations.

Increased investment and growth in South Florida make our work and mission more important than ever. **The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will position The Everglades Foundation as a global science-to-action leader in building resilience at the environmental-urban interface. In turn, **The Ken Griffin Everglades Science Institute** will work to ensure a more resilient and sustainable future for South Florida.

		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
<b>THE KEN GRIFFIN EVERGLADES SCIENCE INSTITUTE \$50 Million Endowment</b>		<b>YEAR 1</b>	<b>YEAR 2</b>	<b>YEAR 3</b>
Science Positions by Focus Area (8 FTEs):	\$1,175,000	\$876,000	\$1,091,000	\$1,196,000
Chief Science Officer				
Senior Hydrologist & Lead Modeler				
Hydrologist/Civil Engineer				
Water Resources Engineer				
Water Quality Scientist				
Quantitative Ecologist				
Senior Economist				
Entry-level Ph.D. Position				
Scholars Office Coordinator	\$70,000		\$70,000	\$70,000
Staff Support	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
Employee Benefits	\$270,000	\$190,000	\$240,000	\$270,000
Research Travel Funds and Dues	\$25,000	\$18,000	\$21,000	\$25,000
Computers, Technology and Software	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$40,000
Other Supplies and Hardware	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Academic Partnerships	\$300,000		\$200,000	\$300,000
Consulting (i.e. Winrock International Institute)	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000
Griffin Lecture and Symposiums (USGS Everglades Conference)	\$50,000		\$50,000	\$50,000
Griffin Scholars: 2 at \$30k, 2 at \$45k, 2 at \$60k	\$270,000			\$270,000
Ph.D. and Graduate Research Students	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
<b>Grand Total Annual Budget for Science Institute</b>				
	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$1,414,000</b>	<b>\$2,007,000</b>	<b>\$2,521,000</b>
<b>Endowment Needed to Support 5% Spend Rate</b>				
	<b>\$50,000,000</b>			
<b>Start-up Costs for Three Years</b>				
	\$2,000,000	100,000	\$693,000	\$1,207,000



## **THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION**

Since 1993, The Everglades Foundation has been the leading champion for the restoration of America's Everglades. Our team provides bipartisan solutions backed by sound scientific research led by an in-house team of world-class Ph.D. scientists. Through science, advocacy and education, The Everglades Foundation is devoted to restoring and protecting America's Everglades for future generations.

Everglades restoration is a partnership between the federal and state governments to restore the southerly flow of clean freshwater across a region roughly twice the size of the state of New Jersey. The Foundation works tirelessly to secure the state and federal funding needed to modernize South Florida's woefully outdated water infrastructure, restore the flow of desperately needed clean water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay, and reduce harmful discharges of toxic algae and other pollutants to the coastal estuaries.

Everglades restoration will also help Florida's sustainability by amplifying carbon sequestration, protecting drinking water, providing storm surge resilience, aiding species and habitats, and supporting our economy.

The Foundation further advances innovative research by full-time graduate students through its ForEverglades Scholars and Fellows program, and by undergraduate students through its John Marshall Everglades Internship.

Our education team works to inform and inspire the next generation of conservation stewards on the importance of Everglades restoration and protection through its K-12 toolkit, teacher trainings and Champion Schools.

Finally, The Everglades Foundation operates with an annual budget of \$10.5 million and 34 employees, with six months of reserve funds and no debt. In 2021, it quietly launched a three-year \$75 million endowment campaign. To date, the campaign has raised \$53.8 million.



**THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION**  
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