



April 1, 2025

Jazlyn Heywood, P.E.
Consultant to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
P.O. Box 613069
Ocoee, FL, 34761-3069

Sent via email to Jazlyn.Heywood@dot.state.fl.us.

Protect 'quietude' of historic Bok Tower Gardens

Dear Ms. Heywood,

The Olmsted Network is concerned with the Florida Department of Transportation's proposal to bring a toll road within a half mile of Bok Tower Gardens. As proposed, two of the possible corridors would negatively affect the Gardens by creating noise pollution, blocking a major historic vista and obstructing a wildlife corridor.

Bok Tower Gardens is a nationally significant landscape, having been designed as a bird sanctuary by the internationally known landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. at the request of Ladies Home Journal editor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edward William Bok. In fact, the Olmsted firm corresponded on the project for more than 50 years between 1920 and 1978. The site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1993. Indeed, the state of Florida has continued to support this important sanctuary.

For over 100 years, Bok Tower Gardens has worked to protect the quietness, wildlife connections and vistas so important to the Olmsted design. While the 'C'

and 'D' corridors would threaten these efforts, the Olmsted Network believes there are alternatives that not only address traffic congestion but also protect this invaluable site for the enjoyment of future generations.

We ask that the Florida Department of Transportation prioritize keeping the roadway as far away from the Garden as possible, with the intent to protect this historic landscape and wildlife sanctuary. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline', written in a cursive style.

Caroline Cunningham
Interim President,
Olmsted Network