Friends of the Valley

Sustainable Forest Management
Davis Falls & Swim Pool
Organization Structure of Friends of the Valley

Membership (22)

President (Dwight Montero)

Vice President (Floyd Tillett)

Treasurer (Raymond Arnold)

Secretary (Fay Smith)

Assistant Treasurer (Dennis Leslie)

Councillors

Assistant Secretary
Friends of the Valley is a non-government organization (NGO).

It was recently organized by representatives of the seven villages along the Stann Creek Valley road/Hummingbird highway in the North Stann Creek District.

Its aim is to pursue:

- the protection of land surrounding these villages
- the development of eco-tourist destination sites for the use and enjoyment of Belizean and foreign tourists.
The Goals of Friends of the Valley

- To achieve protected area status for all watersheds serving the villages and communities in North Stann Creek.

- To achieve protected area status for land that surrounds several identified scenic attractions.

- To develop identified scenic attractions as ecotourism destination sites in north Stann Creek District for the use and enjoyment of Belizean and visitors to our country and for economic benefit to villages and their residents.
The Goals of Friends of the Valley continued...

- To protect the flora and fauna of the area to prevent its elimination and/or loss from uncontrolled logging, hunting and commercial development.

- To achieve co-management of the designated area in cooperation with the forestry department and the ministry of natural resources for the long-term benefit of Belize and future Belizeans.
Activities Supported by Treckforce at Davis Falls

- Development of trail (including 9 timber bridges) and building steps in hillside.
- Cleared a helicopter landing site for emergency evacuation.
- Built picnic table.
- Built changing rooms.
- Upgraded feeder road to the falls and river crossing.
- Built palapa.
- Bio-gas toilet to be completed by March 2006.
Activities that took place at Swim Pool in Middlesex

- Development of trail to the pool
- Cleaning around the pool-side
Future Plans for 2006/2007

- Build a park warden station with the support of Treckforce
- Hire two park wardens full time to take care of the daily activities at the fall
- Get assistance from Treckforce to demarcate boundary around the Fall
- Strengthen the status from protected area to national park status
- Label trees with the technical support of Forestry Department
Future Plans for 2006/2007 continued...

- Improve Feeder Road to the Fall
- Access funding from PACT and GEF to further develop site
- Develop marketing strategy for Tourism purposes
- Build a visitor center with a computer and internet access.
- Trained Tour guide and Tour operator for tourism purposes.
Friends of the Valley is working toward National park status for Davis Falls and Swim Pool with the support of Forestry Department.

Friends of the Valley is developing the Davis Falls and Swim Pool sites so that they make a significant contribution to the economic development of North Stann Creek while protecting the watershed.
Concerns & Questions of Friends of the Valley Regarding Other Activities in the Area

Friends of the Valley is concerned about the granting of logging concessions in the Sittee Forest Reserve. They want to know:

- How sustainable are logging concessions?
- How effective are EIAs to determine which habitats or flora or fauna might be impacted by logging activities in the area?
- What impact would haulage of logs across creeks have on the watershed?
Concerns & Questions cont...

- What role would the Forest Department play in monitoring logging activities?
- Do Forest Management Plans take into consideration existing activities in the Sittee River Reserve.
Thank you