



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3197

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This project would replace the Willow Marsh Boardwalk, significant portions of which have deteriorated and the existing boardwalk is no longer safe for use.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,100,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,100,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	1,100,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	1,100,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.



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The City of St. Petersburg received approximately \$45M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds which was used to support affordable housing, mental health support, and nutrition access.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

6/30/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

The City of St. Petersburg would administer the project and own the facility. The City would solicit construction services, in compliance with the state's procurement laws, with capital funding indirectly allocated to the responsive contractor and any subcontractors.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Renovation/construction of the Willow Marsh Boardwalk	1,100,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,100,000

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

The current Willow Marsh boardwalk will be removed and rebuilt. The rebuilding of Willow Marsh boardwalk will provide environmental educational opportunities for local residents, youth, and visitors. The boardwalk provides visitors with a greater sensitivity to the unique features of Florida ecosystems. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve has 5 distinct ecosystems. The elevated boardwalk allows the public to venture out into the marsh where access otherwise would not be possible.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?



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The new structure will offer significant improvement to the usability and access to the marsh ecosystem within the nature preserve. Visitors will have better exposure to a variety of flora and fauna. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve has an estimated attendance of 90,000 per year.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Boyd Hill Nature preserve currently conducts educational field trips for all of Pinellas County 4th grade classes south of Ulmerton Road through a partnership with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). Schools are provided with the chance to connect students with nature while out on the trails. Each year there are an estimated 3000 students and 575 adults representing 39 schools served through the program. One of the goals of the program is for students to develop a knowledge and understanding of environmental processes related to water, water resources and water conservation. Willow Marsh boardwalk is a crucial part of their experience and provides the opportunity to emphasize the goals of the program. The preserve also conducts its own school programs, camps, and interpretive programming. The goal of these educational projects is to provide local residents and visitors with opportunities to build knowledge and awareness centered around environmental stewardship.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The project aims to serve the residents and visitors of St. Petersburg, Florida. Boyd Hill Nature Preserve has an estimated attendance of 90,000 per year.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The project will provide environmental educational opportunities for visitors, and better access to the marsh ecosystem. The effectiveness of the Pinellas County 4th grade field trips is measured by a pre, and post test administered to each student. Each student's knowledge and understanding of water, water resources and water conservation is evaluated based on their answers to 10 multiple choice questions. Teachers are also given a survey to measure the effectiveness and their satisfaction with the program and experience. The effectiveness of camps and school programs is also measured by survey. Participants evaluate all aspects of the educational program including registration, personnel, facilities, cost, experience, and overall satisfaction.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Reimbursement of certain applicable expenditures could be made for failing to meet the project deliverables.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)



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- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number