



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 1120

1. Project Title Trout Lake Nature Center (TLNC) New Education Complex Phase 2 Lake County

2. Senate Sponsor Dennis Baxley

3. Date of Request 01/30/2023

#### 4. Project/Program Description

To be able to meet the increasing demand for programs and activities, TLNC is working to build an ADA accessible, environmentally sustainable education complex. This complex will house an interpretive natural history museum, additional indoor classrooms, an outdoor covered and screened teaching space, small meeting room and outdoor accessible bathrooms. To be able to place the new buildings it is necessary to move and expand our parking area westward, construct a retention pond and relocate our maintenance area. Moving the parking area will increase safety since the current parking area is located in the middle of the complex and you must cross it to access buildings, trails, and picnic shelter. Currently, we are forced to shut down half of our parking to safely accommodate bus loading, unloading and parking. The new parking area takes students away from any traffic hazards.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Economic Opportunity

State Agency contacted? No

#### 6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	900,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>900,000</b>

#### 7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	900,000	94%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	60,000	6%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>960,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 1,500,000

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

We have been running a capital campaign to obtain funding from private individuals, community foundations and other organizations.



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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.

Two payroll protection loans were received in the amount of approximately \$39,240. In addition, CARES funding was received from the Florida Humanities Council in the amount of \$5,000. These funds were used for payroll costs, utilities, contractor costs as allowed by these programs.

## 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

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

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

Fall 2023

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

May 2024

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 corporation is the owner of the facilities and land associated with the Trout Lake Nature Center. TLNC is managed by a Board of Directors.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs: Other</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Building construction and outside facilities and equipment/	900,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>900,000</b>

### 14. Program Performance

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



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Provide nature-based education for the region, visitors and students. To expand programs and increase our capacity to meet demands for programs and services, we need to build additional classrooms (indoors and outdoors), replace our aging natural history museum trailer, improve our road and increase parking infrastructure, provide ADA accessible bathrooms and add a meeting room. Construction will allow for a nature play area for smaller children and provide additional space to offer overlapping programs. It will also increase open habitat essential for wildlife species.

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

Construct 100 space, low-impact parking area with both paved and permeable paving surfaces. Relocate the maintenance work area which is required because of the placement of the parking area and future building and education activities. Because our property is primarily wet, we must do extensive stormwater planning and construction to maintain the hydrology of the property and develop a retention pond that will serve a secondary use as an aquatic education area.

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

Serving as the only nature center in Lake County, TLNC will be able to expand education programs and events and add new programs. Having an updated and improved interpretive natural history museum will benefit visitor's learning. Concurrent programs will be possible and business retreats, professional development training and eco-therapy programs can be expanded.

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

In the past 8 years, TLNC has provided 500 student field trips to students within and without Lake County reaching about 216,000 students with these learning experiences. In addition, TLNC programs, activities and trails have been used by an additional 232,000 people allowing us to educate a little bit less than half a million people. Annually, we service about 30,000 people with a variety of programs and trail and exhibit visitations.

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

Programs are evaluated using quantitative and qualitative methods, visitation is tracked, participant numbers recorded and online reviews are used.

**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?**

Since there is not a contracting agency set up for this project, TLNC would expect typical penalties to apply.

**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**