



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2637

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

Zephyr Lake Park will complement the personality of Zephyrhills, and serve to unify its diverse population offering public space that serves the needs of many. The park is within walking distance to the city's historic urban core, this blended natural/urban park will provide spaces to escape, educate, and explore while learning the history of Florida and the extraordinary role water plays in Florida. Zephyr Park will include the development of an integrated water management system, using wetlands to receive and hold both stormwater and reuse water to recharge the aquifer, clean stormwater of pollutants and nutrients before discharging to the Hillsborough River. This 55 acre park will provide educational and commercial connections that will provide multiple opportunities for the citizens and visitors to Florida.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>5,000,000</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)	5,000,000	83%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	17%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

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

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?**
- a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

City's general fund

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



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Yes

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

\$51,958.98 from the U.S Department of Justice for the preparation, prevention, and response of COVID-19.  
 \$69,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration for infrastructure maintenance.  
 \$8,242,048 from the American Rescue Plan Act.

## 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)?**

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?**

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

**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.**

City of Zephyrhills

### 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	Design has been completed, construction documents and permitting for 55 acre urban park including drainage, nature and children's area, including the history of Florida and the impact of water, walking and biking trails, educational agriculture plots, active areas for young and the young at heart, landscape, restrooms, and parking.	5,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>5,000,000</b>

### 14. Program Performance

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



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To stimulate economic development in a quickly growing part of Pasco by constructing a regional park and development of a wetland system to clean stormwater and pollutants while educating the public on the valuable role of water in Florida. The location provides a needed connection to downtown Zephyrhills while promoting the economic development expansion of the business area, the park will provide a catalyst for private sector investment in the area. Zephyr Park will meet the needs of many with its unique design and will draw visitors and investors to the opportunities within Pasco County.

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

The mission of the Zephyr Lake Park is to enrich our community through nature, culture, recreation, and education. The park serves to unify the city's diverse population, offering public spaces that will serve the needs of many by providing engaging and diverse opportunities in education and recreation. Interpretative elements along the lake will show visitors how pollution can be prevented from entering waterways by cleaning stormwater runoff. The children's area is designed to let a kid have fun, running and playing in water, enjoying the incredible tree canopy or engaging in hands on learning about the ecology of Florida.

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

Located in the city's urban area creates a prime opportunity to provide educational exhibits highlighting the sensitive role of water in Florida, the arts along with the area's agricultural, industrial, and cultural assets. The park will also serve as a place to connect people socially with the large central event lawn for concerts and festivals. The range of activities planned for the park will support physical and social equity for all park visitors in an effort to reinforce shared experiences and forge new connections within this growing and changing community.

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

Zephyr Lake Park will welcome and serve visitors of all ages and backgrounds from throughout the Pasco, Hillsborough, and Polk Counties area and connect neighborhoods with new walking and biking paths. The park will be designed to meet and engage the needs of thousands of visitors each month. The park will provide hands on engagement focusing on our natural environment highlighting water in Florida.

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

Zephyr Lake Park will promote physical and mental health for all ages. Studies show parks attract non-resident visitors who put new dollars into the local economy. Proximity to parks enhances the value of residential and commercial properties. Success will be measured by participation in events and programs and the increase in land value surrounding the park.

**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?**

Loss of funding.

**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



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