



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 3095

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Project goal is to restore the critical Homosassa Springshed Habitat and Outstanding Waterway by removing filamentous algae and decaying benthic detrital material and re-planting Submerged Aquatic Vegetation. This project will increase water clarity, oxygen levels, and habitat for fish and other wildlife, including the manatee.

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	4,000,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	4,000,000

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)	4,000,000	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 2023-2024	4,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2021-22	0	4,000,000	1592A	No

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.

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

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



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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.

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	Project Administration/Accounting/ Public Information to be administered by our organization, HRRP. Project Administration included oversight of the project as it relates to the DEP contract requirements. Public Information included, but is not limited, to supplying and directing information about the project to the media, local government officials, other state agencies, citizens, other stakeholders, and schools.	100,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/ Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	HRRP will continue to utilize the same contractor providing vacuum removal services, planting SAV, cages, monitoring, and maintenance. This also includes any land lease costs, mobilization and demobilization performed by same contractor. Additionally, we will continue to utilize an independent biologist to perform an evaluation of the whether or not the vacuum removal services meet standards for plant install and survival	3,900,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/ Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		4,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Homosassa River is a first magnitude spring and designated as an Outstanding Florida Waterway which has been identified as a priority waterbody by SWIM. It has been listed as impaired for nutrients and filamentous algae by FDEP and USEPA. The goal is to restore water quality by vacuum removal of filamentous algae (Lyngbya) and benthic detrital matter and planting of submerged aquatic vegetation.

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

The vacuum removal services, planting SAV, cages, monitoring, and maintenance will be provided by the same contractor that started our project. This also includes any land lease costs, mobilization and demobilization performed by the same contractor. Additional services are provided by an independent biologist to confirm standards met by contractor as well as perform project evaluation study to compare pre versus post restoration.

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

The tourism industry is one of the largest economic drivers in the region. The loss of Water Quality (clarity) associated with current conditions and degrading habitat conditions could potentially cause a collapse of this economy. Improvements proposed by this project will help to improve and maintain condition's for which residents, local, regional, national, international tourists come to expect

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

Citrus County, specifically Homosassa, will be the main benefactor of the positive economic impact of the local tourism, fishing and boating industry. The project is expected to create some local short term jobs and advantages for the local economy as workers will require work supplies, lodging, food, entertainment, etc. However, the impact will also be state wide as the area is visited by state, national, and international tourists who plan a multitude of tourism activities while visiting Citrus County.

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

The expected outcome is overall improvement in the water quality leading to thriving aquatic flora and fauna communities, including the West Indian manatees in the Homosassa River. The methodology being utilized by the independent biologist to measure successful outcome in the post restoration versus pre restoration ares are through core sampling (pre and post de-mucking), macroinvertebrate sampling, fish sampling, SAV surveys and field water chemistry

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?

The funds would be returned to the agency

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)



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- ☐ 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

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- ☐ Waste Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- ☐ Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- ☒ Other (please specify) Springs funding.
- ☐ N/A

19. What is the population economic status?

- ☐ Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- ☐ Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C)
- ☒ Rural Area of Economic Concern
- ☐ Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- ☐ N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



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40%

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

2028