



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2019-2020

LFIR#: 1722

1. **Title of Project:** Lakeland's Se7en Wetlands Educational Center

2. **Senate Sponsor:** Ben Albritton

3. **Date of Submission:** 02/06/2019

4. **Project/Program Description:**

Se7en Wetlands is a unique place where visitors from all over the State can hike, enjoy nature, and learn about the importance of Florida's water resources. After thirty years of operation as a Water Utility, Se7en Wetlands has had tremendous success as a new park adding trails and amenities, even winning a National Environmental Excellence Award in Public Involvement. The requested funds will be used to design and construct the Se7en Wetlands Educational Center to further statewide citizen engagement and outreach programs.

A master plan for Se7en Wetlands was created by SME, Inc. for the City of Lakeland which includes an Educational Center and associated infrastructure. For more information visit: <https://www.lakelandgov.net/departments/water-utilities/se7en-wetlands-supporting-documents>

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds :** Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency Contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,500,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,500,000	94.34%
Federal	0	0.00%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0.00%
Local	150,000	5.66%
Other	0	0.00%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020	2,650,000	100.0%

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

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	NonRecurring		
2018-19		800,000	1687A	Yes

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?** Yes



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a. If yes, indicate non-recurring amount per year. 500000

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		
Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Designing and Constructing the Se7en Wetlands Educational Center	2,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,500,000

11. Program Performance:

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

The requested funds will be used to open a Se7en Wetlands Educational Center to further statewide citizen engagement and outreach programs by focusing on Florida's water and environmental resources.

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

Diverse education and outreach programs will be tailored to different interest groups and age ranges. All citizens, including those with disabilities, will have the opportunity to visit the Se7en Wetlands Educational Center.

c. **What are the direct services to be provided to citizens by the appropriations project?**

Many direct services will be provided to citizens including; diverse educational programs, outreach events, and outdoor recreation activities- including meeting goals established by the State of Florida Outdoor Recreation Plan.

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

The statewide population will be served by this project. The target population to be served includes, but is not limited to; elderly persons, persons with poor physical and mental health, at-risk youth, developmentally and physically disabled, preschool through university students, and the general public.

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



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The Se7en Wetlands Educational Center will have many benefits, including but not limited to; improving physical and mental health for visitors, enriching cultural experiences, improving and promoting environmental education, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, improving economic activity and increasing tourism, and creating immediate job opportunities. Outcomes will be measured by tracking visitor statistics and educational program participants.

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 in the contract?

Funds would be withheld by the State of Florida from the City of Lakeland.

12. The owner(s) of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owner(s) of the facility and the entity.

The City of Lakeland owns and operates Se7en Wetlands.

13. Requestor Contact Information:

- a. **Name:** Anthony Delgado
- b. **Organization:** City of Lakeland
- c. **E-mail Address:** anthony.delgado@lakelandgov.net
- d. **Phone Number:** (863)834-6248

14. Recipient Contact Information:

- a. **Organization:** City of Lakeland's Se7en Wetlands
- b. **County:** Polk
- c. **Organization Type:**
 - For Profit
 - Non Profit 501(c) (3)
 - Non Profit 501(c) (4)
 - Local Entity
 - University or College
 - Other (Please specify)
- d. **Contact Name:** Pam Page
- e. **E-mail Address:** pam.page@lakelandgov.net
- f. **Phone Number:** (863)835-6088

15. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. **Name:** David Shepp
- b. **Firm Name:** Southern Strategy
- c. **E-mail Address:** shepp@sostrategy.com
- d. **Phone Number:** (863)581-4250



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Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only

16. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (Please describe)
- N/A

17. 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

18. What is the status of construction? Funding is for Phase 3 of the project

19. What percentage of construction has been completed? .75

20. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 2021