



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1212

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The Florida Center for Nature-based Solutions at Naples Botanical Garden, part of the new 75,000 square foot Evenstad Horticulture Campus, will enable the Garden to better meet environmental challenges while enhancing its 170-acre property, a major tourist attraction in Collier County. The Center will provide the opportunity for Garden staff to research and provide practical nature-based solutions for Florida's environmental challenges including stormwater management, water quality, shoreline resilience, reforestation, and restoration of damaged ecosystems. Nature-based solutions often enhance existing infrastructure resulting in long-term financial, social, and environmental benefits such as economic growth, green jobs, increased property values, and improvements to public health.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	650,000
Total State Funds Requested	650,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	650,000	25%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	2,000,000	75%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	2,650,000	100%

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.**

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.

2 PPP loans and 1 EIDL loan totaling \$2,184,811 were used for staffing and safety.

11. 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	State funds will support Phase 3 construction of the Florida Center for Nature-based Solutions at Naples Botanical Garden.	650,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		650,000

12. Program Performance

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

The purpose of the Center is to determine nature-based solutions that result in actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, while safeguarding biodiversity and improving human wellbeing. The Center will also be able to draw on its capacity to reach its 235,000 annual visitors and beyond through its member magazine Cultivate (printed 3 times annually), its conservation magazine Conserve (printed annually), and social media to promote the resilience and adaptation of nature-based solutions and how they can be integrated into community landscapes and natural areas.

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

The Florida Center for Nature-based Solutions will enable Naples Botanical Garden to:

- a) Research and introduce environmentally-friendly, sustainable landscaping plants best suited for subtropical environments that can enhance water quality, reduce beach erosion, support pollinators, and provide wildlife habitat.
- b) Identify, grow, and share plants that thrive in nutrient-poor environments, withstand storms, and tolerate rising temperatures.
- c) Expand community partnerships with environmental organizations and local governments.
- d) Educate citizens, landowners, and landscaping professionals about sustainable landscaping options and techniques.

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

Naples Botanical Garden serves local citizens by providing educational opportunities, participating in projects like sand dune restoration, and demonstration projects at public recreational facilities. Additionally, our expertise allows us to educate local governments and environmental groups on how to use plants to mitigate water quality, shoreline resilience, and the restoration of damaged ecosystems that result in the improvement of quality of life and the economy. Nature-based solutions offer sustainable practices that harness the power of nature into the landscape. These practices promote adaptation and resilience to provide natural features that benefit society and the environment. The Florida Center for Nature-based Solutions will advance these goals.

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



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The expanding growing capabilities ultimately will benefit:

- a) The citizens of Southwest Florida (more than 1 million residents in Lee and Collier alone).
- b) The Garden's 235,000 annual visitors with 45% from out of state (including all 50 states in addition to international visitors).

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

The expected benefits of the Florida Center for Nature-based Solutions include the expansion of educational offerings on topics such as using plants to purify stormwater, choosing plants that are designed for subtropical climates, and growing plants that are known to tolerate stressors such as storms and heat. Our audiences include: landscapers and other industry professionals; public entities such as county/municipal natural resources, stormwater management departments, and homeowners associations. Outcomes will be measured by tracking participants and offering post-workshop assessments to measure learning gains.

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?

Naples Botanical Garden will return state funds that do not meet deliverables or performance measures provided.

13. 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.

Naples Botanical Garden, a 501(c)(3) organization, will own this facility outright.



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number



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Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

17. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

18. 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

19. What is the status of construction?

Commenced

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

15%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

10/31/2023