



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1693

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

In order to meet the increasing demand for programs and activities, the Trout Lake Nature Center (TLNC) is working to build an ADA-accessible, environmentally sustainable education complex. This complex will house a natural history museum, indoor and outdoor classrooms, outdoor teaching space, community meeting room, outdoor accessible bathrooms, and offices. In addition, parking for 100 cars with a safe loading and unloading area for school buses will be provided along with improved traffic flow. TLNC is Lake County's only nature center and services a large area of Central Florida.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

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)	2,000,000	69%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	900,000	31%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	2,900,000	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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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Payroll Protection Program loan funds draw 1 - \$19,620; PPP loan funds draw 2 - \$19,620; CARES ACT grants - \$5,000 and \$3,000; Lake County CARES grant - \$10,500. Funds were used for payroll and utilities costs in 2020 and 2021.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Director is managing overall project and interfacing with engineers, contractors, agencies, etc.	20,000
Other Salary and Benefits	A variety of staff will be involved, such as maintenance and habitat and programming, since programs will need constant adjustment during construction.	10,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Project Manager will be hired to manage construction, site prep, permitting, etc., of building and construction	50,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Furniture and exhibit design.	150,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Engineers for permitting and construction, architect for final building design, exhibit designer for developing exhibits, surveyors for all aspects of construction.	270,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Building construction and permitting.	1,500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

12. Program Performance

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

To provide nature-based education for the region, visitors, and students. To expand programs and increase the size of audiences served, TLNC needs to build additional classrooms (both indoors and outdoors), replace its aging natural history museum, provide ADA accessible restrooms, and add community meeting space. Construction would allow for a nature play area for smaller children and provide spaces for concurrent and overlapping programming.

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

Construct indoor and outdoor teaching areas, new natural history museum to replace the aging museum (currently located in a double-wide), outdoor accessible restrooms, small community meeting space, and additional exhibit and education storage with administrative offices.

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

Being the ONLY nature center in Lake County and having reached maximum capacity, the proposed new education complex will allow the TLNC to expand its education programs and events and add new programs for the community, families, and youth. This will include concurrent programs, business retreats, and professional development training. Funding will allow the TLNC to begin additional eco-therapy and nature health programs. Replacing the aging double-wide museum with an updated and improved museum will advance nature learning opportunities for the public.

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



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The TLNC works with all groups and ages and focuses on equity and diversity. Programs are provided for students in central Florida through onsite field trips and school programs, early childhood programming takes place, and a variety of family and community activities and programs take place year round along with adult programs. Various community groups also use the facilities. Currently, TLNC serves between 20,000 to 29,000 people each year with nature-based programs for students, families, and the community including tourists. With the completion of the education complex expansion, programming should significantly expand.

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

Research shows that getting outdoors and connecting with nature improves both physical and mental health. The TLNC sponsors guided walks, pack walks, birding, and other activities to get people moving and outdoors; school field trips correlated to education standards and in-school programs; and nature-based education to the community and families. Funds will allow for expansion of all programs and the addition of new programming. 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?

Penalties as stipulated per contract.

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.

The facility is owned by the Trout Lake Nature Center, Inc., a Florida-based, nonprofit corporation.



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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