



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2026

1. Project Title Winter Haven - East Winter Haven Aquifer Storage/Recovery and Wetlands Restoration Project

2. Senate Sponsor Colleen Burton

3. Date of Request 02/21/2023

4. Project/Program Description

East Winter Haven Aquifer Storage/Recovery and Wetlands Restoration Project located at Bradco Farms will be the first project in the City of Winter Haven's, Sapphire Necklace. This phase of the Sapphire Necklace and its interconnected wetland system restores historical wetland areas to provide multiple water resource benefits, including wetland restoration, recharge wells, flood mitigation, habitat creation, water quality improvements, and a nature park with interconnected trail system.

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

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	8,575,000
Total State Funds Requested	8,575,000

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)	8,575,000	31%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	17,425,000	62%
Other	2,000,000	7%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	28,000,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 5,000,000

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

Federal funds, additional local funds, additional private grants.

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

Yes



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2026

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

The City of Winter Haven received \$7,776,962 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds applied as "lost revenue" as allowed within the program policies and directions. The funds were earmarked for four projects:

Affordable Housing Local Match: \$1,500,000
WHRCC Project Assistance: \$4,500,000
Fire Station #4 Project Assistance: \$1,000,000
Community Health Project Assistance: \$776,962

In December 2022 Winter Haven received a third payment of \$30,301.46. This was added to the WHRCC project.

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

1/1/2024

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/1/2025

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.

Funds will be directed to City-owned property including a mix of public-use spaces (parks, multi-modal trail), aquifer recharging, and City utility facilities.

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		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	Consultant design, permitting, Construction Engineering/Inspection (CEI) services and construction of: Wetland Restoration, Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Wells, Nature Park and Trails System with Amenities.	8,575,000



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2026

Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)

8,575,000

14. Program Performance

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

East Winter Haven Aquifer Storage/Recovery and Wetlands Restoration Project located at Bradco Farms will be the first project in the City of Winter Haven's, Sapphire Necklace. This phase of the Sapphire Necklace and its interconnected wetland system restores historical wetland areas to provide multiple water resource benefits, including wetland restoration, recharge wells, flood mitigation, habitat creation, and water quality improvements, along with a nature park with an interconnected trail system.

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

Providing additional water storage within the watershed will improve local and regional flood protection. To better manage the city's reclaimed water, a minimum of 400,000 gallons per day of reuse water will be injected back into the aquifer, and used to rehydrate a historical wetland. As part of the wetland creation portion of this project, the restoration of a known historical wetland on site will mitigate flooding in the area and will efficiently treat stormwater runoff naturally from adjoining development projects. This project directly improves the groundwater quality as it restores historic wetlands on site. This restores the hydrological functions of the landscape and allows the natural treatment of surface water to occur before it enters the groundwater system through recharge. The restoration of the historic wetlands on site will improve the natural flow of stormwater through the site.

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

While the appropriation project will not provide direct services, the amenities associated with the project will provide recreational and educational experiences for the citizens of the region.

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

Central Florida residents, agricultural businesses and regional water customers. The estimated population of the Lakeland - Winter Haven Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for the calendar year 2022 was 358,000 people. It is anticipated that the appropriation project will be used by this population and more.

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

This project will provide a regional impact through the recharge of the Floridan aquifer at Central Florida's headwaters. This helps insure the availability and quality of the state's water resources and includes the benefits aquifer recharge has to agricultural operations. The addition of a wetland to this property will restore, enhance and improve the natural environment in the region. The wetland will provide habitat for aquatic wildlife and opportunity for public to observe habitation and the importance thereof. The project will provide additional water storage within the watershed will improve local and regional flood protection. The restored wetland habitat and trail network within the project will increase the eco-tourism opportunity within the region. This project will produce the opportunity to increase jobs during the construction and long-term maintenance of the project.

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?

If we did not meet the deliverables, we would not be able to seek reimbursement of funds.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2026

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

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)
- ☒ 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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2026

☐ Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)

☒ N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

planning

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/01/2025