



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2095

1. Project Title Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes Restoration Project

2. Senate Sponsor Blaise Ingoglia

3. Date of Request 02/16/2023

4. Project/Program Description

The Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes is the largest freshwater system in Citrus County consisting of 15 lakes that cover approximately 22,000 acres. This project will restore navigation and fisheries habitat by mechanical removal of invasive floating tussocks that have developed following the addition of flow controls on each of the three pools (Hernando, Inverness and Floral City pools). The end result will improve fisheries habitat, restore safe boating navigation, and improve use of the lake system for visitors, residents and other recreational users.

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

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	1,430,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	1,430,000

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)	1,430,000	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	1,430,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
				No

9. Is future funding likely to be requested? Yes

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year. 2,000,000

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

N/A

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

No



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2095

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

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	Proposed Administration, Accounting, Public Outreach services, and permitting services/fees will be obtained for the project. Public Outreach/Information includes, but is not limited to, supplying and directing information about the project to the media, local government officials, other state agencies, citizens, stakeholders and schools.	150,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Public bids will be conducted to select a qualified contractor to mechanically remove and dispose of the invasive tussock materials and restore the aquatic habitat for native species and restore navigation in the chain of lakes. A biological assessment using DEP methodology will be conducted each year to scientifically evaluate the project success and progress.	1,280,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,430,000

14. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2095

The Tsala Apopka Chain of Lakes is the largest freshwater system in Citrus County consisting of 15 lakes that cover approximately 22,000 acres. This project will restore navigation and fisheries habitat by mechanical removal of invasive floating tussocks that have developed following the addition of flow controls on each of the three pools (Hernando, Inverness and Floral City pools). The end result will improve fisheries habitat and improve access for recreational users.

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

Public bids will be conducted to select a qualified contractor to mechanically remove and dispose of the invasive tussock materials and restore the aquatic habitat for native species and restore navigation in the chain of lakes. A biological assessment using DEP methodology will be conducted each year to scientifically evaluate the project success and progress.

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

The project will create an increase in local employment opportunities and advantages for the local economy through the purchase of work supplies, lodging, food, entertainment, etc. Navigational safety and boating accessibility to the lake system will be restored. Opportunities for increased tourism and associated business opportunities will be enhanced. Real estate values on the chain of lakes will be positively impacted as a result of the improvements in water quality, lake aesthetics, and boating access.

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

The citizens of Citrus County, citizens from other counties that own property in Citrus County on the chain of lakes, and the thousands of visitors that visit and recreate in Citrus County from around the world each year.

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

Water quality and native species (including fish birds, reptiles, etc) habitat improvement as well as boating safety and navigation restoration will occur as a result of the removal of invasive tussocks which are impeding navigation and negatively affecting the natural ecosystem. Mechanical harvesting will be used to remove tussocks and dispose of the material at approved upland sites. DEP methodology of testing for water quality and species diversity/population will be conducted by independent biologist. Tussock removal acreage and volume of tussocks removed will be documented and certified by contractor and engineering services.

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?

N/A

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2095

- ☒ 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
- ☐ Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- ☐ N/A

20. What is the status of construction?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2095

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%

22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/23/2036