



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1146

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

State appropriations would be allocated towards Phase 2 (final phase) revitalization improvements to the City's central park, which houses the City's community center and abuts the historical and majority African American neighborhood of East Stuart. These enhancements include a new multi-purpose field for variety recreation and play, restrooms, children's play area, fitness loop, skate park, pavilions, and stormwater and irrigation infrastructure enhancements. Guy Davis Park also serves a nearby school (JD Parker Elementary) with a local area that is historically blighted and includes undeserved persons who will benefit from the park improvements. Revitalizing the City's central park, which lies in the heart of the Stuart Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) will provide critical facilities and recreational services that have been more than two-decades in the making. Phase 1 construction focused on site readiness and stormwater management features.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?  Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>500,000</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	500,000	50%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	500,000	50%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?  Yes

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2024-25	0	500,000	2347A	No

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?  No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

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



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## Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

### 10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
  Design
  Construction
  N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

July 1, 2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/01/2026

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

Capital outlay appropriated from this request will only be used towards construction of Phase 2 of the project.

### 11. 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.

The City of Stuart is the owner of the facility and the entity. Fixed capital outlay for the local match will come from a combination of CRA (TIF funds) revenue and the levying of a bond. The park is a central hub for the city, which will likely serve both the adjoining neighborhood and the community at large.

### 12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Phase 2 of construction will yield various revitalization improvements to the City's central park, which houses the City's community center and abuts the historical and majority African American neighborhood of East Stuart. These enhancements include a new multi-purpose field for variety recreation and play, restrooms, children's play area, fitness loop, skate park, pavilions, and stormwater and irrigation infrastructure enhancements.	500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance



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

State appropriations from this request would be allocated towards Phase 2 (final phase) revitalization improvements to the City's central park, which houses the City's community center and abuts the historical and majority African American neighborhood of East Stuart. All enhancements from Phases 1 and 2 construction include a new multi-purpose field for variety recreation and play, restrooms, children's play area, fitness loop, skate park, pavilions, and stormwater and irrigation infrastructure enhancements. Guy Davis Park also serves a nearby school (JD Parker Elementary) with a local area that is historically blighted and includes undeserved persons who will benefit from the park improvements. Revitalizing the City's central park, which lies in the heart of the Stuart Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) will provide critical facilities and recreational services that have been more than two-decades in the making.

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

Although appropriated funds will be used for capital outlay for Phase 2 of construction (final phase), the resulting revitalized park and amenities will afford area residents and the larger community a central gathering space for programs and activities. These activities will also reach a community in a neighborhood area with at-risk youth, economically disadvantaged persons, elderly, and persons with disability or impairment.

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

Activities will include recreational and educational programs, a healthy [walking] trail, new parking and bathroom facilities, and beautification enhancements to improve a previously blighted area. It is also important to note the park improvements will primarily start with critical stormwater infrastructure installation to retain and treat water on site and protect surrounding homes.

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

The City contains a population of more than 18,000 persons, however, Stuart is a centralized commercial hub for Martin County and southern Port. St. Lucie. As a result, statistical data from the City's downtown parks show a disproportionate visitation from both tourists and members of the larger community outside city jurisdiction for a community of its size. Moreover, the park has been designed with regional and national tourism in-mind, with a multi-purpose field that can and has traditionally served as a host for tournament play.

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

Primarily, the new facilities included in the park will provide a totally new recreational, cultural, and family-oriented experience for thousands of visitors everyday. The existing (30-acre) park site is largely unimproved and is inadequate for the existing (and future) demand. The growth of recreational programs and scheduling of new facilities will be tracked by the City's recreational department, who is tasked with coordinating and managing all use of park amenities. Analysis by city staff indicates service demands already exceeds the City's current ability to serve with existing facilities on site.

**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?**

Penalty for failure to meet deliverables or performance measures would be withholding of funding until grant administration is reconciled with desired objectives. The City has a long and successful history collaborating and cooperating with state agencies on various grant-awarded projects. Currently, the City is already collaborating with Florida Dept. of Commerce on Phase 1 appropriations and grant administration.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**  No

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**



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**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

**17. Requester Contact Information**

**a. First Name**  **Last Name**

**b. Organization**

**c. E-mail Address**

**d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

**18. 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)



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

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*