



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1308

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

**4. Project/Program Description**

Bonnet Springs Park is a community gathering space, a natural resource and a place where families create lifelong memories. Visitation to the Park has exceeded our expectations and funds are needed to complete the 2025 parking lot expansion. During peak season, from October through January, and special events, we are unable to meet the demands for public parking. The parking challenge has created unsafe parking and pedestrian conditions for visiting families.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?**

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>1,000,000</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)	1,000,000	87%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	150,000	13%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:**

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

9. **Is future-year 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.**
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**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**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)?**

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?**

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

**e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance 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.**

Bonnet Springs Park, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization. Bonnet Springs Park, Inc. is the sole owner of the facility and will receive funding directly. The Park's CEO, Josh Henderson oversees the Day-to-day operations with the advice and counsel of the Board of Directors.

**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	Expanding Parking	1,000,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>1,000,000</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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

Expanded paved parking in Bonnet Springs Park. Over 1/38 million guests visit Bonnet Springs Park annually. This visitation number is expected to grow exponentially ever year. We have 750 parking spaces plus an additional 250 spaces planned inside Bonnet Springs Park. The Park owns an additional Parking lot outside of the entrance of Bonnet Springs. Further, during major events the Park rents a lot close by at a cost of \$4,000 per weekend.

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



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Bonnet Springs Park provides free access to all visitors and hosts at least 10 free special events monthly. BSP is guided by the core principles of nature, culture, recreation, and education and our events reflect this guidance. As BSP has quickly become an anchor for family friendly events in Central Florida, Visitors exhaust available parking inside the Park in the morning during those events.

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

Bonnet Springs Park is a free public park, that is not affiliated or funded by city, county or state government. Because the Park is free, it attracts regional and statewide interest. Additionally, the Park is ADA accessible for all ages. This funding request for increased parking capacity supports access to the 168 acres of open, sage space for all citizens.

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

The target population served by this project are the over 1/38 million guests who visit Bonnet Springs Park annually and the over 177,000 City of Lakeland residents and the more than 20,000 neighbors surrounding the park.

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

The benefit of the project will be expanded parking to elevate the motorist and pedestrian hazards as visitors attempt to access the park. The City of Lakeland has been studying the growing problem on the weekends, during peak and signature events.

**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?**

Bonnet Springs Park will adhere to all contracting requirements set by the contracting agency. Bonnet Springs Park will include all contracting requirements set by the contracting agency in all contracts for this project. Bonnet Springs Park will hold funds from contractors until specific deliverables are satisfactorily completed.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**

**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):**

**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:**



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**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)
- 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**



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d. Phone Number

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