



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1528

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

4. Project/Program Description

Zephyr Lake Park will compliment the personality of Zephyrhills, and serve to unify its diverse population offering public space that serves the needs of many. The Park is within walking distance to the city's historic urban core, this blended natural/urban park will provide spaces to escape, educate, and explore while learning the history of Florida and the extraordinary role water plays in Florida. Zephyr Park will include the development of an integrated stormwater management system, using wetlands and floodable landscape areas to receive and hold both stormwater and reuse water to recharge the aquifer, and clean stormwater of pollutants and nutrients before discharging to the Hillsborough River. This 35 acre park will provide educational and commercial connections to the urban center in Downtown Zephyrhills that will provide multiple opportunities for the citizens and visitors to Florida.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

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)	5,000,000	83%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	1,000,000	17%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	6,000,000	100%

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	1,000,000	2347A	Yes

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.
-



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1528

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

1/1/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

1/1/26

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

City of Zephyrhills' General Fund

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.

City of Zephyrhills

12. 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		
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	Design has been completed, construction documents and permitting for a 35-acre urban park including drainage, nature and children's areas focusing on the history of Florida and the impact of water. Features include walking and biking trails, educational agriculture plots, active areas for young and the young at heart, landscaping, restrooms, and parking. The project also includes improvements to reduce flooding by increasing the size of the stormwater pond, which will enhance drainage and manage	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

13. Program Performance

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1528

One of the primary goals of the requested funds is to increase the stormwater pond size to help reduce flooding in and around the park area. This will be achieved through the reconstruction of the regional park and the development of a system to clean stormwater and pollutants while educating the public on the valuable role of water in Florida. Additionally, because this park's location provides a needed connection to downtown Zephyrhills, another goal is to promote economic development and expansion in the business area. Zephyr Park will serve as a catalyst for private sector investment, meeting the needs of many with its unique design, and drawing visitors and investors to the opportunities within Pasco County.

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

The mission of Zephyr Lake Park is to enrich our community through nature, culture, recreation, and education. The Park aims to unify the city's diverse population by offering public spaces that serve the needs of many, providing engaging and diverse opportunities in education and recreation. A significant activity will be the increase of the stormwater pond size to help mitigate flooding in the area, enhancing overall stormwater management and resilience. By reducing flooding and making the park more resilient, it will provide safer and more enjoyable spaces for the community. Interpretative elements along the lake will show visitors how pollution can be prevented from entering our waterways by cleaning stormwater runoff. The children's area includes a fully ADA accessible playground and splashpad, designed to let children of all skills and abilities have fun, run and play in water, enjoy the incredible tree canopy, or engage in learning about the ecology of Florida.

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

One significant direct service the park will provide is flood mitigation through the expansion of the stormwater pond, reducing the risk of flooding for nearby residents and businesses. This improvement will also enhance the park's resilience, ensuring that community spaces—such as the central event lawn for concerts and festivals—remain safer and more accessible. Additionally, the park will offer educational exhibits on Florida's water systems, the arts, and local heritage, creating valuable learning opportunities for visitors of all ages. A unique feature of the park will be the restoration and celebration of historic features built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) under Roosevelt's New Deal program.

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

Zephyr Lake Park will welcome and serve visitors of all ages and backgrounds from throughout the Pasco, Hillsborough, and Polk County area and connect neighborhoods with new walking and biking paths. The park will be designed to meet and engage the needs of thousands of visitors each month. The Park will provide hands on engagement focusing on our natural environment highlighting water in Florida.

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

Zephyr Lake Park will enhance resilience and usability by increasing stormwater capacity to reduce flooding in and around the park. This improvement will ensure the park remains a safe and enjoyable community space. Additionally, Zephyr Lake Park will promote physical and mental health for all ages. Studies show parks attract non-resident visitors who put new dollars into the local economy. Proximity to parks enhances the value of residential and commercial properties. We will measure our success by participation in events and programs, the increase in land value surrounding the park, and the effectiveness of the stormwater improvements in mitigating flooding.

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?

Loss of funding for the Park

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

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)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1528

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

Hurricane Milton

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 William **Last Name** Poe

b. Organization City of Zephyrhills

c. E-mail Address wpoe@ci.zephyrhills.fl.us

d. Phone Number (813)780-0011 **Ext.**

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization City of Zephyrhills

b. Municipality and County Pasco

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1528

- 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

d. Phone Number

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