



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1541

1. **Project Title** Marie Selby Botanical Gardens Shoreline Restoration at Historic Spanish Point and Downtown Sarasota

2. **Senate Sponsor** Joe Gruters

3. **Date of Request** 1/23/2025

4. **Project/Program Description**

Selby Gardens seeks to implement shoreline resiliency measures at both the Historic Spanish Point and Downtown Sarasota campuses, both of which were severely impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

At Historic Spanish Point, an independent analysis conducted in 2020 identified shoreline erosion and storm impact mitigation as critical priorities for safeguarding the 30-acre archaeological and historic site. Damage to the seawall and storm surge damage were significant throughout the campus, highlighting the need for a comprehensive shoreline management plan.

Similarly, at the Downtown Sarasota campus, Selby Gardens proposes to restore the mangrove buffer along the shoreline of Sarasota Bay. This project was originally identified as a priority during planning for Phase One of the Master Plan, however permitting issues prevented its implementation at that time. Since then, changes to regulations would make it possible to move forward.

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

State Agency contacted? No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,789,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,789,000

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)	1,789,000	60%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	1,193,000	40%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	2,982,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

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?** No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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

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)?

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.

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	engineering, permitting, construction, materials for shoreline resiliency projects	1,789,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,789,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The proposed shoreline improvements would protect the invaluable cultural resources located at Selby Gardens' two bayfront campuses, both of which are vulnerable to flooding, storm surge, and erosion from severe weather events. The shorelines of both campuses were severely impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, highlighting the projects' urgency.

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

These funds would support the engineering, permitting, and implementation of a comprehensive shoreline management plan, including repairing the critically damaged seawall, at the Historic Spanish Point campus, as well as installing a mangrove barrier at the Downtown Sarasota campus.

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

Improving shoreline resiliency at Selby Gardens' two campuses will reduce runoff, improve the quality of State waters, and protect the historic structures and cultural resources significant to the State of Florida, including shell middens dating back approximately 5,000 years, historic buildings, and the world's best scientifically documented collection of orchids and bromeliads.

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

This project will benefit Sarasota County residents and visitors by protecting two of the region's significant cultural landmarks. Additionally, Selby Gardens two campuses will serve as a demonstration site for nature-based shoreline management strategies that will have practical applications for coastal residents and land managers.

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

The expected benefits of this project are improved storm and flood resilience at both the Historic Spanish Point and Downtown Sarasota campuses. Outcomes will be measured by assessing the impacts of severe storms both before and after project implementation.

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?

All traditional measures and penalties from standard funding agreements with the State will apply.

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

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

Hurricanes Helene and 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#:



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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):

Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- N/A

18. 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

19. What is the status of construction?

Not ready

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



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0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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.

24. 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.