



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1646

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

This phase of the Peace Creek Water Preservation Project focuses on the protection of floodwater storage areas and providing an increase in storage capacity of excess water during extreme weather events near the Headwaters of Peace River. Through implementation of approximately 360 acres of floodplain, hydrologic, and ecologic restoration of lands, on the Wilson Ranch Reserve, the Headwaters of Peace River will have improved water quality, reduce invasive plant species, provide for additional floodplain, and restores wildlife habitat that was lost over time because of the site being ditched and drained for agricultural practices over many decades.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? Yes No

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

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)	2,000,000	21%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	7,500,000	79%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	9,500,000	100%

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

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

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

Polk County will seek to obtain Federal and Non-Profit sources of funding.



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1646

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?

October 2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

July 2026

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

Once completed, the Project will be maintained and operated by Polk County.

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 property is the Subject of a Public-Private Partnership (P3). The current landowner is HGS, LLC dba RES Environmental Operating Company (RES). Pursuant to Comprehensive Agreement between RES and Polk County, the Title will transfer to Polk County. For the acquisition portion the land is in private ownership. The landowner is a willing seller to Polk County.

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	Floodplain and stream restoration construction activities will include land clearing, grading, planting, berm removal, bank stabilization, and installation of best management practices. Contractor oversight implementation of a Quality Control/Quality Assurance plan is included as well. Acquisition of historic floodplain wetlands along Peace Creek Canal.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000

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 # 1646

With the proposed wetland restoration efforts described above, and protection of historic wetlands on along Peace Creek Canal, at a minimum of 400 +/- acres, it is anticipated that this regional project can provide around 6,000 acre-feet annually of storage near the headwaters of the Peace River. The increased floodplain and wetland storage capacity projects will ultimately perform as passive wetland treatment systems providing water quality improvements through attenuation of the waters moving from Peace Creek to the Peace River.

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

Floodplain and stream restoration construction activities will include invasives treatment, planting and installation of best management practices. Contractor oversight implementation. Acquisition of historic wetlands from willing landowner along Peace Creek Canal.

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

Future components of the Project will involve construction of recreational and educational enhancements at the Project Location.

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

The population served by this Project will be nearby landowners experiencing a reduction of flood depths and velocities during high water events and downstream constituents experiencing improved water quality downstream of the project location. Additionally, students and nature enthusiasts will be served by the recreational and educational components to be incorporated into the Final Project.

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

The estimated net water quantity benefit is proposed to improve flood resilience within the watershed and provide greater connection of the Peace River to the historical flood plain through the removal of approximately 7,000 LF of berm that runs along the south/east side of Peace Creek and protection of over 400 acres of historic wetlands.

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?

Failure to complete the Project in accordance with the Comprehensive Service Agreement will result in forfeiture of all rights to reimbursement.

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):

Hurricane Milton and other extreme weather events

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

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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1646

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):

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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1646

Shovel Ready

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

June 2026

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.