



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2202

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Investment in the safety, electrical infrastructure and lighting at Hatch Park. These safety upgrades will enhance the quality of life for area residents as well provide energy efficient savings in electrical and operational costs.

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	650,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>650,000</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)	650,000	87%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	100,000	13%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>750,000</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.

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

10. Status of Construction



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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?

1/1/2026

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

The Town of Branford and the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners currently provide funding for the ongoing maintenance and operations of Hatch Park and will continue to do so after the improvements are completed.

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 Town of Branford owns the park property. The Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners also provide financial assistance as well as staffing to help maintain the park in the South part of the County. The small Town of Branford has only 300 residents but this facility ultimately serves tens of thousands of residents in the unincorporated area of the Suwannee County and our neighboring counties.

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	Replace outdated and unsafe electrical panels, poles and wiring. Installation of LED lighting fixtures. Provide broadband and wireless internet and charging stations for the public use.	650,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>650,000</b>

13. Program Performance

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

The aging electrical infrastructure poses significant safety risks, including potential electrical hazards. Upgrading the lighting system will ensure a safer environment for all park users. Also, increased community engagement and reduction of long term operational costs.

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



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Improved lighting and electrical infrastructure will allow for extended use of the ball fields, accommodating evening games and practices throughout the year. This will benefit working families and ensure that more community members can participate in recreational activities. The energy efficient lighting and other sustainable practices will reduce long term operational costs and support our commitment to environmental stewardship.

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

Safe, modern energy-efficient electrical infrastructure and lighting will be provided. Also, enhanced community engagement as extended hours of use of the facility will be provided by the project. Finally, sustainable energy solutions will reduce long term operational costs.

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

The target audience of this project is all the children, adults and families in the the Town of Branford and surrounding area of Suwannee County, as well as the residents of our neighbors in Columbia, Gilchrist and Lafayette counties.

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

The benefit and outcome of this project will be the ultimate safety of the park users as well as a savings in the operational costs of the facility and expanded times of use by the public. This will be measured by tracking the reduction in electrical costs as well as a reduction in safety hazards as can be documented by the building official.

**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?**

Reconsideration of funding and future funding requests.

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:**

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



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- 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) Municipality

**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**



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