



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2573

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Construction of a Regional Trails & Conservation Center which will provide diverse educational resources and hands-on experiences, emphasizing the importance of natural resource conservation. It will be located within a significant greenway and will serve as the gateway to the area that includes Graham Swamp Preserve, Bulow Creek and Tomoka Marsh. A recent Parks Master Plan revealed a strong need and desire from residents for enhanced recreational amenities, services, and access.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,000,000

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)	3,000,000	20%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	12,300,000	80%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	15,300,000	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	5,000,000	2415	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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2573

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? 12/31/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 02/26/2027

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

This facility will use local tourism dollars for a majority of operations. Other funding from use of the space by outside organizations such as Flagler County Cultural Council will also assist in funding operations.

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.

Flagler County Board of County Commissioners

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	Construction and Site work for an approximate 10,000 sq. ft. building. Total cost of this project is \$14,300,000 including \$10.3 million that the Tourism Department already has in reserve for this project and another \$2 million in land value for county owned land located on State Road 100. Funding will be used for permitting, construction, site work other fees, furnishings, fixtures and equipment	3,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,000,000

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 # 2573

Construction of a Regional Trails & Conservation Center which will provide diverse educational resources and hands-on experiences, emphasizing the importance of natural resource conservation. It will be located within a significant greenway and will serve as the gateway to the area that includes Graham Swamp Preserve, Bulow Creek and Tomoka Marsh. A recent Parks Master Plan revealed a strong need and desire from residents for enhanced recreational amenities, services, and access.

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

Construction of a 10,000 sq. ft. building that will be situated in an ecologically significant part of the county, and will offer interactive exhibits, guided tours, recreational services (biking, hiking, birding, kayaking, wildlife viewing) and various revenue streams. This will be located on county owned land and act as the State Road 100 Trail head for two significant trail systems.

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

The Center will be the main hub for regional ecotourism information and provide experiences for recreational and educational opportunities. The facility will have community space for rental opportunities to help make the center self-sustaining. Connectivity and access to future Bulow Creek Regional Park, the new pedestrian bridge, and the existing Lehigh Trail System will promote conservation.

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

All county residents (130K) plus tourists visiting the area. There are currently millions of tourists that come to the Sunshine State each year. The new Regional Trails & Conservation Center will be 30 minutes from Daytona and St. Augustine. These two cities combined host well over 17 million tourists each year. Since the Center will be located right off I-95, they could tap into the millions of tourists already coming to the area.

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

The center will improve the physical health of the public through offering various experiences including hiking, biking and kayaking. This would be measured through the number of people coming to the center and requesting information on these activities. It will also improve transportation conditions into Flagler Beach through offering a shuttle service from the center to the beach area. This will be measured through the number of riders. It will increase economic activity and tourism for Flagler County and local businesses through supporting and advertising of the local businesses at the center. This will be measured by the number of tourists visiting with hotel stays and the number of businesses indicating increased traffic and sales as a result of the promotion. Finally the Center will improve local trails and wildlife quality by connecting to a 1,000-acre regional park. Visitors will indicate learning critical knowledge about the environment and conservation.

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?

No future funding for this project would be permitted and any unspent funds deobligated.

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

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?



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2573

- 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 **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



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2573

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.