



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3092

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

Pioneer Park borders the Peace River in Hardee County that comprises 115 acres and is an economic revenue driver for this Rural Area of Opportunity. The infrastructure must be upgraded, expanded, designed & constructed to meet current demand for recreational facilities to increase tourism/revenues and preserve the area's history that includes water & sewer infrastructure, replacement of 3 old bathhouses, playground equipment and ADA compliance. The park offers 62 grassy campsites, houses the Cracker Trail Museum and Wildlife Refuge. The improvements and upgraded amenities will improve economic development activities, increase tourism, revenues and bring sustainability to the community. The area's history will be preserved with the glamping style amenities of tepees, Conestoga Wagons, a Baldwin Locomotive, and through the Cracker Trail Museum. Enhances education and preservation of nature with the Wildlife Refuge.

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               | 4,000,000        |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>4,000,000</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)       | 4,000,000        | 80%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal  | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 1,000,000        | 20%         |
| Local  | 0                | 0%          |
| Other  | 0                | 0%          |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b> | <b>5,000,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**  Yes
- If yes, provide the most recent instance:

| Fiscal Year<br>(YYYY-YY) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
| 2024-25                  | 0         | 1,000,000    | 2347A                       | No     |

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.



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## 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?

07/01/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/30/2027

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

general revenue

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.

Hardee County is the owner and the entity.

### 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                    | n/a  | 0                |
| Other Salary and Benefits  | n/a  | 0                |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | n/a  | 0                |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | n/a  | 0                |
| <b>Operational Costs</b>   |  |                  |
| Salary and Benefits  | n/a  | 0                |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | n/a  | 0                |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | n/a  | 0                |
| <b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>                    |  |                  |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering                      | Contractual services for administration, project management, engineering during construction and construction. | 4,000,000        |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b> |  | <b>4,000,000</b> |

### 13. Program Performance

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

Pioneer Park borders the Peace River in Hardee County that comprises 115 acres and is an economic revenue driver for this Rural Area of Opportunity. The infrastructure must be upgraded, expanded, designed & constructed to meet current demand for recreational facilities to increase tourism/revenues and preserve the area's history that includes water & sewer infrastructure, replacement of 3 old bathhouses, playground equipment and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

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



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Contractual services for administration, project management, engineering during construction and construction though the County's procurement policies and procedures.

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

Direct services to citizens is usage of ADA compliant, operational, attractive modern park facilities to meet current and future demands for recreational parks that include water, electric and wastewater services, safe, appropriate and adequate facilities, modern playgrounds, attractive historical educational resources that includes Cracker Trail Museum and Wildlife Refuge in this Rural Area of Opportunity.

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

Hardee County, which is a financially disadvantaged community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C.) that is located in a Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes), citizenry, visitors, tourists, business community and surrounding areas. Greater than 27,000 expected to be served.

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

Expected benefit is increase of economic activity as completion of upgrades, improvements and expansion allows for an increase in accommodations and users, resulting in increase of revenues and employment opportunities from completion and certification of the project; preservation of the area's history; improved education, enriched cultural experience, environmental & wildlife quality, wastewater/stormwater/surface/drinking water management, meeting State plans to reduce amount of land applied reuse water. State and Local funds have been expended; no additional funds are available. Hardee is designated as a RAO Community; matching funds are waived.

**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?**

Non-payment of invoices until milestones achieved; implementation of corrective action plan.

**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:**



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**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
- 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**



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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.*