



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3427

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Jungle Lake in Walter Fuller Park, St. Petersburg, spans 10 acres and safeguards 5,000 residents from flooding. It also serves as a central community recreation spot. The lake treats stormwater that drains into Boca Ciega Bay, which has impaired water quality. The project will improve Jungle Lake by updating public access, regenerating three acres of wetland with native habitats, and enhancing recreational and educational opportunities. This initiative aims to better water quality, support wildlife, offer recreational space, and provide educational experiences, increasing environmental awareness and stewardship.

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	14,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	1,761,000
Total State Funds Requested	1,775,000

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)	1,775,000	98%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	30,000	2%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,805,000	100%

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.



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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?

06/30/2025

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12/31/2025

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

Existing maintenance budgets for the City of St. Petersburg Stormwater Department and Parks&Recreation Department, and bolstered by volunteers from the community led and supported by SoUL.

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 City of St. Petersburg. The City owns and maintains Jungle Lake. Stewards of Our Urban Lakes is providing community-based ecological maintenance and lake management guidance.

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	Algae Armor (initial and follow-on maintenance application) Beemat Installation and Maintenance Year 1 (harvest, analysis, maintenance of existing Beemat)	14,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Materials (Two baffle boxes, berm fill) Construction (Installation components, construction, engineering, mobilization, insurance) Specialty Contractors (boardwalk components, four Beemats) Contingency (25% planning level estimate)	1,761,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		1,775,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The project aims to enhance Jungle Lake's water quality, habitat, recreation and education by improving public access, and restoring three acres of native wetland. The lake, which discharges to Boca Ciega Bay - an Aquatic Preserve with impaired water quality - has undergone remediation for stormwater-related wastewater discharges. Creating a regional wetland park will improve water quality, support wildlife and enhance public engagement while providing flood protection for 5, 000 nearby homes.

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

The project includes procuring and installing two types of floating wetland islands, with City-led vegetation management supported by volunteer planting and maintenance. A 1,000-foot boardwalk with educational signage will enhance public access. Two baffle boxes will be installed to reduce pollutant loads. The City will oversee site management, ensuring long-term maintenance and sustainability.

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

Construction and maintenance of the boardwalk will create a regionally unique freshwater natural habitat centered on the use of floating wetland islands. Educational opportunities that develop over time will meet local citizen interest in water quality treatment, bird habitat quality and sustainability. The complete project builds long-term resilience into treatment of discharges to Boca Ciega Bay

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

The target population consists of the general population of St. Petersburg with a focus on the neighborhoods surrounding Walter Fuller Park in West St. Petersburg, Florida, including Jungle Terrace, Azalea, Magnolia Manor, Jungle Prada, Crossroads, and Brookside MHP. The population served is estimated to include at least the approximately 34000 individuals in Jungle Terrace, but with the adjacent neighborhoods included, will likely exceed 50,000.

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

The project's goal is to enhance Jungle Lake's water quality treatment, habitat, recreational use, and educational opportunities by upgrading public access and regenerating three acres of wetland into a diverse, native-dominated habitat. By creating a unique wetland park, this effort aims to improve water quality discharged to Boca Ciega Bay, support wildlife, provide recreational space, and offer valuable educational experiences to the community, all while increasing environmental awareness and stewardship.

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?

Penalties for unmet deliverables in the Jungle Lake project include withholding a percentage of the contract value for missed deadlines or performance standards. Delays and failure to meet environmental targets may incur additional fees, with contractors covering rework costs. Final payments may be withheld until all deliverables, including habitat restoration and public access, meet agreed standards, ensuring accountability and timely completion.

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?

- Yes, Applied



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- 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):

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



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Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)

N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

In progress

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

3%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction? 12/31/2026

22. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name James **Last Name** Bays

b. Organization Stewards of Our Urban Lakes Inc. (SoUL)

c. E-mail Address lake.soul.22@gmail.com

d. Phone Number (813)765-9286 **Ext.**

23. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization Stewards of Our Urban Lakes Inc. (SoUL)

b. Municipality and County Pinellas

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 James **Last Name** Bays

e. E-mail Address lake.soul.22@gmail.com

f. Phone Number (813)765-9286 **Ext.**

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name None

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.