



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 3527

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

**4. Project/Program Description**

This project has multiple benefits to not just Gadsden County but to the North Florida region as well. Eco-tourism and outdoor recreational opportunities are popular destination areas for residents and visitors alike. Outdoor recreational opportunities, such as the Pat Thomas Eco-Tourism Park, are important economic drivers in Gadsden County and the Florida Panhandle. Visitors traveling to the area purchase goods and services at local retail shops and grocery stores.

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	605,377
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>605,377</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)	605,377	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>605,377</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.**
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**Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects**



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**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)?**

**c. What is the estimated start date of construction?**

**d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?**

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

**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.**

**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	Construct 17 new RV sites complete with hook-ups and concrete pads; construct a bathhouse with solar panels; expand/improve the septic system; purchase and install bike racks, new garbage/recycle cans, picnic tables, and benches; construct a Pavilion; improve parking areas and increase ADA parking; construct ADA sidewalks; construct a new ADA playground.	605,377
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>605,377</b>

**13. Program Performance**

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



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

The project site is located on Lake Talquin, Gadsden County, Florida. Lake Talquin is nationally known for its high quality black crappie (speckled perch) fishery. The lake has little vegetation, but tree stumps and logs provide an excellent nursery and habitat for many of North Florida's freshwater fish species, including black crappie, largemouth bass, bluegill, redear, white bass, and white striped bass. Lake Talquin is also one of Florida's deepest lakes, with an average depth of 15.

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

Improve and enhanced ADA compliant amenities at the park. Camping: 7 new RV sites complete with hook-ups and concrete pads; construct a bathhouse with solar panels; expand/improve the septic system; purchase and install bike racks, new garbage/recycle cans, picnic tables, and benches; construct a Pavilion; improve parking areas and increase ADA parking; construct ADA sidewalks; construct a new ADA playground and refurbish existing playground equipment; construct a path around the Park for walking and biking; install directional and educational signage to educate visitors on Lake Talquin, fishing, native wildlife, and vegetation, etc

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

Florida Citizens, tourist from the Midwest and Southeast United State, an estimated 500,000

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

This project has multiple benefits to not just Gadsden County but to the North Florida region as well. Eco-tourism and outdoor recreational opportunities are popular destination areas for residents and visitors alike. Outdoor recreational opportunities, such as the Pat Thomas Eco-Tourism Park, are important economic drivers in Gadsden County and the Florida Panhandle. Visitors traveling to the area purchase goods and services at local retail shops and grocery stores. Increase in bed tax dollars generated for Gadsden County.

**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?**

Corrective action plan created, measured and implemented with a success timeline in order for the state to continue to fund the project

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



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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
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address



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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.*