



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2706

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

4. Project/Program Description

Recent restoration efforts at East Lake Toho include FWC's Habitat Enhancement Project, which targeted removal of undesirable invasive species (final cost of project was ~ \$2.8 M). This project will safeguard the progress that has been made through FWC's restoration efforts by planting 50-acres of native submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), namely fast-growing cultivars of eelgrass, that will colonize and out-compete the remaining invasive species. Restoration efforts will target the northeast portion of East Lake Toho. Restored SAV beds will improve water quality and clarity through filtration of nutrients and stabilization of sediments. Restored areas will also provide critically important habitat for fish. Monthly maintenance of invasive species will be completed for three years to limit nutrients in the lake and to prevent shading of native SAV. Restored areas will be monitored during this time frame to assess and quantify the beneficial impacts of the project.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds
- State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	2,665,600
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	2,665,600

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2,665,600	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024	2,665,600	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? Yes

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		
2019-20	0	2,800,000		No

9. Is future 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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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

Planning Design Construction

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?

12. 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.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Administrative, Contracting, Public Outreach	285,600
Other Salary and Benefits	NA	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	NA	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	NA	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	NA	0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	NA	0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Environmental monitoring, permitting, engineering, reporting, planting nursery-grown eelgrass, protecting and maintaining grass,	2,380,000
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	NA	0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,665,600

14. Program Performance

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



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This project will create 50 acres of critically important native eelgrass. The benefits of eelgrass have been extensively researched for their importance in recreational and commercially important fisheries production. Eelgrass is critically important for providing habitat, reducing toxic algae blooms, stabilizing sediments, absorbing nutrients, and limiting the extent to which non-native invasive species can proliferate.

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

The funds will be spent on project management; cultivation and installation of nursery cultivated aquatic plants; monthly maintenance of exotic plants to reduce nutrients in the lake; monitoring native eelgrass for three years to assess project success; and reporting along with scientific review.

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

The project will provide direct services to citizens in Osceola County by improving East Lake Toho water quality and clarity; reducing harmful algal blooms; creating habitat for important recreational fish species; enhancing eco-tourism and other recreational opportunities; and limiting growth of undesirable nuisance aquatic vegetation species.

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

Both the local and state economy will benefit from this project. This project will have direct positive impacts to the recreational real estate, and tourism industry, as they are all dependent on healthy habitats and clean water. The indirect effects of this project will reach all individuals that depend on clean water in Florida.

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

Expected benefits of this project include: stimulating the local and state-wide economy through increased recreational opportunities, which supports the industries that depend on them; improving real estate values in the area; reducing harmful algal blooms and associated their health consequences; and improving habitat for fish and wildlife. The benefits of this project will be reviewed by independent scientist that will monitor changes in water quality, fisheries production, and plant expansion. Annual monitoring reports will be generated for three years documenting the success of the goals of this project.

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 the contract?

If deliverables are not achieved in full monies allocated to the deliverable should be withheld.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. 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)



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- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

18. Have you applied for alternative state funding?

- Waste Water Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify)
- N/A

19. 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
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

20. What is the status of construction?

21. What percentage of the construction has been completed?



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22. What is the estimated completion date of construction?