



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2023-2024

LFIR # 2239

1. **Project Title** The Florida Ecological Greenways Network: The Science Foundation for the Florida Wildlife Corridor

2. **Senate Sponsor** Jason Brodeur

3. **Date of Request** 02/22/2023

**4. Project/Program Description**

The Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) is a statewide database, created by UF researchers, that identifies and prioritizes a functionally connected statewide ecological network of public and private conservation lands and provides the science foundation and boundaries for the Florida Wildlife Corridor (Corridor). The requested funding will support UF researchers in providing state-of-the-art science, data, and tools essential for helping the state's decisionmakers efficiently and strategically protect the Corridor, including identifying the key locations where land protection can address multiple priorities and have the greatest impact for protecting Florida's biodiversity, ecosystem services, and agricultural production; mapping of land use synergies and potential threats; tracking changes in land use and protection affecting the Corridor; and providing tools to ensure that public and private resources are best leveraged to effectively connect the Corridor.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Education

**State Agency contacted?** Yes

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

| Type of Funding                    | Amount           |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Operations                         | 1,875,000        |
| Fixed Capital Outlay               | 0                |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested</b> | <b>1,875,000</b> |

**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)       | 1,875,000        | 90%         |
| <b>Matching Funds</b>                                |                  |             |
| Federal  | 0                | 0%          |
| State (excluding the amount of this request)         | 0                | 0%          |
| Local  | 0                | 0%          |
| Other  | 215,000          | 10%         |
| <b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2023-2024</b> | <b>2,090,000</b> | <b>100%</b> |

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

| Fiscal Year<br>(yyyy-yy) | Amount    |              | Specific<br>Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|                          | Recurring | Nonrecurring |                             |        |
|                          |           |              |                             |        |

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** Yes

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.** 1,875,000

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

N/A



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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.

Revenue: \$76M Direct Student Aid and \$93M Institutional Support; Expenses: 1) \$76M Direct Student Aid; 2) \$93M-Campus Operations: \$8.7M-IT Infrastructure and Equipment for remote/distance learning; \$9.4M-Reimbursements for housing/study abroad; \$9.1M- campus health/safety; \$8.2M-Other operating/research costs: student mental health/basic needs; \$57.6M for lost revenues in the Student Union, educational business activities, parking, research service centers, museums/performing arts centers.

## 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  |
|---|---|---------|
| <b>Administrative Costs:</b>                        |   |         |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits | Center for Landscape Conservation Planning Director and Associate Director salaries to serve as project leads and to provide oversight of all activities related to Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) and Florida Wildlife Corridor (FWC) science at state, regional, and urban/community scales.   | 345,474 |
| Other Salary and Benefits                           |   | 0       |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other             |   | 0       |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study               |   | 0       |
| <b>Operational Costs: Other</b>                     |   |         |
| Salary and Benefits                                 | Costs for core staff and UF employees, including an ecological connectivity and ecosystem service modeler, development and land use change analyst, Corridor art and museum coordinator, GIS and mapping manager, urban green infrastructure analyst and online tool developer, and program manager and research associate. This also includes funds for two PhD assistants and a budget administrator. | 731,888 |



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|  |  |                  |
|--|--|------------------|
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other                                | Travel to strategic Corridor sites and meetings; computing hardware and software fees as required for project staff to run connectivity and modeling software; costs for use of UF technology, data storage, and facilities related to use of AI software and the UF HiPerGator supercomputer.   | 50,805           |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study                                  | Costs for core partners employed as consultants by UF, including conservation science, policy and programs coordinators, transportation research coordinator to identify transportation conflicts and over/underpass opportunities, Corridor water resource and infrastructure analyst, and partners to assist with GIS database management, future growth population modeling and projections, and focal species and conservation data. | 746,833          |
| <b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>                    |  |                  |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering                      |  | 0                |
| <b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b> |  | <b>1,875,000</b> |

#### 14. Program Performance

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

The funding will support UF researchers in providing state-of-the-art science, data, and tools to help decision makers protect the Corridor, including identifying key locations where land protection can address multiple priorities/have the greatest impact; tracking changes in land use and protection affecting the Corridor; and providing online and other tools to ensure that public and private resources are best leveraged to connect the Corridor. Since land protection within the corridor will be ongoing for multiple years to come, this funding will allow the Center to continue providing this support as changes in land use and land protection decisions continue to be made

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

Research staff (salaries) and students (stipend and tuition) will be supported through these funds, as well as travel to strategic Corridor protection sites, meetings. The funds will also be used for purchase and maintenance of key computing hardware, licenses, data storage, and capabilities offered by the UF HiPerGator supercomputer.

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

This project will provide information needed for strategic land protection decisions within the Corridor that provide direct benefits to citizens across the State of Florida, including protection of surface, drinking, and groundwater quality; historic, cultural, and recreational resources; and agricultural lands and production, including within underserved communities.

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

This project will provide information needed for strategic land protection decisions within the Corridor that provide direct benefits to citizens across the State of Florida.

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

This funding will support strategic protection of lands important for ecological, agricultural, recreation/tourism, economic, and cultural reasons. This will include tools to help decision makers make strategic protection decisions in the Corridor of lands important for ecological connectivity, critical habitat, and water resources. Measures include the amount of high quality/critical habitat, critical ecological linkages, and landscapes important for water resources protected. The project will result in protection of areas important for agricultural production; measures include the amount of agricultural land protected from conversion to other uses within the Corridor. Funding will also result in direct interaction with UF students to help educate and prepare the next generation of agricultural, natural resource, design, and AI industry professionals; measures include the number of students employed or enrolled in courses where Corridor science tools are shared or being developed.

**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?**



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Suspension of future funding.

#### 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)
- 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