



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

LFIR # 1881

1. **Project Title** Estero on the River Public Access Project2. **Senate Sponsor** Lizbeth Benacquisto3. **Date of Request** 12/06/20194. **Project/Program Description**

Estero is requesting an appropriation to maximize public use of village land on the Estero River. Uses of these funds include: 1) Walking trails: construct miles of trails, creating a regionally significant, passive recreation asset dedicated to the study, protection, and enjoyment of nature. 2) Riverfront walkway: build a walkway along the Estero River to provide residents with a unique opportunity to experience the Estero River frontage via foot or bike. 3) Connecting access trail: create a connection between village and state land (Koreschan State Park), to allow the community to traverse both properties, creating a regional asset. This trail would serve to greatly expand the public utility of both assets. 4) On-site amenities: build public restrooms, water fountains, and other related public facilities on-site. This would create an accommodating, accessible, and enjoyable experience for Lee County residents, which is the purpose of this venture and government.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds** Department of Economic OpportunityState Agency contacted? ☐ Yes ☒ No6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2020-2021**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	000
Fixed Capital Outlay	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	2,000,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	2000000	50.0 %
Matching Funds		
Federal	00	0 %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	00	0 %
Local	2,000,000	50 %
Other	00	0 %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2020-2021	4,000,000	100 %

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

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?** ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.



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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Other Salary and Benefits		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The Village of Estero purchased this 62 acre parcel in 2019, for a substantial price (\$24.5 million). This request is for \$2 million to hire a consultant to develop plans for the amenities outlined above (trails, river walkway, restrooms, etc.) as well as a construction firm to build these amenities. This aligns with the village model of "government-lite," whereby most design and construction services are provided by consultants and contractors.	2,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		2,000,000



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11. Program Performance

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

These funds are requested to expand passive recreation and conservation efforts in south Lee County via the establishment of a regionally significant natural asset. The village spent a significant amount of money to acquire this property (\$24.5 million) in early 2019, but the land does not have the amenities necessary to support public access or enjoyment, such as walking trails, a river walkway, or public restrooms. The requested funds will not only improve, and make accessible, Estero land but will connect to Koreshan State Park, thereby enhancing this public asset as well.

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

The following amenities will be constructed on-site to create the experience outlined above. 1) Walking trails: construct miles of trails, creating a regionally significant, passive recreation asset dedicated to the study, protection, and enjoyment of nature. 2) Riverfront walkway: build a walkway along the Estero River to provide residents with a unique opportunity to experience the Estero River frontage via foot or bike. 3) Connecting access trail: create a connection between village and state land (Koreshan State Park) to allow the community to traverse both properties, creating a regional asset. This trail would serve to greatly expand the public utility of both assets. 4) On-site amenities: build public restrooms, water fountains, and other related public facilities on-site. This would create an accommodating, accessible, and enjoyable experience for Lee County residents, which is the purpose of this venture and government.

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

Initially, this project will serve to provide Lee County residents with an accessible, beautiful preserve to enjoy. This will include protection of the natural assets on site as well as maintenance of invasive species. In addition, the village hopes to partner with Florida Gulf Coast University, Koreshan State Park, and local nonprofits to provide programming on-site to fully maximize the value of this incredible public asset.

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

Unlike an active recreation space, this passive recreation space will be open to and enjoyable by everyone. Additionally, given the size of this property, its river access, and the potential to connect this land with Koreshan State Park, residents from across Lee County will seek out this space. The public amenities will be constructed to serve Lee County residents of all ages and abilities. While the number of individuals that will be served cannot be estimated at this time, public interest is expected to be substantial.

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

The expected benefit of this project is public use of the recently purchased village land. Actual visitor traffic may be tracked on the site, though traffic will continue to be tracked at Koreshan State Park; greater resident traffic anticipated on the site will result in greater public use of the state park as well.

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?

The village would not be contracting based on visitor traffic. However, Estero would hold payment for delivery of construction services not rendered correctly, or timely, by consultants and contractors.



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12. **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 Village of Estero is the owner of the facility.

13. **Requestor Contact Information**

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

14. **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

15. **Lobbyist Contact Information**

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.