



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

LFIR # 1596

1. Project Title Nassau County Tourism Expansion - NE Florida Regional Blueway System Expansion/Tributary Launch

2. Senate Sponsor Aaron Bean

3. Date of Request 12/03/2021

4. Project/Program Description

The most popular off-island activity for tourists in Nassau County is exploring the County's canopy covered black water creeks and marshland areas via kayak. The proposed improvements expand the overall blueway plan and expands connectivity along the Nassau River including accessibility to established water access points in the Four Creeks State Forest. This project will have a positive impact on state-wide tourism while simultaneously expanding and diversifying the economy on mainland Nassau County. The water access facility will be located on existing County land and will play a critical role in creating blueway trails that are spaced in such a manner, 3-5 miles, to allow commercial adventure outfitters to take tourist on excursions. Spacing of more than 3-5 miles between water access points is too great a distance for novice paddlers to enjoy. To expand tourism products in Northeast Florida this facility provides an integral way-point in the greater blueway system.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds Department of Environmental Protection

State Agency contacted? No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	755,025
Total State Funds Requested	755,025

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	755,025	10%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	6,892,400	90%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2022-2023	7,647,425	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

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?

Yes

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

Nassau County BOCC has received approximately \$23.9 million in CARES and ARPA funds. Nassau used the funds to provide support to small businesses, provide individual rent and foreclosure prevention assistance, acquire PPE, facilitate virtual public meetings, expand remote work capacities, and other similar eligible expenditures allowed by the US Treasury.

11. 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	Design, Engineering, Permitting	71,925
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Boardwalk, platform, floating dock, kayak slips, trail interface, signage, lighting, pavilion.	683,100
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		755,025

12. Program Performance

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

Nassau County is actively expanding the tourism industry off of Amelia Island to include attractions located on the mainland. The proposed investment will expand the northeast Florida blueway system and leverage the natural amenities of the County to create new tourism products. The strategic location of the proposed access to the Nassau River will facilitate the commercial adventure outfitters to offer guided tours through local waters and access the greater blueway system. The goal of the project is to expand the local and state-wide tourism industry by providing new ecotourist product options in the northeast Florida region.

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

Expand the state and local tourism economy by diversifying the product offerings in northeast Florida and build off the success of Amelia Island which, annually, attracts tourist from across the globe. This project will facilitate new ecotourism products by offering commercial adventure outfitters the ability to offer tourist access to Florida's natural beauty in a convenient and safe manner. Access to the Nassau River and the greater northeast Florida blueway system will have positive impact on local and state tourism.

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

Increased tourism activities will have positive economic impact on local small businesses, Nassau County's collection of 'Bed Tax' monies, and further expand the State's robust tourism industry. This project will expand the local economy, support small business, and continue to support the State's position as the best place to visit in the world.

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



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Amelia Island and Nassau County are marketed worldwide. This project is intended to target tourist from around the globe who are searching for new and exciting ecotourism adventures. The number of individuals served by the facility are only limited by the capacity of the facility. Millions of individuals visit Nassau County/Amelia Island and northeast Florida each year. We expect to maintain high repeat visitor numbers and attract new visitors by expanding our product offerings. There will also be an ADA kayak slip allowing for use by visitors with disabilities.

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

This project will have multiple expected benefits including increased physical & mental health, enhanced educational & cultural experiences, and improved opportunity to experience nature. However, the primary objective of the project is to expand the local tourism economy by offering new products located off Amelia Island that leverage the abundance of natural resources located on mainland Nassau County. The expected outcome of the project is an expanded local tourism industry. The Amelia Island Convention and Visitor Bureau and Amelia Island Tourist Development Council track annual tourism metrics including visitor surveys.

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?

Failure to meet an approved deliverable schedule would result in the forfeiture of funds and require the return of received funds.

13. 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 proposed facilities will be located on lands owned by the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners will own the land and facilities.



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14. Requestor Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

15. 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

16. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number



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Please complete the questions below for Water Projects only.

17. 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

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

19. What is the status of construction?

NA

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

0%

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

N/A