



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1038

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This project will elevate an already popular park facility into a premier cross country venue, delivering both community and economic benefits. By enhancing the course, the park will better serve local high schools, running clubs, and regional competitions, while also strengthening Palm Beach County's position as a sports tourism leader. Sports tourism generated over \$23 million in direct economic impact last year, with public parks and recreation facilities contributing more than one-third of that total. The \$850,000 investment in course improvements is projected to be recouped within three years through event-driven tourism alone, while the improvements themselves will last far longer, continuing to generate sustained economic activity. The ripple effect is significant: local hotels, restaurants, and small businesses will benefit from increased room nights and visitor spending, while residents gain access to a safer course that promotes physical fitness and community connection.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	850,000
Total State Funds Requested	850,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	850,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	850,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,700,000	100%

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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The County will match the state's investment with 50% county funding. Federal funding is also being sought.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

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)?

No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

1/1/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

9/30/2027

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

County department operating funds.

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.

Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department.

12. 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		0
Operational Costs		
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	Construction by contractor(s) of expanded running course, start and finish lines, chutes, directional signage and vegetation, electric timekeeping system and wiring, and restrooms.	850,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		850,000

13. Program Performance

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



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The requested funding will assist with the construction of a regional cross country facility which is anticipated to attract larger regional, state and national cross country events. At completion the amenitized facility is expected to provide another sports tourism destination for Palm Beach County.

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

The location currently hosts cross country meets for schools in Palm Beach and Broward counties. Construction of a restroom, awards stand, storage and other infrastructure improvements will allow the facility to host additional meets and accommodate more teams for larger events.

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

The funding will provide for an expanded cross country facility that will be open to all citizens when not in use for cross country events.

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

Two distinct populations will be served by the project: 1) School aged cross country athletes (College, High School and Middle School). 2) Any citizen interested in a designated safe area to walk or run without interruption. Over 50,000 athletes and local citizens are expected to utilize the facility annually upon completion.

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

The expected outcome of this construction project is the increased use of the facility by both citizens and athletes. The Parks and Recreation Department uses Placer.ai to track park visitation. The Department will analyze data prior to and after the completion of the amenities to accurately measure changes in facility use.

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?

Unused funds will be returned to the state.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

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

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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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

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name	Candice D. Ericks
b. Firm Name	Ericks Consultants Inc
c. E-mail Address	candice.ericks@gmail.com
d. Phone Number	(954)648-1204

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.