



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1344

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Requested funds for upgrades to meet baseball league standards for the Parks 16 baseball fields include: replace/repair fencing, sidewalks, posts, and gates. The park attracted 494,000 visitors in 2024 and Six Months within 2025 the Park has already attracted 308,000 visitors -- a 25% increase from 2024. This important venue in Florida also provides immediate regional economic benefit gains for 278,468 Alachua County residents and 6,630 business establishments.

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	500,000
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	500,000	50%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	1,000,000	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.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

01/05/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

01/05/2028

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

Ongoing operations and maintenance of the facility is provided by the City of Newberry.

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.

The City of Newberry is the owner of the facility.

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	The construction project entails removal of 14,960 feet of deteriorated fencing embedded in concrete walkway, site clearance, installation of 14,960 feet of commercial vinyl coated fencing for the parks 16 baseball fields, posts, gates and sidewalks repair.	500,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

13. Program Performance

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

Champions Park is an economic driver for our region as it attracts in-state and out-of-state visitors through the various league competitions and tournaments. Our immediate goal is to replace outfield fencing for the safety of the players and be in compliance with league standards. Our long-term goal is to completely renovate all 16 baseball fields to continue to grow higher-tier USSSA, USA, NFHS and NAFA League competitions and make this park the premiere venue for baseball and fast-pitch softball competitions and tournaments.

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



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Champions Park 16 baseball fields book competitions and tournaments a year in advance due to high-demand for this venue in our region. The funds for outfield fence replacement will provide safety features mandatory by league standards that minimize risks of injuries for players and spectators and allow an uninterrupted game flow for the best possible performance.

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

Direct services include economic benefits for residents, increased tourism, health benefits from competitive outdoor sports, foster social connections, and play a vital role in increasing available sports and community-based programming for all ages.

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

The targeted population served includes grade school, high school and college age youth. Economically disadvantaged populations are serviced through economic gains from tourism that increase job opportunities.

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

The project's outcome is to (1) meet mandatory league standards, and (2) increase tourism through the various baseball leagues competitions and tournaments. City staff's methodology of measurement is to document reduced incidences of play/spectator injuries and provide summary of visitors lodging accommodations, attendees location of origin (city, county, Florida, and other states), total sales tax collected, and total direct sales.

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?

Penalties include written notification to correct within 30 days, if still not corrected the agency will submit termination of agreement in writing to include effective date and if terminated prior to project completion the Agency shall only pay for the percentage of the project satisfactorily performed for which cost can be substantiated.

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#:

b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:



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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

a. Name

b. Firm Name



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c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

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