



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1577

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

In 2013, the Florida Park Service took control and assumed management of Silver Springs, merging it with the adjacent Silver River State Park, forming Silver Springs State Park (SSSP). In 2014, the state's Unit Management Plan for SSSP included creating a public swimming area at the headsprings and the construction of a mooring/convenience dock downriver from the headsprings. In 2016, Wild Waters Waterpark was closed, and the infrastructure of the park was removed in 2019. Since the state gained ownership of the park almost a decade ago, a host of improvements have been discussed and planned; however, few have come to fruition as the projects, including reopening swimming at the springs, have been mired in bureaucratic processes. Marion County has coordinated with DEP and SSSP leadership in an effort to move the project forward. After consultation with stakeholders, the project designed to return swimming to Silver Springs would benefit from \$2.5 million put towards construction costs.

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	2,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>

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)	2,500,000	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1577

## 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?

9/3/2026

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

3/02/2028

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

Departmentally allocated 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.

The swimming area will be located inside Silver Springs State Park, which is owned by the State of Florida and located in Marion County.

### 12. 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		0
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The funds will be used to construct a swimming area within the main headspring portion within Silver Spring State Park.	2,500,000
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>2,500,000</b>

### 13. Program Performance

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

The funds will be use for project construction to create a public swimming area at the headspring of Silver Springs.

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

The goal of this project is to return swimming to Silver Springs as instructed by the state in 2014.



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1577

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

Citizens once again will be able to swim in Silver Springs.

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

General population, no specific group will benefit from funds.

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

Returning swimming to Silver Springs adds an additional activity for park visitors to engage in, which could lead them to spend longer durations in the park. Further, reopening the springs for swimming will draw in visitors looking for a natural, aquatic experience. This will be validated by checking park attendance figures and surveys to check how long attendees are staying at the park.

**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?**

Standard contract penalties including liquidated damages and the potential for failure to be awarded future contracts due to poor or lack of performance.

**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:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- ☐ Yes, Applied
- ☐ Yes, Received



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1577

☐ 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) State Agency

d. First Name  Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number  Ext.

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number



# **The Florida Senate**

## **Local Funding Initiative Request**

### **Fiscal Year 2026-2027**

**LFIR # 1577**

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