



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

LFIR # 1899

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

To meet the increasing demand for programs and activities, Trout Lake Nature Camp (TLNC) began to improve its infrastructure and education facilities in 3 phases. Phase 1 was completed. Phase 2 will be fully completed in the next month and was partially funded by the State of Florida. Phase 3 is building an ADA accessible, environmentally sustainable, building to house a museum, meeting spaces, community space, gift shop, and offices along with a screened education area to connect new and existing buildings. For FY 2025-26, a \$1,000,000 funding request was submitted. TLNC received \$500,000 to construct and furnish a new building. Due to this partial funding, additional funds are needed to complete the interior of the building, develop and install museum exhibits, and potentially renovate portions of the existing education building.

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	67%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	250,000	33%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	750,000	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		
2025-26	0	500,000	2112A	No

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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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)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

01/01/2027

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

06/15/2027

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

Annual operating budget for the Trout Lake Nature Center will be used. Funding sources include entry fees, donations, and program fees.

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.

Trout Lake Nature Center

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	Complete interior of newly built 10,000 SF building and installation of appropriate technology to conduct meetings and operate exhibits in museum, and office spaces. Complete interior spaces and furnish appropriately and begin renovating existing Education Building. Exhibit designers to create new exhibits and for exhibit installation.	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?



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Provide nature-based education for the region, visitors, and students. To expand programs and increase our capacity to meet demands for programs and services, we need to build additional classrooms (indoors and outdoors), replace our aging natural history museum trailer, provide ADA accessible bathrooms and add meeting rooms. Construction will allow for a nature play area for smaller children and provide additional space to offer overlapping programs.

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

Contractor has been selected and first pre-construction meeting to build a 10,000 SF building. Preliminary design has been started with contractor and TLNC. Completion of needed construction drawings and plans to be able to apply for needed permits and begin the construction bid process.

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

Serving as the only nature center in Lake County, TLNC will be able to expand education programs and events and add new programs. Having an updated and improved interpretive natural history museum will benefit visitor's learning. Concurrent programs will be possible and business retreats, professional development training and eco-therapy programs can be expanded.

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

In the past 9 years, TLNC has provided 600 student field trips to students within and without Lake County reaching about 232,000 students with these learning experiences. In addition, TLNC programs, activities and trails have been used by an additional 295,000 people allowing us to educate a little bit more than half a million people. Annually, we service about 30,000 people with a variety of programs and trail and exhibit visitations.

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

Programs are evaluated using quantitative and qualitative methods, visitation is tracked, participant numbers recorded and online reviews are used.

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?

Return of funds for failure to meet deliverables.

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	<input type="text" value="None"/>
b. Firm Name	<input type="text"/>
c. E-mail Address	<input type="text"/>
d. Phone Number	<input type="text"/>

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