



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3364

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

Pioneer Park borders the Peace River in Hardee County that comprises 115 acres and is an economic revenue driver for this Rural Area of Opportunity. The infrastructure must be upgraded, expanded, designed & constructed to meet current demand for recreational facilities to increase tourism/revenues and preserve the area's history that includes water & sewer infrastructure, replacement of 3 old bathhouses, playground equipment and ADA compliance. The park offers 62 grassy campsites, houses the Cracker Trail Museum and Wildlife Refuge. The improvements and upgraded amenities will improve economic development activities, increase tourism, revenues and bring sustainability to the community. The area's history will be preserved with the glamping style amenities of tepees, Conestoga Wagons, a Baldwin Locomotive and through the Cracker Trail Museum and education and preservation of nature with the Wildlife Refuge.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**
- State Agency contacted?** No

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested	5,000,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	5,000,000	81%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	235,000	4%
Local	945,000	15%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	6,180,000	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.**

10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**



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

Received: \$5,232,196; Funds used for eligible COVID-19 public health expenses (i.e., vaccinations, payroll, counseling/services, shelter mods., etc.), administration reporting/ equitable outcome/community engagement expenses, and capital investing in public facilities (i.e., broadband, HVAC/filter-related, productivity tech/software, facilities sanitation, etc.).

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. 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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

12. 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.

Hardee County is both owner and entity.

13. 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: 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	Contractual services for architectural/engineering design, bidding, administration, project management, engineering during construction and construction	5,000,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		5,000,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The goal is to upgrade Pioneer Park with amenities to preserve history, increase tourism, economic activities and revenues and bring sustainability to the community. Improvements include camping amenities of water and sewer infrastructure, electric, WIFI, six glamping style camp sites including three Conestoga wagons and three tee-pees, renovations to and/or replacing three bathhouses, an additional ADA compliant bathhouse, and era inspired playground and play equipment. Protection of State water resources, Peace River and Charlotte Harbor Estuary. State and Local funds have been expended; no additional funds are available. Hardee is designated as a RAO Community; matching funds are waived.

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

To seek contractual professional architectural/engineering design, bidding, administration, project management, engineering during construction and construction services through the County's competitive procurement process. State and Local funds have been expended; no additional funds are available. Hardee is designated as a RAO Community; matching funds are waived.

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

Direct services to citizens is usage of ADA compliant, operational, attractive modern park facilities to meet current and future demands for recreational parks that include water, electric and wastewater services, safe, appropriate and adequate facilities, modern playgrounds, attractive historical educational resources that includes a Wildlife Refuge in this Rural Area of Opportunity.

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

Hardee County, which is a financially disadvantaged community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C.) that is located in a Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes), citizenry, visitors, tourists, business community and surrounding areas. Greater than 27,000 expected to be served.

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

Expected benefit is increase of economic activity as completion of upgrades, improvements and expansion allows for an increase in accommodations and users, resulting in increase of revenues and employment opportunities from completion and certification of the project; preservation of the area's history; improved education, enriched cultural experience, environmental & wildlife quality, wastewater/stormwater/surface/drinking water management, meeting State plans to reduce amount of land applied reuse water. State and Local funds have been expended; no additional funds are available. Hardee is designated as a RAO Community; matching funds are waived.

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?

Non-payment of invoices until milestones achieved; implementation of corrective action plan.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type



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- 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

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number