



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

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

4. **Project/Program Description**

This project is to extend the existing 3.6 mile Woodpecker Trail in Big Shoals Public Lands and State Park 1.5 miles to US 41 near Wayside Park, where it can then connect via existing sidewalks through White Springs to Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park. This path will be 10 feet wide and asphalt like the existing Woodpecker Trail, with one bridge to span a creek near the US 41 terminus. Part of the trail will be on Big Shoals Public Lands, the rest will be on property owned by the Town of White Springs.

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

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	<input type="text"/>
Fixed Capital Outlay	<input type="text" value="560,000"/>
Total State Funds Requested	560,000

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)	<input type="text" value="560,000"/>	<input type="text" value="100.0"/> %
Matching Funds		
Federal	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0.0"/> %
State (excluding the amount of this request)	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0.0"/> %
Local	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0.0"/> %
Other	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0.0"/> %
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2026-2027	560,000	100.0 %



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8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** Yes No

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?** Yes No

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

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 No

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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

Big Shoals State Park is currently maintaining the Woodpecker Trail, so they will likely maintain the portion on their land. The Town of White Springs portion will be maintained by a citizen collective, especially the Suwannee Bicycle Association, who maintains 50 miles of trails in the area.

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.**

Big Shoals Public Lands and Big Shoals State Park, Town of White Springs



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12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	volunteers	
Other Salary and Benefits		
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	None	
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	None	
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	None?	
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	The route was identified in the 2005 Plan for Big Shoals, as well as the 2025 Plan. The route can be seen in https://youtu.be/X9gRYwWB_Ao	560,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		560,000



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13. Program Performance

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

Connecting the two State Parks with a paved trail will increase attendance at both parks, as well as foot traffic through the Town of White Springs.

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

This is a bike path construction project mostly along double track paths through woodland. The original path was constructed in 2004, this will be simpler since only one short bridge will be needed instead of three boardwalks on the original trail.

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

Citizens visiting our State Parks and residents of White Springs and the Suwannee Valley area will enjoy a clear path between the two parks for hiking, running, or cycling. White Springs merchants will enjoy increased foot traffic between the parks, hopefully resulting in more businesses catering to the increased foot traffic.

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

There are 45 campsites at Stephen Foster Folk Culture State Park, the Woodpecker Extension will be an option for all of those visitors. In addition, residents of the Suwannee Valley region will be able to enjoy a unique wooded path not available elsewhere in the region.

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

The use of the original Woodpecker Trail will be increased by the extension. Starting from either Stephen Foster or simply parking at the start of the trail at US 41 will be simpler than driving out to the Little Shoals entrance to the Public Lands, and it will provide a new experience with the new trail. A counter at the US 41 start of the trail could certainly measure the traffic, or simply a sign-in book.

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?

If the trail is incomplete, it won't be ADA compatible.



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

- Yes No *(Skip Questions 15 and 16)*

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
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):



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Please complete questions 17 through 21 for Water Projects only.

17. Have you been awarded or applied for alternative state funding for this project?

- Water Quality Improvement Grant Program
- Resilient Florida Grant Program
- Wastewater Revolving Loan
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Grant
- Other (please specify, ex. Alternative Water Supply Grants)
- N/A

18. What is the population economic status?

- Financially Disadvantaged Community (ch. 62-552, F.A.C.)
- Financially Disadvantaged Municipality (ch. 62-552, F.A.C.)
- Rural Area of Economic Concern
- Rural Area of Opportunity (s. 288.0656, Florida Statutes)
- N/A

19. What is the status of construction?

20. What percentage of the construction has been completed?

21. What is the estimated completion date of construction?



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22. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name Last Name
- b. Organization
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

23. 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

24. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name
- b. Firm Name
- c. E-mail Address
- d. Phone Number Ext.

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