

**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2022-23**  
For projects meeting the definition of House Rule 5.14

1. Title of Project: Lakeland's Se7en Wetlands Educational Center Construction
2. Date of Submission: 09/28/2021
3. House Member Sponsor: Colleen Burton

**4. Details of Amount Requested:**

- a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? Yes
- b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded? 2020-21
- c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed? Yes  Recurring  Nonrecurring
- d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request.

FY:	Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2021-22 <i>(If appropriated in 2021-22 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i>			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2022-23 <i>(Requests for additional RECURRING funds are prohibited.)</i>		
Column:	A	B	C	D	E	F
Funds Description:	Prior Year Recurring Funds	Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated	Recurring Base Budget	<b>Additional Nonrecurring Request</b>	<b>TOTAL Nonrecurring plus Recurring Base Funds</b>
Input Amounts:					5,000,000	5,000,000

- e. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2022-23 from all sources of funding (Enter "0" if amount is zero):

Type of Funding	Amount	Percent of Total	Are the other sources of funds guaranteed in writing?
1. Amount Requested from the State in this Appropriations Project Request	5,000,000	90.9%	N/A
2. Federal	0	0.0%	No
3. State (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column F)	0	0.0%	No
4. Local	500,000	9.1%	Yes

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5. Other	0	0.0%	No
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,500,000</b>	<b>100%</b>	

5. Is this a multi-year project requiring funding from the state for more than one year?

No

6. Which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue requested? Department of Environmental Protection

a. Has the appropriate state agency for administering the funding, if the request were appropriated, been contacted? Yes

b. Describe penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures which the agency should provide in its contract to administer the funding if appropriated.

Funds would be withheld by the State of Florida from the City of Lakeland.

7. Requester:

a. Name: Shawn Sherrouse

b. Organization: City of Lakeland, City Manager

c. Email: Shawn.Sherrouse@lakelandgov.net

d. Phone #: (863)834-6240

8. Contact for questions about specific technical or financial details about the project.

a. Name: Pam Page

b. Organization: City of Lakeland, Deputy Director Parks

c. Email: pam.page@lakelandgov.net

d. Phone #: (863)834-6088

9. Registered lobbyist working to secure funding for this project.

a. Name: David A. Shepp

b. Firm: The Southern Group

c. Email: shepp@thesoutherngroup.com

d. Phone #: (850)671-4401

10. Organization or Name of entity receiving funds:

a. Name: City of Lakeland

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- b. County (County where funds are to be expended): Polk  
 c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding): Polk

11. What type of organization is the entity that will receive the funds?

- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Government
- University or College
- Other (Please describe)

12. What is the specific purpose or goal that will be achieved by the funds being requested?

Se7en Wetlands is a unique place where visitors from all over the State can learn about the importance of Florida's water resources. After thirty years of operation as a Water Utility, Se7en Wetlands has had tremendous success as a new park adding trails and amenities, even winning multiple Environmental Excellence Awards. The requested funds will be used to construct and open an Educational Center to further statewide citizen engagement and water outreach programs.

13. Provide specific details on how funds will be spent. (Select all that apply)

Spending Category	Description	Amount Requested (Should equal 4d, Col. E) Enter "0" if request is zero for the category
Administrative Costs:		
<input type="checkbox"/> a. Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> b. Other Salary and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> c. Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> d. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Operational Costs:		

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<input type="checkbox"/> e. Salaries and Benefits		
<input type="checkbox"/> f. Expenses/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> g. Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> h. Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	Constructing the Se7en Wetlands Educational Center	5,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,000,000</b>

14. For Fixed Capital Costs requested in Question 13, what type of ownership will the facility be under when complete?

- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Government (e.g., police, fire or local government buildings, local roads, etc.)
- State agency owned facility (For example: college or university facility, buildings for public schools, roads in the state transportation system, etc.)
- Other (Please describe)

15. Is the project request an information technology project?

No

16. Is there any documented show of support for the requested project in the community including public hearings, letters of support, major organizational backing, or other expressions of support?

Yes

a. Please Describe:

Public hearings, public educational programs, and visitor polling have resulted in Letters of Support from diverse groups. Inter-local agreements between the City of Lakeland and Polk County have been executed and remain in good standing. Recipients of multiple Environmental Excellence Awards. Tampa Electric Co. and Mosaic support the project with many other partners.

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17. Has the need for the funds been documented by a study, completed by an independent 3rd party, for the area to be served?

Yes

a. Please Describe:

A master plan for Se7en Wetlands was created by SME, Inc. in 2014 for the City of Lakeland which includes an Educational Center and associated infrastructure. Visit: [www.lakelandgov.net/se7en-wetlands-supporting-documents](http://www.lakelandgov.net/se7en-wetlands-supporting-documents)

18. Will the requested funds be used directly for services to citizens?

No

19. What benefits or outcomes will be realized by the expenditure of funds requested? (Select each Benefit/Outcome that applies)

Benefit or Outcome	Provide a specific measure of the benefit or outcome	Describe the method for measuring level of benefit or outcome
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve physical health	Increase access to 22+ miles of Se7en Wetlands hiking trails.	Increase the number of miles of trails and trail amenities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve mental health	The Se7en Wetlands Educational Center will increase access to water quality programs as well as access to nature, wide-open spaces, and activities like outdoor photography and bird watching with groups like the Audubon Society.	Record the number of participants and visitors to educational events and the Educational Center (participant counts). Record the number of visitors entering Se7en Wetlands (visitor counts).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrich cultural experience	Se7en Wetlands will educate visitors on the rich history and culture of Se7en Wetlands and Florida's land use changes through time, using exhibits and	Record the number of visitors and participants utilizing cultural programming and the Educational Center with sign-in sheets. Record the number of visitors utilizing the

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	educational programs.	Se7en Wetlands trail system with pedestrian entrance gate counts.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve agricultural production/promotion/education	As a former phosphate mine, Se7en Wetlands will educate visitors on Florida's phosphate mining and agricultural resources.	Record the number of visitors and participants attending public presentations and the Educational Center using sign-in sheets.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve quality of education	The Se7en Wetlands Educational Center will use innovative teaching techniques, like outdoor learning and integrating technology, to improve the quality of education for all visitors.	Increase the number of innovative educational programming offered and record the number of participants using sign-in sheets.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality	Se7en Wetlands encompasses 1,600+ acres of diverse wetlands, uplands and marsh that many different species of wildlife and fish call home. Specific environmental areas will be enhanced and improved	Record the acreage of improved wildlife habitat. Record the number of visitors to the Educational Center.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect the general public from harm (environmental, criminal, etc.)	Se7en Wetlands reduces the amount of harmful Nitrogen that enters the Tampa Bay Watershed and provides flood protection during severe storms.	Teach visitors about Nitrogen impacts to Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Record the number of event participants and visitors using the Educational Center.

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve transportation conditions	Se7en Wetlands partners with the Polk Transportation Planning Organization and the Florida DOT to improve the interconnectivity of trail corridors and State networks.	Record the number of visitors utilizing the trail systems.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase or improve economic activity	Se7en Wetlands will increase access to outdoor recreation activities like hiking, nature photography, and birding, etc. Each activity promotes tourism and consumerism.	Record the number of participants with sign-in sheets and also use data collected (e-bird counts from Audubon groups).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase tourism	Work with Visit Florida to increase access to diverse activities like hiking, nature photography, and birding, etc. Each activity promotes tourism.	Track attendee zip codes on event sign-in sheets.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create specific immediate job opportunities	The Se7en Wetlands Educational Center will need to be staffed, creating immediate job opportunities.	Increase the number of staff positions created.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency	Se7en Wetlands outreach and education efforts will increase the conservation of water resources and offer access to rebate programs that directly save individuals money.	Increase the number of toilet rebate applications completed.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce recidivism		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce substance abuse		
<input type="checkbox"/> Divert from Criminal/Juvenile justice system		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve wastewater management	Educational programs will focus on how each individual can make a difference by not putting inappropriate items down the drain by teaching the acronym 'F.O.G. for Fats, Oils, Grease'.	Record the number of educational program participants.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve stormwater management	Educational programs will focus on how each individual can make a difference by not putting any items down stormdrains and why Florida's surface water resources are so important.	Record the number of educational program participants.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve groundwater quality	Educational programs will focus on groundwater connections and why Florida's groundwater resources are so important.	Record the number of educational program participants.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve drinking water quality	Se7en Wetlands removes excess Nitrogen from the Alafia River and Tampa Bay watershed which are both used for drinking water. Educational Programs will focus on the importance of drinking water resources.	Teach visitors about Nitrogen impacts to drinking water resources. Record the number of event participants and visitors to the Educational Center.



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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve surface water quality	Seven Wetlands removes excess Nitrogen from the Alafia River, Tampa Bay watershed, and the Gulf of Mexico. Educational programs will focus on the importance of surface water quality.	Teach visitors about Nitrogen impacts to Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Record the number of event participants and visitors using the Educational Center.
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe):		