

Appropriations Project Request - Fiscal Year 2020-21

For projects meeting the Definition of House Rule 5.14

1. Title of Project: Estero River Public Access Project

2. Date of Submission: 11/14/2019

3. House Member Sponsor: Ray Rodrigues

Members Copied:

4. DETAILS OF AMOUNT REQUESTED:

a. Has funding been provided in a previous state budget for this activity? No

If answer to 4a is "No" skip 4b and 4c and proceed to 4d, Col. E

b. What is the most recent fiscal year the project was funded?

c. Were the funds provided in the most recent fiscal year subsequently vetoed?

d. Complete the following Project Request Worksheet to develop your request:

| FY: | Input Prior Year Appropriation for this project for FY 2019-20 <i>(If appropriated in 2019-20 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)</i> | | | Develop New Funds Request for FY 2020-21 <i>(Requests for additional RECURRING funds are prohibited.)</i> | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | Column: A | Column: B | Column: C | Column: D | Column: E | Column: F |
| Funds Description: | Prior Year Recurring Funds | Prior Year Nonrecurring Funds | Total Funds Appropriated <i>(Recurring plus Nonrecurring: column A + column B)</i> | Recurring Base Budget <i>(Will equal non- vetoed amounts provided in Column A)</i> | Additional Nonrecurring Request | TOTAL Nonrecurring plus Recurring Base Funds <i>(Will equal the amount from the Recurring base in Column D plus the Additional Nonrecurring Request in Column E.)</i> |
| Input Amounts: | | | | | 2,000,000 | 2,000,000 |

5. Are funds for this issue requested in a state agency's Legislative Budget Request submitted for FY 2020-21? No

5a. If yes, which state agency?

5b. If no, which is the most appropriate state agency to place an appropriation for the issue being requested? Department of Environmental Protection

5c. Has the appropriate state agency for administering the funding, if the request were appropriated, been contacted? Yes

5d. Describe penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures which the agency should provide in its contract to administer the funding if appropriated.

The Village will not approve invoices provided by private contractors, who will be completing the vast majority of this work, if the work is not acceptable. This protects the State of Florida, the Village of Estero, and all taxpayers by ensuring that funds are only disbursed following successful completion of work.

6. Requester:

- a. Name: Steve Sarkozy
- b. Organization: Village of Estero
- c. Email: sarkozy@estero-fl.gov
- d. Phone #: (239)221-5035

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

- a. Name: Kyle Coleman
- b. Organization: Village of Estero
- c. Email: coleman@estero-fl.gov
- d. Phone #: (239)221-5035

8. Is there a registered lobbyist working to secure funding for this project?

- a. Name: Burt Saunders
- b. Firm: Gray Robinson
- c. Email: saunders@estero0fl.gov
- d. Phone #: (239)430-7979

9. Organization or Name of entity receiving funds:

- a. Name: Village of Estero
- b. County (County where funds are to be expended): Lee
- c. Service Area (Counties being served by the service(s) provided with funding): Lee

10. What type of organization is the entity that will receive the funds? (Select one)

- For Profit
- Non Profit 501(c) (3)
- Non Profit 501(c) (4)
- Local Government

- University or College
- Other (Please describe)

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

These funds are requested to expand passive recreation and conservation efforts in South Lee County, via the establishment of a regionally-significant natural asset. The village spent a significant amount of money to acquire this property (\$24.5 million) in early 2019, but the land does not have the amenities necessary to support public access or enjoyment, today, such as walking trails, a river walkway, or public restrooms. The requested funds will help gain the needed amenities/accessibility.

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

| Spending Category | Description | Nonrecurring (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: | | |
| <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 | The Village of Estero purchased this 62 acre parcel in 2019, for a substantial price (\$24.5 million). This request is for \$2 million to hire a | 2,000,000 |

| | | |
|-------|--|-----------|
| | consultant to develop plans for the amenities outlined above (trails, river walkway, restrooms, etc.), as well as a construction firm to build these amenities. This aligns with the Village model of "government-lite", whereby most of our design and construction services are provided by consultants and contractors. So, the entirety of the State-apportion | |
| TOTAL | | 2,000,000 |

13. For the Fixed Capital Costs requested with this issue (In Question 12, category "h. Fixed Capital Outlay" was selected), what type of ownership will the facility be under when complete? (Select one correct option)

- 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)

14. Is the project request an information technology project?

No

15. 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

15a. Please Describe:

There is strong community support, backed up by public polling over the course of the last five years (some predating incorporation) that shows environmental protection is the top interest of Estero residents. It was, in fact, a primary driving force for Estero's incorporation (by a 86% vote) in late 2014. The Village Council voted unanimously (in front of an overflowing Council chamber of supporters) to purchase this \$24.5 million piece of land in late 2018 (300% of our operating budget).

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

No

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

Yes

17a. What are the activities and services that will be provided to meet the purpose of the funds?

The following amenities will be constructed on-site to create the experience outlined above.

17b. Describe the direct services to be provided to the citizens by the funding requested.

Initially, this project will serve to provide Lee County residents with an accessible, beautiful preserve to be enjoyed. This will include protection of the natural assets on site, as well as maintenance of invasive species. In addition, we hope to partner with Florida Gulf Coast University, Koreshan State Park and local nonprofits to provide programming on-site as well, to fully maximize the value of this incredible public asset.

17c. Describe the target population to be served (i.e., "the majority of the funds requested will serve these target populations or groups.").

Select all that apply to the target population:

- Elderly persons
- Persons with poor mental health
- Persons with poor physical health
- Jobless persons
- Economically disadvantaged persons
- At-risk youth
- Homeless
- Developmentally disabled
- Physically disabled
- Drug users (in health services)
- Preschool students
- Grade school students
- High school students
- University/college students
- Currently or formerly incarcerated persons
- Drug offenders (in criminal Justice)
- Victims of crime

General (The majority of the funds will benefit no specific group)

Other (Please describe)

17d. How many in the target population are expected to be served?

< 25

25-50

51-100

101-200

201-400

401-800

>800

18. 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 |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve physical health | Steps, calories burned, heart rate growth and return, and other quantifiable fitness measures. | The use of wearable fitness watches could provide users with a relatively accurate measure of the benefits of walking through these nature trails on-site. It may be possible to survey residents to test the correlation between this physical activity in our park site and improved fitness. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve mental health | Surveys of mental health before and after regular trips through our park. Many studies have shown a correlation, if not causation, between nature-based experiences and improved mental health. | The use of wearable fitness watches could provide users with a relatively accurate measure of the physical benefits of walking through these nature trails on-site. It may be possible to survey residents to test the correlation between this physical activity in our park site and improved mental health. After all, the holistic approach to mental health is gaining |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | traction in the profession, presently. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrich cultural experience | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve agricultural production/promotion/education | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve quality of education | The use of wearable fitness watches could provide users with a relatively accurate measure of the physical benefits of walking through these nature trails on-site. It may be possible to survey residents to test the correlation between this physical activity in our park site and improved mental health. | This could be measured via testing of students (of all ages) who complete educational classes and courses on-site. We believe that educational programming will be a feature of this site in the future, and the requested amenity construction funds will make this possible. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance/preserve/improve environmental or fish and wildlife quality | Water quality is directly tied to wildlife and fish health. We will track water quality in this region, and possibly some measures of wildlife on-site, to track the benefits of this effort. | We have already begun testing water quality in this area, particularly within the Estero River. Thus, we will have quality baseline data to compare to following this project's completion. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect the general public from harm (environmental, criminal, etc.) | We have already begun testing water quality in this area, particularly within the Estero River. Thus, we will have quality baseline data to compare to following this project's completion. | We currently track crime data through Estero, and have such data (including maps) dating back to the Village's governmental formation in early 2015. This will provide quality baseline data for comparison to post-project completion crime data. Additionally, entry data can be compared to Koreshan State Park entry data from the last several year's as a comparison for attendance growth. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve transportation conditions | We can continue to monitor bicycle and pedestrian-related crashes and | We can continue to monitor bicycle and pedestrian-related crashes and |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | injuries in the Village, particularly in this area. By providing a safe space to walk or ride bikes, we are confident that this will help to reduce pedestrian crashes and injuries on our roadways. | injuries in the Village, particularly in this area. By providing a safe space to walk or ride bikes, we are confident that this will help to reduce pedestrian crashes and injuries on our roadways. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase or improve economic activity | Property values in this area. | We monitor property values throughout our community, but can specifically focus on property value changes in the area surrounding this park/project. We are confident that this significant, regional asset will draw people to the area and increase property values. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase tourism | Hotel room renting rates. | We can work with hospitals to quantify the change in renting rates for the hotels in Estero. Given that this project will create a regionally-attractive park, we believe that hotel rental rates will improve. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create specific immediate job opportunities | Village-operated positions (indicated within our budget and financial reports). | We can track this easily, as we will make these staffing decisions. We anticipate, at a minimum, this will create many volunteer opportunities, which will be incredibly valuable for resident mental health (volunteer activity is often highly correlated to improved mental health). Additionally, this may result in paid positions, but this remains to be seen. |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency | Village budget and financial reports. | Koreshan State Park provides discounted or free land rentals for individuals living in RV's, in exchange for volunteering on-site. The Village could employ a similar system. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce recidivism | Surveys of inmates. | Nature-based activities have been shown to improve mental health, which is often, at least, a contributing factor to criminal activity. We believe that, if tracked through surveys of inmates, that time spent enjoying this park would reduce recidivism rates. We could work with the Sheriff's office on completing such surveys. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reduce substance abuse | Surveys of individuals receiving treatment for substance abuse. | Nature-based activities have been shown to improve mental health, which is often, at least, a contributing factor to substance abuse. We believe that, if tracked through surveys of individuals currently in treatment for substance abuse, that time spent enjoying this park would reduce substance abuse rates. We could work with the local health department on completing such surveys. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Divert from Criminal/Juvenile justice system | Surveys of inmates. | Nature-based activities have been shown to improve mental health, which is often, at least, a contributing factor to criminal activity. We believe that, if tracked through surveys of inmates, that time spent enjoying this park would reduce recidivism rates. |

| | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| | | We could work with the Sheriff's office on completing such surveys. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve wastewater management | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve stormwater management | Resident-reported flooding issues. | We have tracked resident-reported reported flooding issues for the last several years and could compare this to the report rates following this project. This appropriation would allow the Village to spend more funds on stormwater management efforts on-site. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve groundwater quality | Groundwater quality tests. | We have tracked resident-reported reported flooding issues for the last several years and could compare this to the report rates following this project. This appropriation would allow the Village to spend more funds on stormwater management efforts on-site. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve drinking water quality | Drinking water quality tests. | We have tracked drinking water quality throughout Estero for the last several years, using Lee County Utilities and Bonita Springs Utilities-provided data, along with our own data. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve surface water quality | Surface water quality tests. | We can track surface water quality levels in this area to chart improvements over time. This appropriation would allow the Village to spend more funds on surface water quality improvement efforts on- |

| | | |
|---|--|-------|
| | | site. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please describe): | | |

19. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2020-21 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: | 2,000,000 | 33.3% | N/A |
| 2. Federal: | 0 | 0.0% | No |
| 3. State: (Excluding the requested Total Amount in #4d, Column F) | 2,000,000 | 33.3% | No |
| 4. Local: | 2,000,000 | 33.3% | No |
| 5. Other: | 0 | 0.0% | No |
| TOTAL | 6,000,000 | 100% | |

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

No