

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 23-061**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER EDUCATION CENTER AT THE CITY OF LAKELAND'S SE7EN WETLANDS FACILITY; AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION AND INCREASE IN ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE CITY'S WASTEWATER RENEWAL AND REPLACEMENT FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$950,000; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida has approved and included an appropriation in the State of Florida's Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget for a grant to be provided to the City of Lakeland to assist with the funding and development of a Lakeland Water Education Center at the City's Se7en Wetlands facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection ("FDEP") will administer the grant on behalf of the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the total estimated project cost for the Lakeland Water Education Center is \$1,200,000, and the State will provide funding for the project in the amount of \$950,000 and the City will fund the remaining \$250,000 of project costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Lakeland finds that this project will enhance quality of life for the residents of Lakeland, as well as improve wastewater and stormwater management practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission finds that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Lakeland to enter into a grant agreement with the State of

Florida, by and through the FDEP, accepting grant funding for the development of the Lakeland Water Education Center and establishing the terms and conditions for the use of said grant funds;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA:**

**SECTION 1.** The foregoing findings are true and correct and are hereby adopted and made a part hereof.

**SECTION 2.** The City Commission of the City of Lakeland does hereby authorize the City Manager, or the City Manager's designee, to enter into a grant agreement with the State of Florida, by and through the FDEP, for the acceptance of grant funds for the development of the Lakeland Water Education Center and establishing the terms and conditions for the use of said grant funds. The City Manager or the City Manager's designee is further authorized to prepare and execute any additional documents necessary to accept the subject grant funds from the State. The appropriations request for this project is attached hereto as Attachment "A" and incorporated herein by reference

**SECTION 3.** The City Commission hereby authorizes an appropriation and increase in estimated revenue in the City's Wastewater Renewal and Replacement Fund in the amount of \$950,000.

**SECTION 4.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

**PASSED AND CERTIFIED AS TO PASSAGE** this 2nd day of October,  
A.D. 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
H. WILLIAM MUTZ, MAYOR

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
KELLY S. KOOS, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
PALMER C. DAVIS  
CITY ATTORNEY

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1. Title of Project: Lakeland Water Education Center  
2. Date of Submission: 02/07/2023  
3. House Member Sponsor: Jennifer Canady

**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? 2022-23  
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 2022-23 (If appropriated in 2022-23 enter the appropriated amount, even if vetoed.)			Develop New Funds Request for FY 2023-24 (Requests for additional RECURRING funds are prohibited.)		
Column:	A	B	C	D	E	F
Funds Description:	Recurring Funds	Nonrecurring Funds	Total Funds Appropriated	Recurring Base Budget	Additional Nonrecurring Request	TOTAL Nonrecurring plus Recurring Base Funds
Input Amounts:		5,000,000	5,000,000		950,000	950,000

- e. Provide the total cost of the project for FY 2023-24 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	950,000	79.2%	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	250,000	20.8%	Yes

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5. Other	0	0.0%	No
TOTAL	1,200,000	100%	

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: Bill Anderson

b. Organization: City of Lakeland, Water Utilities Director

c. Email: Bill.Anderson@lakelandgov.net

d. Phone #: (863)834-6555

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
- ☐ School District
- ☐ State Agency
- ☐ University or College
- ☐ Other (Please describe)

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

The City of Lakeland's treatment wetland system has been in operation for more than thirty years before opening to the public for passive recreation and environmental education. This facility will help educate the general public about water resources, and provide training and class space to professionals for certifications and to K-12 students for future employment opportunities.

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 Water Education Center.	950,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>950,000</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
- ☐ School District
- ☐ State Agency
- ☐ University or College
- ☐ Other (Please describe)

15. Is the project request an information technology project?

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 City of Lakeland's Wetland Treatment System named 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?

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 hiking trails.	Increase the number of miles of trails and trail amenities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve mental health	The 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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrich cultural experience	It will educate visitors on the rich history and culture of Florida's land use changes through time, using exhibits and educational	Record the number of visitors and participants utilizing cultural programming and the Educational Center with sign-in sheets.



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	programs.	
<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	It will use innovative teaching techniques, like outdoor learning and integrating technology, to improve the quality of education for all visitors. It will partner with research universities and other school programs to increase future employees and create skilled laborers.	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	The property compasses 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 Water Center.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect the general public from harm (environmental, criminal, etc.)	The Water facility 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	The property 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	The facility 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 Educational Center will need to be staffed, creating immediate job opportunities. It will also provide space to educate skilled workers and create jobs.	Increase the number of staff positions created. Increase the skilled workforce.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance specific individual's economic self sufficiency	The outreach and education efforts will increase the conservation of water resources and offer access to rebate programs that directly save	Increase the number of toilet rebate applications completed.

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	individuals money.	
<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	The property 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	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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	water resources.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve surface water quality	The property 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):		