



City of Port St. Lucie

Proposed FY 2021 State Legislative Program

ST. LUCIE RIVER/C-23 WATER QUALITY PROJECT AT MCCARTY RANCH REQUEST: \$1,657,292

BENEFIT:

This project will minimize the fresh water and nutrient discharges into the C-23 Canal, and then, into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. When the entire project is complete, it will take 1,871 acres of fallow citrus grove and a 730-acre water impoundment located at McCarty Ranch Preserve and convert them into a shallow water quality and treatment facility. Every year, this project will keep up to 21 percent of nutrient-laden discharges from entering the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, protecting the quality of its water.

DETAILS:

- The overall project will be constructed in seven phases.
- Received clearance to place Area 1 into service in July 2019.
- Construction of Area 2 began August 2019.
- Design of Area 3 began June 2019
- This appropriation request will allow the City of Port St. Lucie to construct Area 4 on 304 acres, which will annually hold back 1.4 billion gallons of water, 14,358 pounds of nitrogen and 2,956 pounds of phosphorus from entering the waterway.
- Construction is set to begin in 2021.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: SOUTHERN GROVE JOBS CORRIDOR – HEGENER DRIVE EXTENSION REQUEST: \$3,150,509

BENEFIT:

The proposed roadway, Hegener Drive Extension, will include drainage, utility service and electrical improvements that will serve 133+ acres and provide direct access to an additional 108+ acres of vacant land. The infrastructure improvements can accommodate an estimated 1.6 million square feet of commercial development, generate over 2,473 new jobs, and promote economic development in the City of Port St Lucie's jobs corridor.

DETAILS:

- The City of Port St Lucie is requesting funding assistance for a roadway improvement project in the Tradition Center for Commerce.
- Total project cost is: \$4,150,509. Port St Lucie's contribution: \$1,000,000.

SEPTIC TO SEWER CONVERSION REQUEST: \$731,125

Support funding to encourage residents to convert from septic tanks to sewer systems to curb pollution that enters water bodies. Port St. Lucie would like to finalize one of the nation's largest municipal septic sewer conversions by

assisting residents. A multi-year Microbial Tracking Study conducted by the City and Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute found high levels of fecal bacteria and nutrients in the Sagamore, Hogpen Slough, Elkcarn, Veterans Memorial and Monterrey drainage basins. The City has just under 16,000 septic tanks in city limits, including over 4,800 within 50 feet of waterway.

PROJECT:

This shovel-ready project converts 250 residential properties, which are within 50 feet of a waterway that discharges into the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, from septic tanks to sewer systems. With the infrastructure already in place this project will support septic tank abandonment and installation of sewer service.

PURPOSE:

The purpose is to help curb septic leachate pollution from entering these water bodies connecting to the North Fork of the St. Lucie River and the State of Florida's Aquatic Preserve. Port St. Lucie would like to help finalize one of the nation's largest municipal septic to sewer conversions by assisting residents. In order to properly protect the St. Lucie River, the North Fork Aquatic preserve, the Savannas Preserve and other sensitive areas, this project is critical.

BENEFIT:

A multi-year Microbial Source Tracking Study conducted by the City and Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute found high levels of fecal bacteria, pharmaceuticals and nutrient loading in the Sagamore, Hogpen Slough, Elkcarn, Veterans Memorial and Monterrey drainage basins which lead to those areas being identified as hot spots. The Septic to Sewer Conversion program will reduce microbial contamination in septic systems from entering the St. Lucie River, thus reducing the chance for algae growth in these waterways. These 250 hot spot properties were specifically targeted due to their direct impact on the waterways.

PORT ST. LUCIE UTILITY EXPANSION PROJECT:

PROGRESS TO DATE

- Since 1996, the City of Port St. Lucie's utility expansion project brought water and sewer mains into nearly the entire 130 square miles of our utility service area.
- 36,158 new homes have converted to City sewer service.
- 8,377 pre-existing homes have converted to City sewer service. An estimated 15,515 residential septic systems still remain in use in the City.

OTHER REQUESTS:

RECREATION

The City also supports Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) funding that provides state funds for the acquisition or development of lands for public outdoor recreational use. Port St. Lucie is seeking \$200,000 in FRDAP development funding for Pioneer Park.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

This request would help complete interior stabilization and major restoration work to the recently relocated 1917 Peacock House and 1952 Lodge. With support of state funding, the structures were recently relocated to a city owned park along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. The structures were originally owned by the Peacock family of Saint Lucie County that were involved in ranching and agriculture.

PROGRAMS WE ARE SUPPORTING:

ST. LUCIE COUNTY'S 2020 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

St. Lucie County's 2020 Legislative Program common priorities in the areas of Economic Development, Budget & Taxation Policy, Environmental/Natural Resources, Transportation & Infrastructure, Public Safety, Health & Human Services, Education and Agriculture.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP)

The City supports continued FDEP program funding for Alternative Water Supply; Water Quality and Restoration; Indian River Lagoon Water Quality Improvement Projects and other funding sources to support local government projects to improve water quality. Further, the City supports innovative long-term funding mechanisms and partnerships to support water quality and build future supply.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (FDOT) WORK PROGRAM

The City supports the funding of all ranked transportation projects by the FDOT in the 5-year work program. Support includes reimbursement of the funding committed by FDOT and advanced by the City for the widening of Port St. Lucie Boulevard. Additional projects include St. Lucie West/I-95 Interchange Improvements, sidewalk construction, intersection improvements, bridge rehabilitation, and traffic signal operation and maintenance.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (DEO) The City supports the funding of innovative economic initiatives to improve the state of Florida, including but not limited to: Job Growth Grant Fund, Community Development Block Grants, Community Planning, and Small and Minority Business Development Resources. Additionally, the City supports DEO funding to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband internet throughout the state through partnerships with local and state government agencies, community organizations and private businesses.

INDIAN RIVER LAGOON-SOUTH AND EVERGLADES RESTORATION

The City supports funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) and the Indian River Lagoon-South Restoration Project (IRL-S).

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The City supports funding to maintain open doors for afterschool and school age care, keeping youth safe under the new health and safety requirements of COVID and relieving the impact on working parents.

POLICIES WE ARE SUPPORTING:

Resolutions approved by the Florida League of Cities Policy Committees in the areas of Local Self Government, Community Redevelopment Agencies, Transportation Funding, Water Supply & Water Quality, Communication Services Tax Protection and Short-Term Rentals.

SOBER HOMES

The City of Port St. Lucie supports legislation to regulate "recovery residence" as defined in Florida Statutes §397.311(36) as "residential dwelling unit... that provides a peer-supported, alcohol-free, and drug-free living environment."