DEPARTMENTAL PROJECT

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

READINESS AND RECREATION INITIATIVE

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND STATE ASSISTANCE (LWCF) + READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION (REPI) PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Readiness and Recreation Initiative Application Review Criteria - Attachment "O"

Readiness and Recreation Initiative Application Review Criteria

Review the prompts below, as provided in the <u>Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) P24AS00526</u>. Provide a thorough response, addressing each of the bulleted subjects.

Criterion 1 - Improving Access to and Benefits of Public Outdoor Recreation Opportunities Maximum Points: 20

This criterion assesses the extent to which the project will create or expand needed outdoor recreational opportunities for the public and military families in the area around the military installation, and the degree to which the project promotes physical activity in the outdoors.

Priority will go to projects in areas that are located within one or more active REPI Partnership Opportunity Areas (see https://repi.osd.mil/map) that create new or significantly expand or improve park and recreation opportunities that are lacking in the target area and communities.

- Describe specific deficiencies as they relate to the lack of, or inadequacy of, outdoor recreation in REPI Program Areas.
- Describe the new or expanded types of outdoor recreation opportunities and/or capacities that will be created as a result of the proposed project.
- Describe the development plans or future plans for the recreation facilities within the 3-year timeline required by the LWCF program.
- Describe how the proposed project will address or meet priority outdoor recreation needs of the target communities.
- Describe the expected benefits of the proposed project to the public and the military community, such positive effects on mental or physical health.

Criterion 2 - Promotion of Compatible Military Goals

Maximum Points: 20

This criterion assesses how the project addresses and advances compatible goals of the REPI partnership that supports the military installation(s).

Priority will be given to projects that will best 1) protect the military installation(s) from encroachment by incompatible land development and uses and/or 2) advance the compatible goals of the partnership such as providing conservation benefits (e.g., protection of natural resources or specific habitats), improving water quality by controlling runoff and erosion, maintaining or enhancing resilience to the impact of climate change, etc.

- Describe issues and challenges the particular military installation(s) is(are) facing in adjacent lands and communities.
- · Identify any community or economic trends that add pressure to the surround area.
- Describe how the project will address goals and mitigate the issues described.
- Describe the compatible benefits that will be supported by the park or other recreation area such as cooling effects, improved mental and/or physical health, cleaner air, etc.

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Criterion 3 - Partnering and Leveraging Resources

Maximum Points: 20

This criterion assesses the level of supportive partnership-building involved in the development and implementation of the project among the project sponsor, residents of the target community to be served by the park, and the military installation(s).

Priority will be given to projects that 1) demonstrate the highest degree of effort or initiative to engage residents of the target community(s) in the project's design, 2) demonstrate collaboration with the military installation(s) involved, and 3) demonstrate support for the project through leveraged matching resources including cash, land, equipment or other resources.

- Describe the process that led to the development of this proposal. Focus on the efforts made to engage the public, especially the target community, and their participation in the project's design as well as that of other interested/affected entities. Include details such as number of meetings held and number of attendees, number of community members contacted, number of responses received.
- Describe the partnerships or other collaborative efforts that have helped, or will help to, facilitate the project.
- Describe or provide evidence of local support for the project, particularly from the local community and the military installation(s) involved. (Reference letters of support included with the application.)

Criterion 4 - Project Alignment with SCORP and Other Applicable Plans

Maximum Points: 20

This criterion assesses the degree to which the project aligns with, advances, or is otherwise tied to the priority recreation needs and/or goals of the applicable Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), local or regional park and recreation plans, and/or other relevant plans such as open space plans.

Priority will be given to projects that best meet 1) at least one recreation goal or need that is identified in the SCORP and 2) at least one goal or need identified in a state or local plan.

- State the specific SCORP goals or needs that the proposed project will advance or implement, and support how this project addresses each goal/need.
- Describe any other park or outdoor recreation plan (provide date of plan) that the project advances or supports, and state how the proposed project aligns with it/each.
- Describe any other relevant plan (provide date of plan) that the project advances or supports, and state how the proposed project aligns with it/each.

DEPARTMENTAL PROTECTION

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Criterion 5 - Project Feasibility and Likelihood of Success

Maximum Points: 20

This criterion assesses the probability that the project will be successfully completed within the proposed timeline and budget, the viability of the proposed budget, and the ability of the project sponsor and partners to manage the project and maintain the park/resource in the future.

Priority will be given to projects that 1) that show support from partners, including the relevant military installation(s), 2) can be acquired and/or break ground within one year and will be complete and open to the public within 2 to 3 years, 2) are managed by project sponsors and partners with proven experience in successfully managing similar projects with no problems, and 3) can demonstrate a clear capacity, and a plan, for successful long-term park management and protection.

Budget costs must be clearly linked to the scope of work and are necessary, reasonable, allowable, and allocable. The matching share must be fully secured or firmly committed and supported by a letter of commitment from the donor. (The budget will not be scored by the panels; however, it will be considered as a deciding factor in selection if the budget is insufficiently detailed, contains unreasonable, unnecessary, or unallowable costs, and/or does not align with the technical scope of the proposal.)

- Describe the status of planning for the grant project, its readiness to be implemented and support the accuracy of the established deadlines and milestones within the attached timeline.
- Describe any issues with the site that would prevent it from being open and available to the public within 2-3 years.
- Describe the relevant experience of those managing the various aspects of this project. If partners are involved, their role(s) should also be described.
- Describe how the park or recreation area will be managed and maintained, physically and financially, to assure permanent use for public outdoor recreation and compatibility with the military mission.
- Ensure the LWCF boundary map clearly indicates the project area and the proposed protected boundary separately or indicates that they are the same.
- Within the Budget Narrative:
 - Break down, describe, and justify the proposed project costs.
- Clearly indicate which costs (or the amount of each cost) that will be covered by LWCF funds versus REPI.
 - · List all agencies, organizations or other entities providing matching share under this project.
- State the value and type (cash, donation of equipment etc.) of each matching share contribution.
 - Document that the 1:1 required matching share contribution is secure or firmly committed at the time of application. If overmatch is included, state if it has been secured, or when and how it is expected to be secured.

(Tab as Exhibit "O")