



Welcome to the 2018 FRPA
Conference!

Learning Objectives

- Describe the benefits of regional multi-purpose trails
- Recall Florida's Priority Regional Trails and recognize their general locations across the state
- Define and compare the specific roles of agencies involved in regional trail planning and development in the state of Florida
- Identify current trail funding initiatives and sources and understand the general process for applying for each





Recent Developments in Florida's Regional Trail Network

Dale Allen – President, Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation/FGTF

C. Elisabeth Manley, PLA – Board Member and Florida ASLA Representative to FGTF



Agenda



- ❑ Introduction to Regional Trails
- ❑ Florida's Priority Regional Trails
- ❑ Regional Trail Funding
- ❑ Agencies Involved
- ❑ Current Issues - Where do we go from here?
- ❑ How can you help?
- ❑ Discussion and Questions

Greenway versus Trail

Greenways Land corridors that allow passage of people and wildlife

Trails Actual footpath through the greenway

- ❑ **Paved, non-motorized – ‘multi-use trail’**
- ❑ Unpaved, motorized – ‘ATV trail’
- ❑ Unpaved, non-motorized – ‘hiking trail’, ‘mountain bike trail’, ‘equestrian trail’

I-75 CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY



TRAIL ALONG GREENWAY IN
NORTH CAROLINA



BOSTON ROSE
KENNEDY
GREENWAY



Trail Categories



Focus of this presentation = **Regional Trails**

- ❑ Long range connectors
- ❑ Numerous municipalities involved
- ❑ Regional impact

Versus **Individual Trails**

- ❑ Shorter connectors
- ❑ One or two municipalities involved
- ❑ May be located within a priority regional trail or be an independent trail
- ❑ Local impact

Trail Benefits

- ❑ Close to Home Recreation
- ❑ Long Distance Recreation
- ❑ Alternative Transportation
- ❑ Safe Routes to Schools
- ❑ Environmental Health
- ❑ Ecological Corridors
- ❑ Ecotourism
- ❑ Significant Economic Development



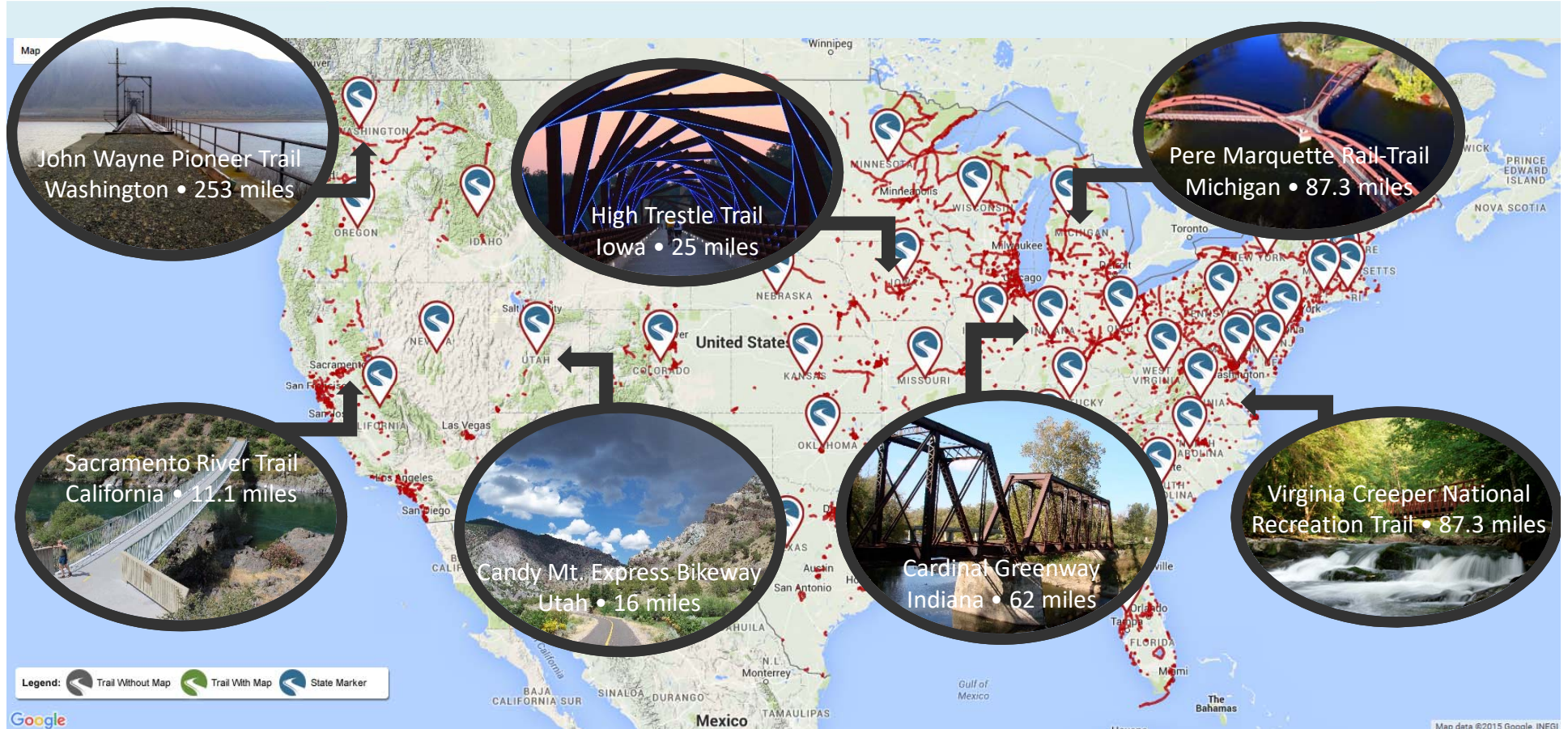
20th Century Railroad Corridors

Railroad Routes to Trails



- At the turn of the 20th century, the United States had **more miles of active railroad lines than rest of the World** combined.
- Beginning in the Great Depression and accelerating after WWII, this great connected system of Railroads **began to rapidly unravel**.

Rail-Trails Across North America





Connected Trails Across North America

Great Allegheny Passage — 400 mile trail connecting
downtown Pittsburgh with Washington D.C.





Connected Trails Across North America

The High Line — 1.45 mile trail utilizing the disused West Side Line elevated railroad trestle in New York City.



Goals for Florida's Regional Trails

Status Florida also has miles of abandoned railroad rights-of-way. Many corridors have been converted to trails over the last 30 years.

Goals

1. Economic

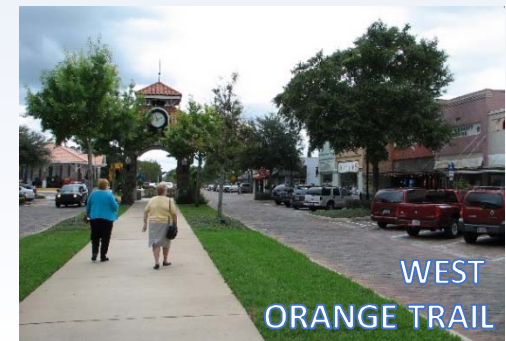
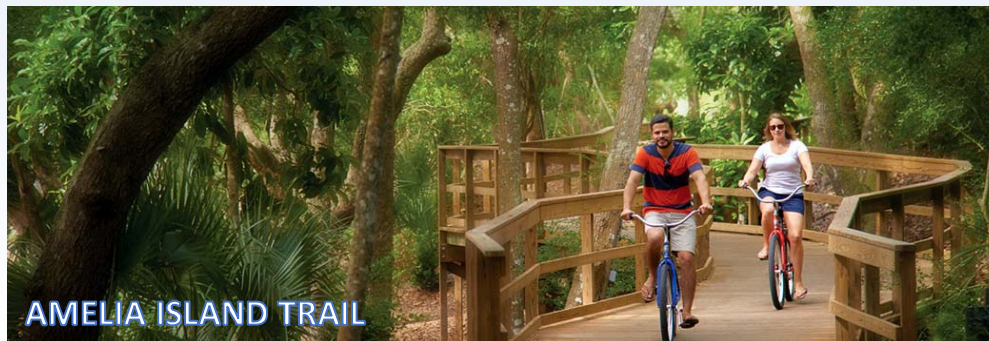
Generate **\$2 Billion** of economic activity in 10 years

2. Tourism

Make Florida the **World's #1** bicycle destination

3. Safety

Transform Florida from America's "Most Dangerous" to **"Most Desirable"** for bicyclists



3-S's of Successful Trails

1. SUN-sational

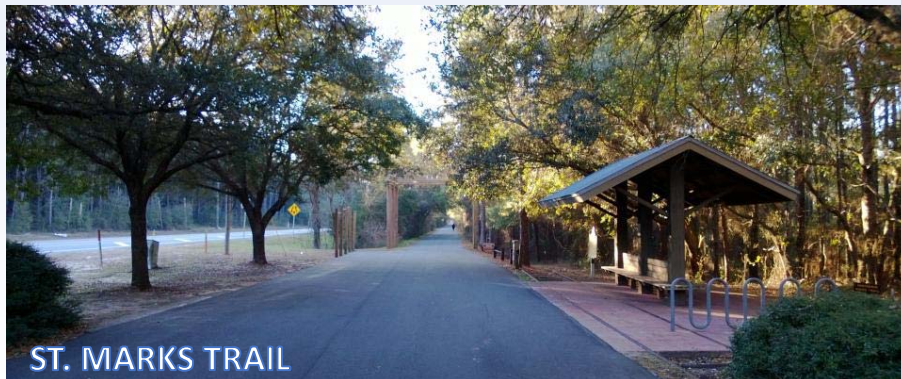
- Trails **connect communities with special places** such as state and regional parks or conservation destinations.

2. Scenic

- Trails are **shady** with **vistas** and views of waterfront.
- Intense commercial areas are **buffered**.

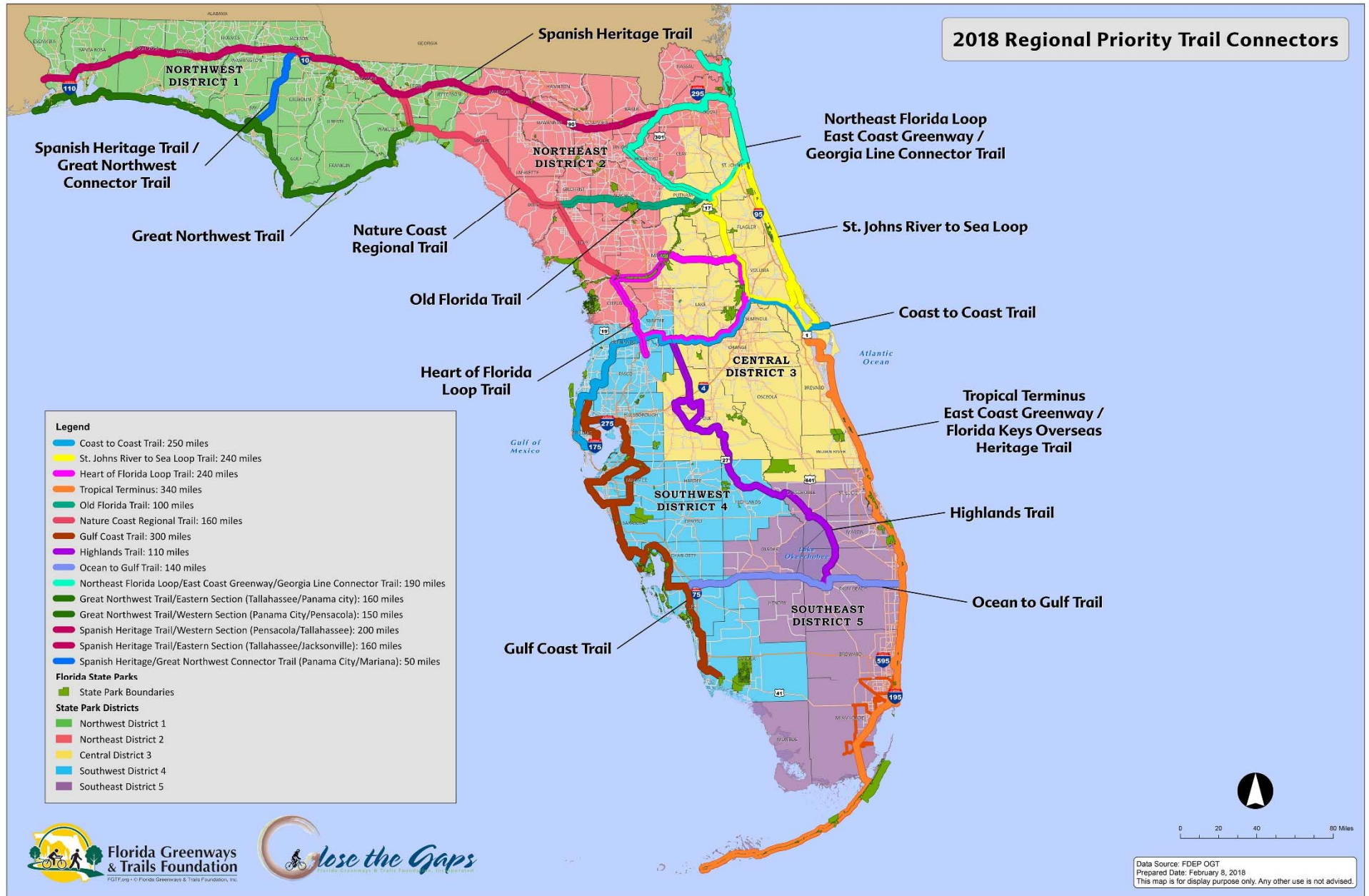
3. Safe

- Trails are **separated** from roads.
- Crossings are **bridged** or **consistently marked** along entire corridor.





2018 Regional Priority Trail Connectors





Trails along the Coast to Coast Regional Connector



Florida Greenways
& Trails Foundation
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PINELLAS TRAIL



WITHLACOOCHEE STATE TRAIL



SEMINOLE-WEKIVA TRAIL



WEST ORANGE TRAIL



SUNCOAST TRAIL





Funding Florida's Regional Trails

New Designated Funding – For regional trails

- Pursuant to Section 335.065(4) F.S., Florida Highway Trust Fund, the **Florida Department of Transportation** shall give funding priority to projects that:
 - Are identified by **Florida Greenways and Trails Council** as a priority within the Florida Greenways and Trails System under Chapter 260, F.S.
 - Support the transportation needs of bicyclists and pedestrians
 - Have national, statewide, or regional importance
 - Facilitate an interconnected system of trails by completing gaps between existing trails



Funding Florida's Regional Trails

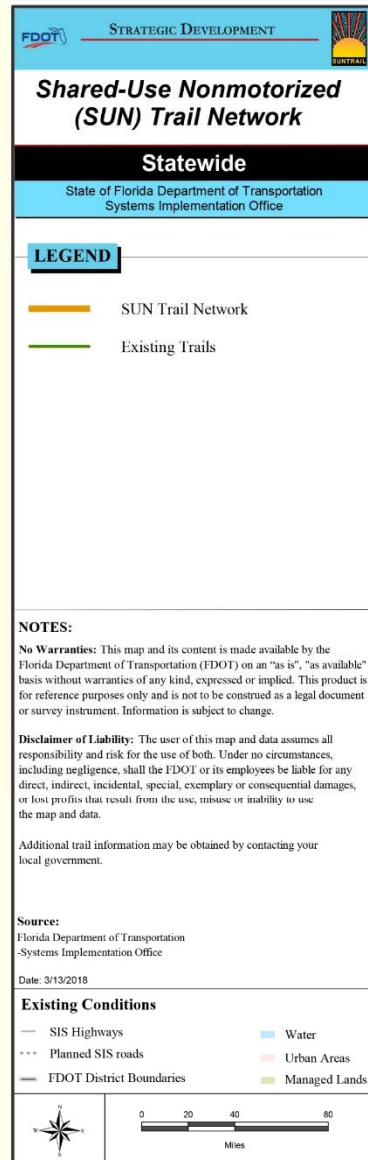
Designated Funding – SUNTrails Program



- SB 2514-A approved by the 2015 Florida Legislature
 - Called these regional connectors “SUN Trails Network” = **S**hared **U**se **N**on-motorized Trails
 - Authorized under F.S. 339.81 'Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network'
 - Support the **transportation needs of bicyclists and pedestrians**
 - Have national, statewide, or **regional importance**
 - Facilitate an **interconnected system** of trails by completing gaps
- Dedicated, annually **reoccurring \$25 Million** into FDOT Work Program
- Funds **trail only**: Feasibility, PD&E, alignment, design, and construction. **No trailheads, amenities, or operations or maintenance.**



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Agencies Involved in SUNTrails

Planning

Florida Department of
Environmental Protection
(FDEP)

Division of Recreation and Parks
Office of Greenways and Trails

Florida Greenways and
Trails Council (FGTC)

Florida Greenways and
Trails Foundation (FGTF)

Local Municipalities

Special Interest Groups

Design & Construction

Florida Department of
Transportation (FDOT)

FDOT Central Office
Statewide Coordinator

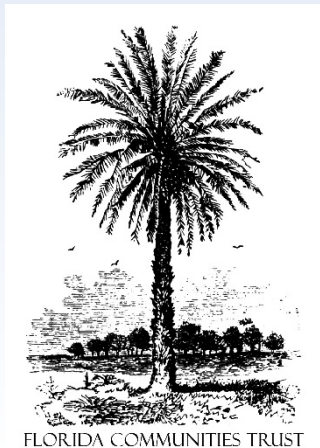
FDOT District Office
Trail Coordinators

Municipal Planning
Organizations (MPO's)

Funding Florida's Regional Trails

Grant Funding - Traditionally available for individual trails

- Funding from state programs to local municipalities
 - Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
 - Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)
 - **Florida Communities Trust (FCT) - NEW:** \$10-million in annual funding for projects with trails or elements that offer access for those with 'unique abilities' (undefined)





Funding Florida's Regional Trails

Designated Funding – Constitutional Amendment One

- 2014 “SECTION 28. ... For a period of 20 years..., the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall receive no less than 33 percent of net revenues derived from the existing excise tax ... b) Funds.... shall be expended only for...:acquisition and improvement of land... including ...**recreational trails...** and **the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands.**”



Where do we go from here?

Connections

- ❑ Continue to Close the Gaps
- ❑ Seek opportunities for SUN-sational connections

SUN-Trails Program

- ❑ Advocate for Priority Trail updates
- ❑ Build strategies for including or adding the 'other pieces'

Understand Differences in Trail Types and Needs

- ❑ Urban Trails - Overwhelmed corridors
- ❑ Rural Trails - Underserved and connections critical

The Underline, below Miami Metrorail

Credit: www.theunderline.org/ James Corner Field Operations



Urban Trails

Issues

- ❑ Narrow right-of-ways with large number of highly diverse users
- ❑ Numerous roadway and intersection conflicts and lack of connection
- ❑ Visibility and safety

Solutions of this Project

- ❑ Include multi-modal with dedicated paths and connections
- ❑ Improve intersections
- ❑ Plant based on historic communities
- ❑ Create 'rooms'/destination parks
- ❑ Incorporate art
- ❑ Connect to the greater trail network



Rural Trails

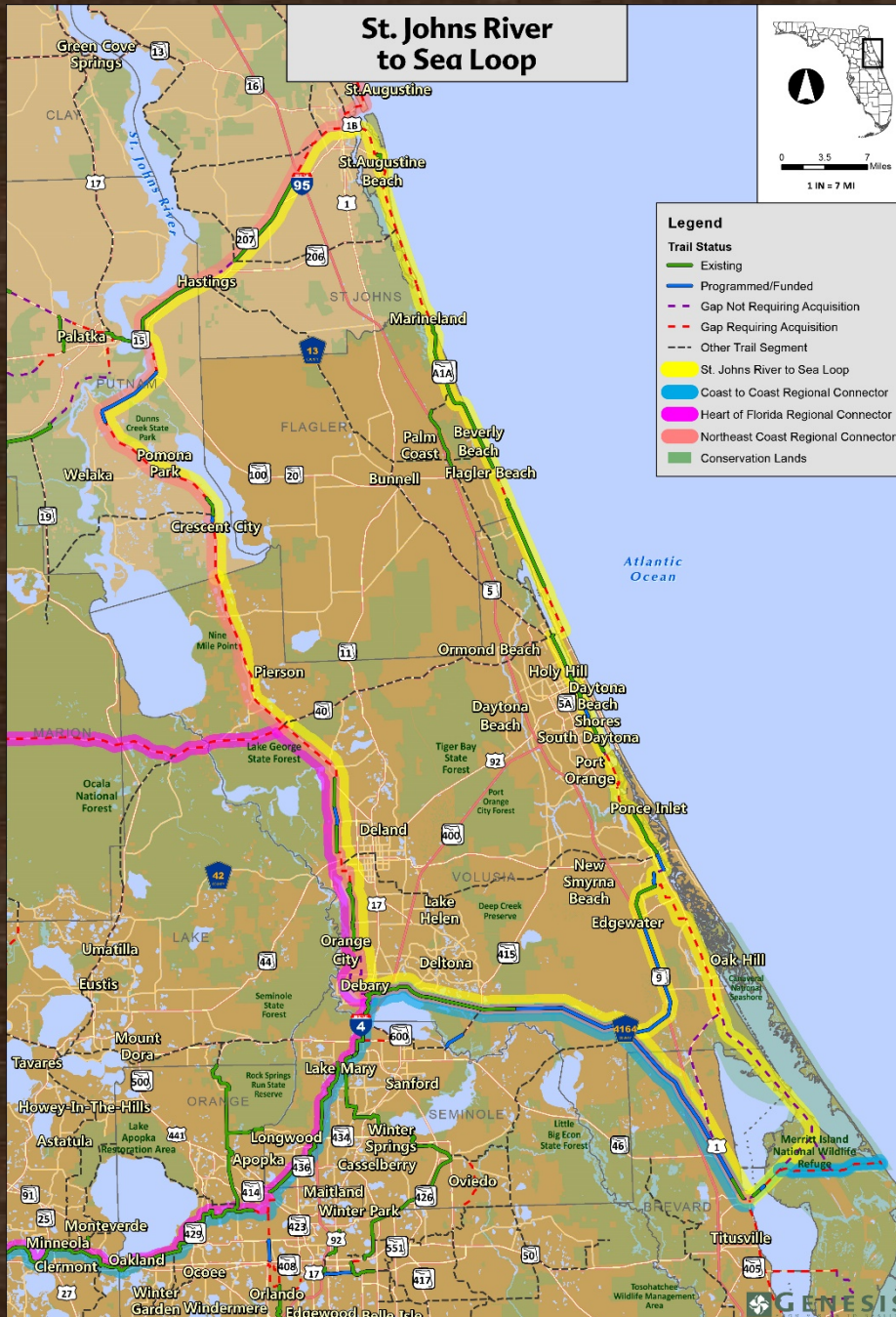
Issues

- ❑ Who takes 'ownership'?
 - Operations and maintenance
 - Numerous municipalities
 - Limited budgets

- ❑ Shade
- ❑ Connections to destinations

Possible Solutions

- ❑ Partnerships
- ❑ Building and marketing connections to unique SUN-sational places
- ❑ Tourism 'infrastructure' for longer trips





What is missing?

Funding

- ❑ Continue advocating for additional grant funding, public-private partnerships, and local initiatives

Legislative Authority

- ❑ Continue lobbying for increased funding and support



What is missing?

Strategy for including access points and amenities

- ❑ Successful Trail = SUN-sational, Scenic, and Safe
- ❑ Needs
 - Trailheads for access and support elements
 - Shade
 - Site furnishings
 - Wayfinding
 - Branding
 - Connections to SUN-sational destinations



How can you help?



- 1. Serve as Advocacy Partners**
- 2. Become Trail Experts**
- 3. Provide Data and Analysis Support**

Advocacy Partners



- ❑ Get to know your **local trail stakeholders**
- ❑ Understand **available funding** mechanisms
- ❑ **Partner with FDEP** to push for more designated funding
 - Corridor feasibility studies
 - Enhanced grant funding – FCT, FRDAP, etc.
 - New Parks and Community Trails Program
 - Individual trail connection coordination
 - Adding amenities

Trail Experts



CASSELBERRY TRAIL

- Serve as an **expert on your system**
- Spread the word about **lessons learned**
- Utilize an **interdepartmental and interdisciplinary** approach to planning and design



WEST ORANGE TRAIL



WEST ORANGE TRAIL



PINELLAS TRAIL

Data and Analysis Support



- ❑ Needed to promote at **Legislature**
- ❑ Preparation of **case studies and data**
- ❑ '**World class** system' – international examples and lessons learned
- ❑ Approach for **reporting & analyzing** data (See RTC's T-MAP program)





Discussion and Questions



***Please sign up for updates and
pick up a resource sheet.***

Thank you for your interest!



Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation

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FRPA

**FLORIDA RECREATION
& PARK ASSOCIATION**

For more information about the Florida Recreation and Park Association visit www.frpa.org.

2018 Regional Priority Trail Connectors

Spanish Heritage Trail

NORTHWEST DISTRICT 1

Spanish Heritage Trail / Great Northwest Connector Trail

Great Northwest Trail

Nature Coast Regional Trail

NORTHEAST DISTRICT 2

Northeast Florida Loop
East Coast Greenway /
Georgia Line Connector Trail

St. Johns River to Sea Loop

Old Florida Trail

Heart of Florida Loop Trail

CENTRAL DISTRICT 3

Coast to Coast Trail

Tropical Terminus
East Coast Greenway /
Florida Keys Overseas
Heritage Trail

Highlands Trail

Ocean to Gulf Trail

Gulf Coast Trail

Legend

- Coast to Coast Trail: 250 miles
- St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail: 240 miles
- Heart of Florida Loop Trail: 240 miles
- Tropical Terminus: 340 miles
- Old Florida Trail: 100 miles
- Nature Coast Regional Trail: 160 miles
- Gulf Coast Trail: 300 miles
- Highlands Trail: 110 miles
- Ocean to Gulf Trail: 140 miles
- Northeast Florida Loop/East Coast Greenway/Georgia Line Connector Trail: 190 miles
- Great Northwest Trail/Eastern Section (Tallahassee/Panama city): 160 miles
- Great Northwest Trail/Western Section (Panama City/Pensacola): 150 miles
- Spanish Heritage Trail/Western Section (Pensacola/Tallahassee): 200 miles
- Spanish Heritage Trail/Eastern Section (Tallahassee/Jacksonville): 160 miles
- Spanish Heritage/Great Northwest Connector Trail (Panama City/Mariana): 50 miles

Florida State Parks

- State Park Boundaries

State Park Districts

- Northwest District 1
- Northeast District 2
- Central District 3
- Southwest District 4
- Southeast District 5



Mission

Imagine a statewide, connected system of greenways and trails that promotes economic development, facilitates public access to Florida's natural environment, and advances health, recreation, transportation, and tourism. The mission of the Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation is to advocate for and help create this statewide system of trails and greenways throughout Florida to advance health, recreation, transportation, and tourism.

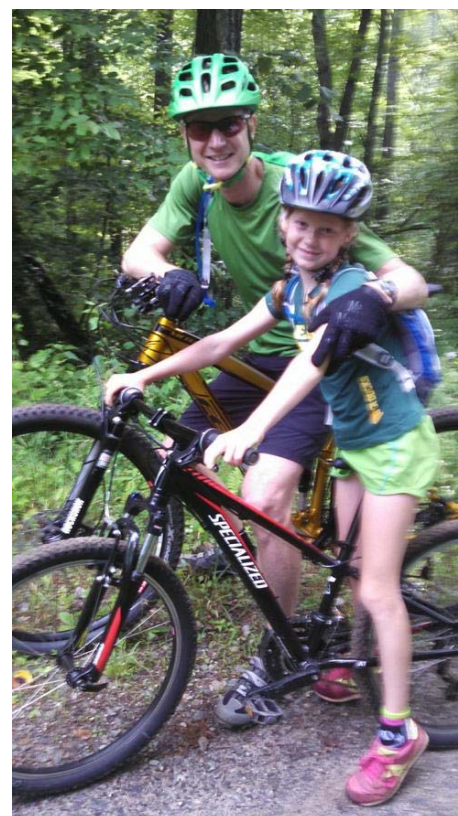
Overview

Paved, non-motorized trails are being designed and built that will connect our communities to Florida's state parks, natural landscapes and waterways. These pathways will offer residents and visitors a scenic, safe and healthy transportation alternative to Florida's crowded and often dangerous highways. Small business opportunities for trail service providers will revitalize Florida's rural, mid-sized and urban centers. Local festivals and long-distance events will bring national and international travelers to our unique communities. Young and old, the fully able and those whose mobility is limited, and the fit and those seeking fitness will all have access to a statewide system of connected trails, greenways, and blue ways. Behind this effort, and committed to the vision underlying the system's completion, is the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation (Foundation).

Since incorporation in 2001, the Foundation has provided vision, advocacy, facilitation, and funding to assist in the development and promotion of a statewide system of greenways and trails. The Foundation was organized as a Citizen Support Organization for the Office of Greenways & Trails and received 501(c)(3) non-profit status in 2002. Since its inception, the Board has raised over one million dollars to support programs and projects. The Foundation also develops strategic partnerships with and provides information and assistance to a variety of organizations, including Florida State Parks, Office of Greenways and Trails, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and Florida Department of Transportation.

Contribute

The Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation raises resources to promote a statewide system of greenways and trails. Since state regulations do not permit direct gifts, bequests, grants or endowments for any state program, the Foundation offers a flexible source of funding for greenways and trails. As a tax-exempt organization, donations to the Foundation are tax-deductible. Please visit our website for more information.



www.FGTF.org



Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation

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Resources

- <https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt> = FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails
- <https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/florida-greenways-and-trails-system-plan-and-maps> = OGT Greenways and Trails System Plan
- <https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/florida-trail-town-program> = Florida Trail Town Program
- <https://floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/florida-greenways-and-trails-council> = Florida Greenways and Trails Council Information
- <http://fgtf.org/maps/> = FGTF Regional Connector Maps
- <http://fgtf.org/links/> = FGTF Links and Resources, including trail studies and related agency websites
- <http://www.floridasuntrail.com/> = FDOT's SUNTrail Program
- Florida Statutes: 260, 335.065, 320.072, and 339.81, among others.
- *Economic Impact Analysis of Orange County Trails*, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2011.
<http://www.ecfrpc.org/Document-Library/Environment/Economic-Impact-of-Trails-in-Orange-County.aspx>
- https://www.orangecountyfl.net/Portals/0/Library/Culture-Recreation/ParksModule/docs/WOTPocketBrochure1_15Out.pdf = West Orange Trail Map
- <http://www.pinellascounty.org/trailgd/> = Pinellas Trail Information
- <https://www.rttwst.org/explore-withlacoochee-state-trail.php> = Withlacoochee State Trail Information
- <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/departments-services/leisure-services/greenways-natural-lands/trails/seminole-wekiva-trail.shtml> = Seminole-Wekiva Trail Information
- <http://www.pascocountyfl.net/index.aspx?NID=673> = Suncoast Trail Information
- <https://www.floridastateparks.org/trail/Tallahassee-St-Marks> = Tallahassee-St-Marks St. Marks Trail Information
- <https://www.theunderline.org/> = Underline Trail Information
- <https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/research-and-information/trail-modeling-and-assessment-platform/> = RTC's T-MAP Data Gathering Program

www.FGTF.org