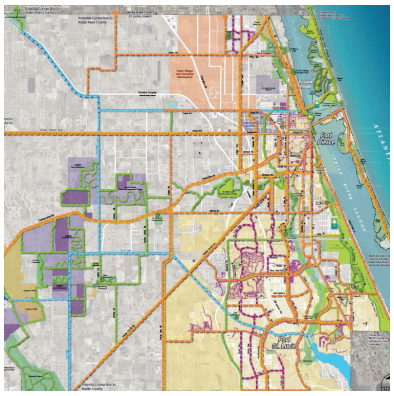
Greenways and Trails
Concepts to Implementation

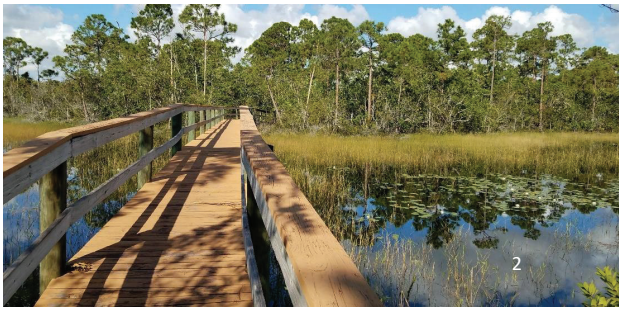
ST. LUCIE COUNTY FLORIDA



Mike Middlebrook
St. Lucie County

2/9/2022 FRPA
Park Management Institute
Port St. Lucie, FL

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
TRAIL



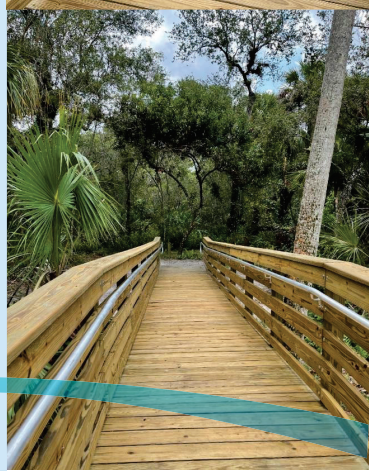
GREENWAY

GREENBELT & PARKWAY

Connecting people to places through open spaces, natural buffers, and urban corridors.

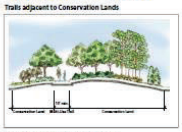
TRAIL

The trail itself provides opportunities for transportation, recreation, economy, and health and wellness.



Typical Sections

Trails adjacent to Conservation Lands

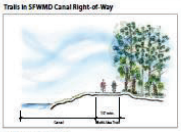


As one of the principal objectives of this Master Plan is to connect the conservation lands of St. Lucie County's Environmentally Significant Lands program, recreationally-oriented trails through these lands are recommended throughout the western portion of the County. These trails are envisioned as unpaved trails suitable to hiking, walking and equestrian uses.

The priority of the Master Plan is to expand transportation options for non-motorized modes in addition to providing recreational opportunities, so in places these trails may comprise a network of transportation-oriented pathways intended to serve bicyclists and pedestrians. In these cases, the overall recommendation for these trail types is paved surfaces that are amenable to cycling, walking and running. The use of paved surfaces should be reserved for when the trail system in urbanized areas of the County (east of Shinn Road) rides on one of these conservation land trails to complete a larger network.

This trail type recommends similar dimensions regardless of its primary use, whether that be for long-distance walking or bicycling or for equestrian purposes.

Trails in SFWMD Canal Right-of-Way

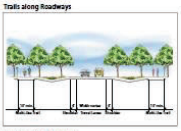


The South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) canal network through St. Lucie County provides an opportunity for trails connecting over longer distances, especially in the western portion of the county.

Typical canal right-of-ways are sufficiently wide to accommodate a multi-use trail on one side of the canal. Most of the County's canal length is currently paralleled by service roads, many of which allow the trail to be constructed within the existing stabilized area of the roadway.

It is generally intended that trails within canal right-of-ways will not be paved. West of Shinn Road, the primary focus of the County's trail system is to serve equestrian and nature-oriented activities, these trails complement the proposed network of greenways through the County's Environmentally Significant Lands. In the urbanized areas of the County where these trails pass, construction will a paved surface may serve a greater community-wide need. In these areas the appropriate surface treatment (paved or unpaved) should be chosen based on how essential a paved trail is to completing the overall network.

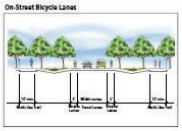
Trails along Roadways



The Master Plan endorses trails continuing along roadways and not just in environmental lands. This not only allows users to identify their direction with understood travel patterns, it also takes advantage of existing right-of-way where it is available.

Where possible in the long term, these multi-use trails should be constructed on both sides of the roadway with which they are aligned, as shown in the illustration to the left. Convenience is one trail per side increases the safety of the trail system in allowing safer passage of bicycles and pedestrians and minimizing dangerous road crossings.

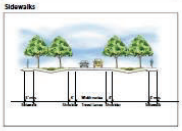
On-Street Bicycle Lanes



This section presents similar dimensions but uses designated bicycle lanes on the roadway. Note that the roadway width may vary but proper placement of bicycle lanes is always on the outside of the outermost travel lane in each direction.

When on-street bicycle facilities are to be added, the need for off-street multi-use trails on both sides of the street becomes less important: a single two-way path of a width allowing bicycles to safely pass pedestrians should meet the needs of slower-speed cyclists who are more comfortable using an off-street facility.

Sidewalks



Sidewalks are the most basic element of bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. Though most of the urbanized areas of St. Lucie County are located in incorporated municipalities, the County can help to further pedestrian connectivity by committing to routes along arterial and collector roadways. At a minimum, 5-foot sidewalks should be constructed along these major roadways throughout the County.

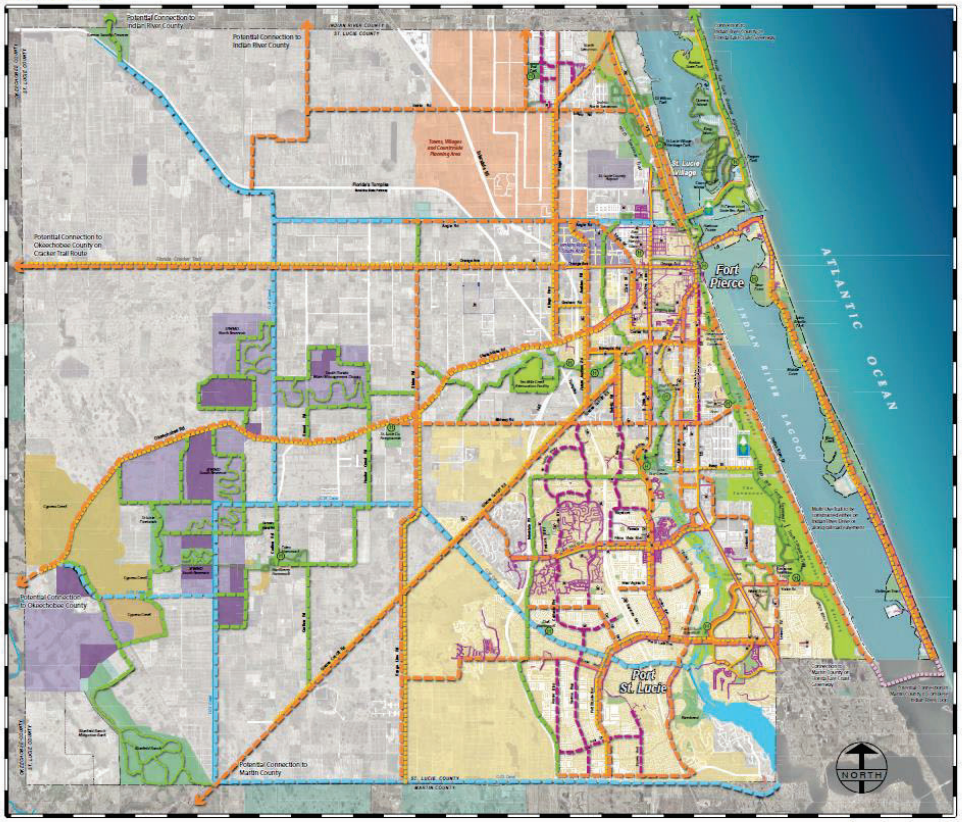
While off-street trails allow travel for both cyclists and pedestrians, sidewalks are not facilities that should be shared. Context can help to determine where sidewalks are appropriate as opposed to trails: in streets with frequent driveway access, the placement of cyclists and pedestrians on the same off-street path presents a danger from vehicles entering and exiting driveways.

Trailheads/Hubs

Trailheads provide convenient and functional end-of-trip facilities for users. They are the points at which paths intended for walking, cycling or equestrian uses start. Modern trailheads often contain rest rooms, sign posts and distribution centers for informational brochures about the trail and its features, and parking areas for vehicles and trailers.

The design and scale of these facilities should follow the user demand and the order of magnitude of the parts of the trail and greenway system they are serving. In this system, large trailheads connecting different facilities and located at key points in the system are intended to serve as hubs capable of serving a broader range of user needs.

Master Plan



ST. LUCIE COUNTY FLORIDA

Countywide Bicycle, Pedestrian, Greenways and Trails Master Plan

LEGEND

SIDEWALKS/ROADWAY ELEMENTS

- *Existing Sidewalks*
- *Proposed Sidewalks for Collectors & Arterials*
- *Existing On-Street Bicycle Lanes*
- *Proposed On-Street Bicycle Lanes*

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

- *Existing Nature Trails*
- *Proposed Greenways and Recreational Trails*
- *Existing Multi-Purpose Trails*
- *Proposed Multi-Purpose Trails*
- *Proposed Trails within Canal Right-of-Way*

HUB FACILITIES

- *Proposed Locations for Hubs/ End-of-Trip Facilities*

OTHER FEATURES

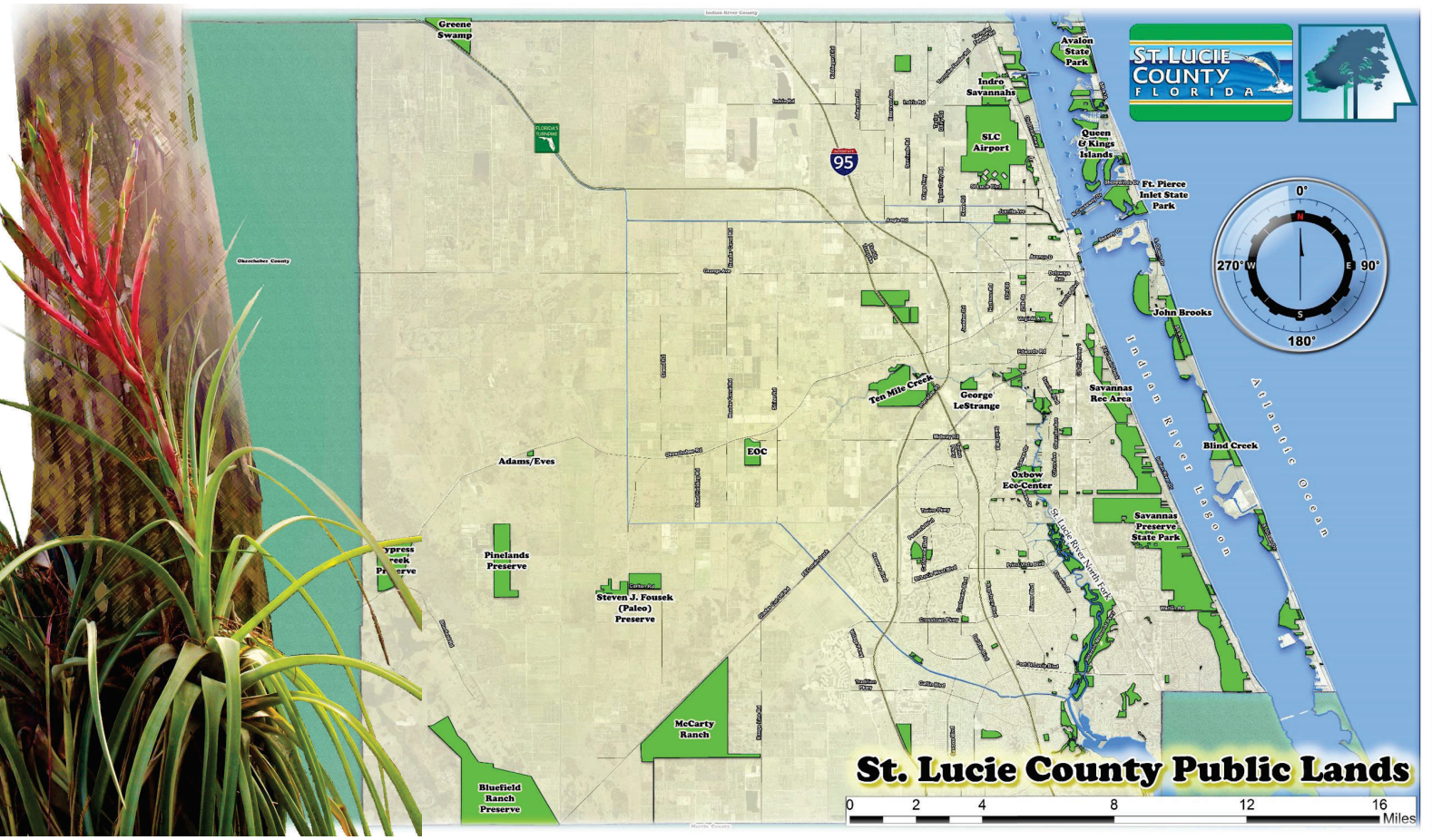
- *SFWMD Canals*
- *County Boundary*
- *Lands in SFWMD Ownership*
- *Lands Proposed for SFWMD Ownership*
- *City and County Parks and Acquired St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands*
- *Proposed St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands*
- *State Parks*
- *Municipal Boundaries*
- *Major Water Bodies*
- *Sites of Schools and Educational Facilities*

Map Prepared: **March 2008**

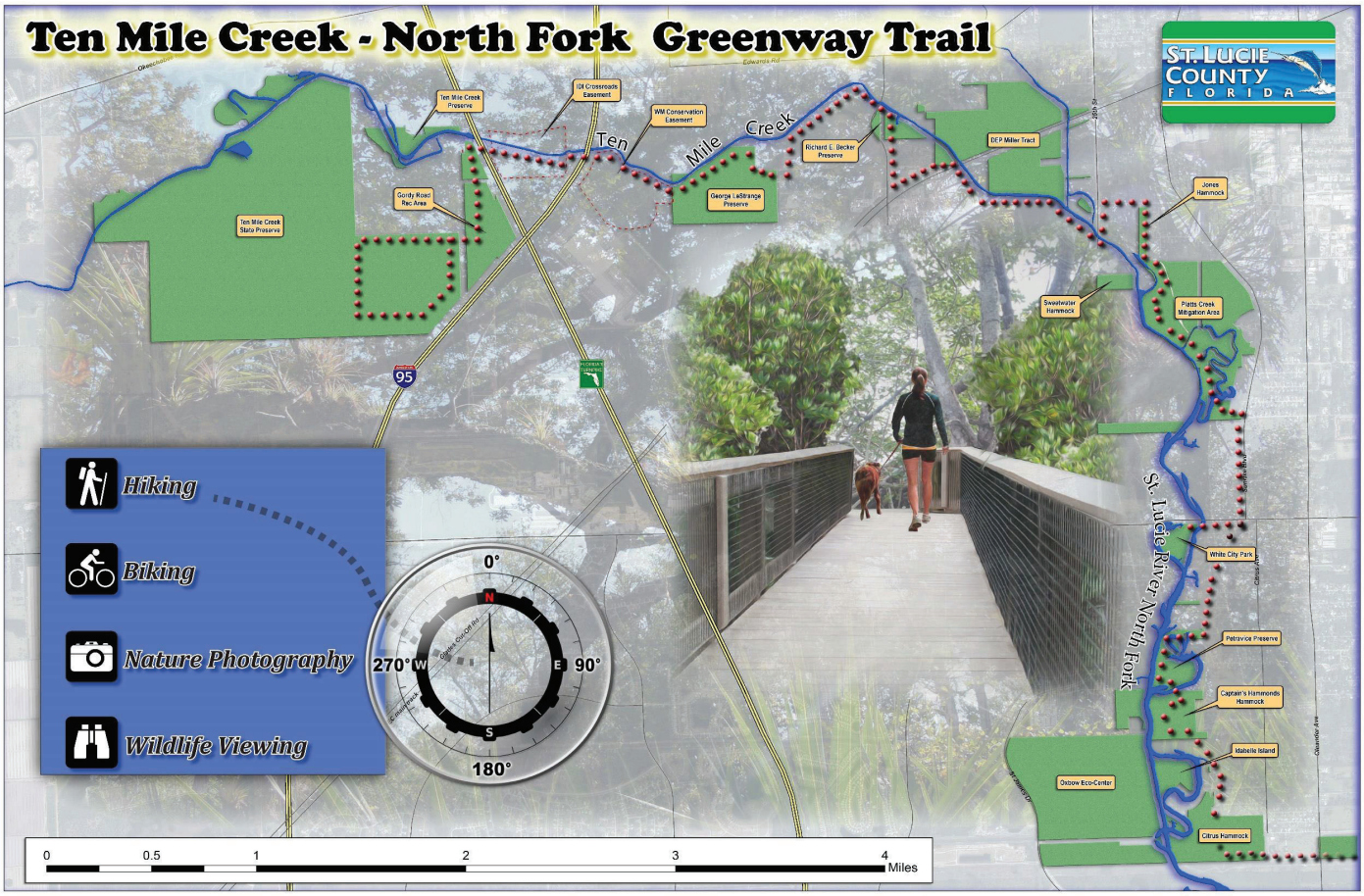
Strategic Plan

Objective:

4.1 Promote active and healthy lifestyle by enhancing regional connectivity, mobility, and access to community-based amenities


ST. LUCIE COUNTY FLORIDA
Greene Swamp
Avalon State Park
Indrio Savannahs
SLC Airport
Queen & Kings Islands
Ft. Pierce Inlet State Park
John Brooks
Ten Mile Creek
George LeStrange
Savannas Rec Area
Blind Creek
Adams/Eves
EOC
Oxbow Eco-Center
Savannas Preserve State Park
Pinelands Preserve
Steven J. Fousek (Paleo) Preserve
McCarty Ranch
Bluefield Ranch Preserve
Indian River Lagoon
Atlantic Ocean
St. Lucie River North Fork
0°
90°
180°
270°
N
E
S
W
St. Lucie County Public Lands
0 2 4 8 12 16
Miles

Platts Creek
White City Park
Petravice Preserve
Capt. Hammonds Hammock
Zorc Parcel
Idabelle Island
Oxbow Eco-Center


Ten Mile Creek - North Fork Greenway Trail
St. Lucie County Florida
Ten Mile Creek
Ten Mile Creek Preserve
IDI Crossroads Easement
WM Conservation Easement
Richard E. Becker Preserve
DEP Miller Tract
George LaStrange Preserve
Gordy Road Rec Area
Ten Mile Creek State Preserve
Jones Hammock
Sweetwater Hammock
Platts Creek Mitigation Area
St. Lucie River North Fork
White City Park
Patravice Preserve
Captain's Hammonds Hammock
Mabelle Island
Oxbow Eco-Center
Citrus Hammock
95
Hiking
Biking
Nature Photography
Wildlife Viewing
0°
90°
180°
270°
N
E
S
W
0
0.5
1
2
3
4
Miles

North Fork St. Lucie River Paddle Trail

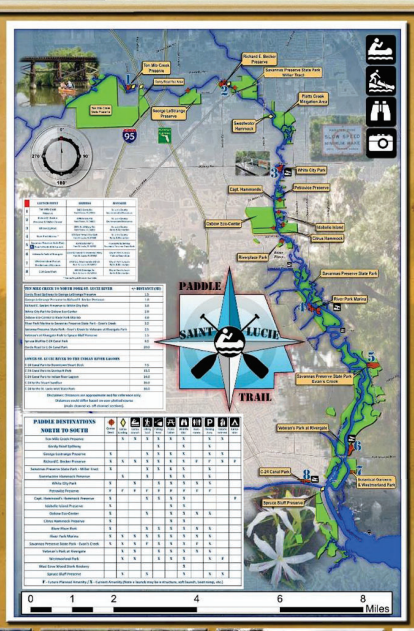
Partners:

Welcome to the North Fork Paddle Trail:

This location is one of several scenic places to launch your own paddle excursion on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. Whether you paddle the headwaters of the river at Ten Mile or Five Mile Creek(s) or the lower North Fork, both beginner and advanced paddlers can find a fun 'Old Florida' experience within reach of our backyard. Plot your course from any of the launch locations shown on the map and explore each section of the paddle trail between the listed launch points/destinations. Most of the off channel sections are posted as no-wake zones which provide paddlers a quiet backwater experience away from motorized boat traffic. These sections make up the remnants of the original river-course and provide a snapshot of what the river may have looked like before being dredged/channelized in the early 1900s. Today, much of the North Fork shoreline is buffered by public conservation lands, each purchased for environmental significance, making the paddle trail a perfect retreat to get away from it all. Many of these properties provide passive recreational opportunities that are only accessible by the water (please see table).

Enjoy:

Activities such as fishing, nature photography, wildlife viewing, and paddling (incl. paddle boarding, kayaking, and canoeing) are a fantastic way to see the river. Hiking and picnicking is also available at many of the launch points and destinations along the paddle trail. Many of these unique destinations provide amenities for paddlers, such as canoe landing areas, docks, kiosks, trailheads, and property signage. An ADA kayak launch is available at the Savannas Preserve State Park day use area at Evan's Creek. Future amenities are also planned and this information will be updated accordingly.

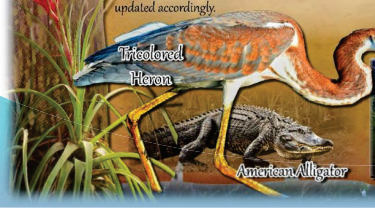


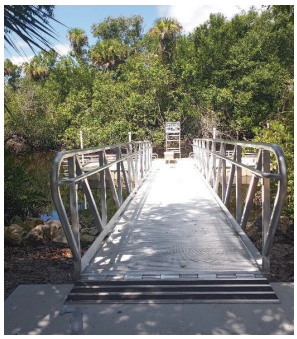
Know Before You Go - Paddle Tips:

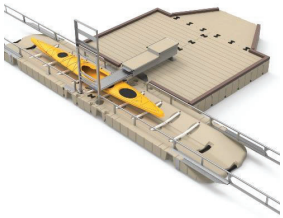
- Use at your own risk;
- Call ***911*** in the event of an emergency;
- Obey all navigational rules & regulations;
- Wear a Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD);
- A sound device is required - pack a whistle or air-horn;
- If moonlight paddling - white lights are required;
- Always yield to boaters;
- Paddle in groups or pairs;
- Note upcoming tides, water levels, & current flow/direction;
- Notify someone of your plans, include a time of expected return;
- Pack water, snacks, cell phones, GPS, compass, bug spray, & sunscreen;
- Be prepared for Florida weather, such as heat & sudden thunderstorms;
- Currents may be swift after heavy rains, during lunar tides, or if the spillway at Ten Mile Creek is being discharged.

Wildlife:

Always view wildlife at a safe distance. Commonly observed wildlife include: American alligator, East Indian manatee, bottlenose dolphin, river otter, feral hog, raccoon, armadillo, various fish (including snook & tarpon), turtles, native snakes, and birds. Common birds observed along the river are egrets, herons, woodstork, roseate spoonbill, American bald eagle, hawks, osprey, and resident/migratory songbirds. The federally endangered snail kite has also been observed near the river just north of Midway Road.

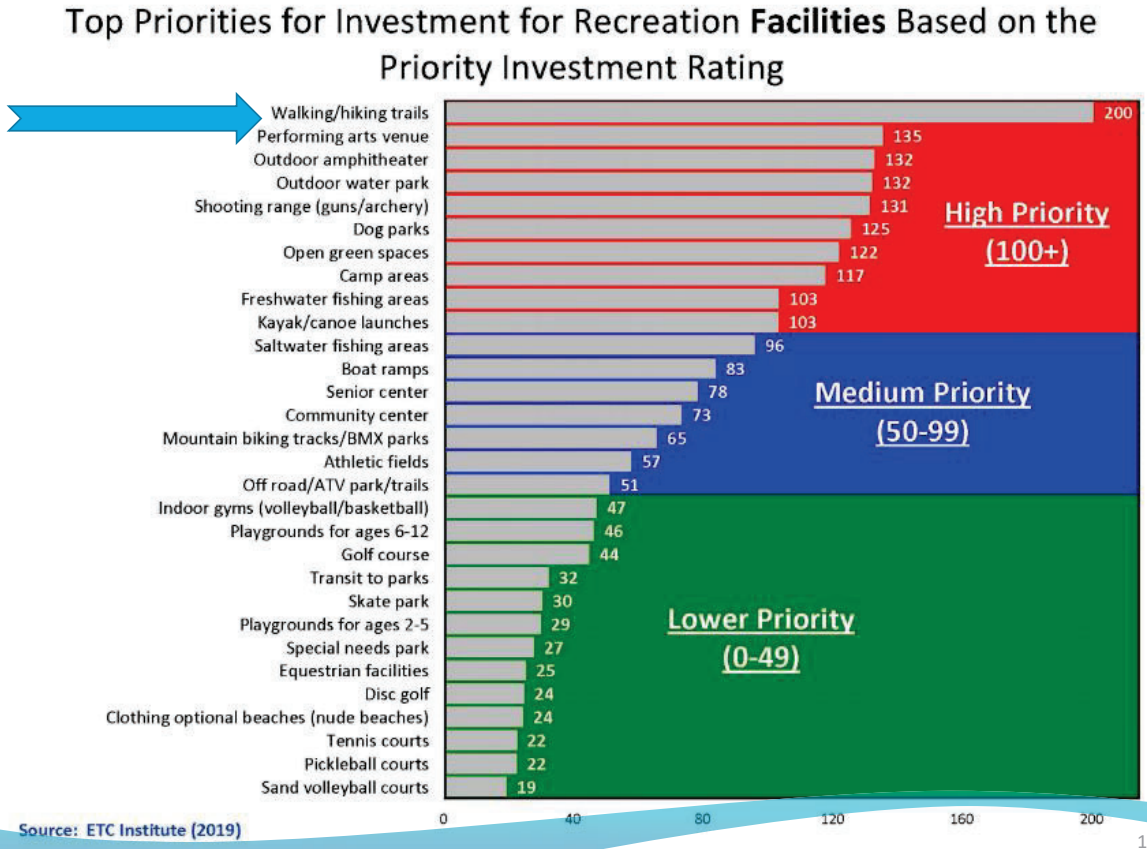






MIDWAY ROAD
BUCANHAN DRIVE
NSLWCD CANAL 22
EASY STREET

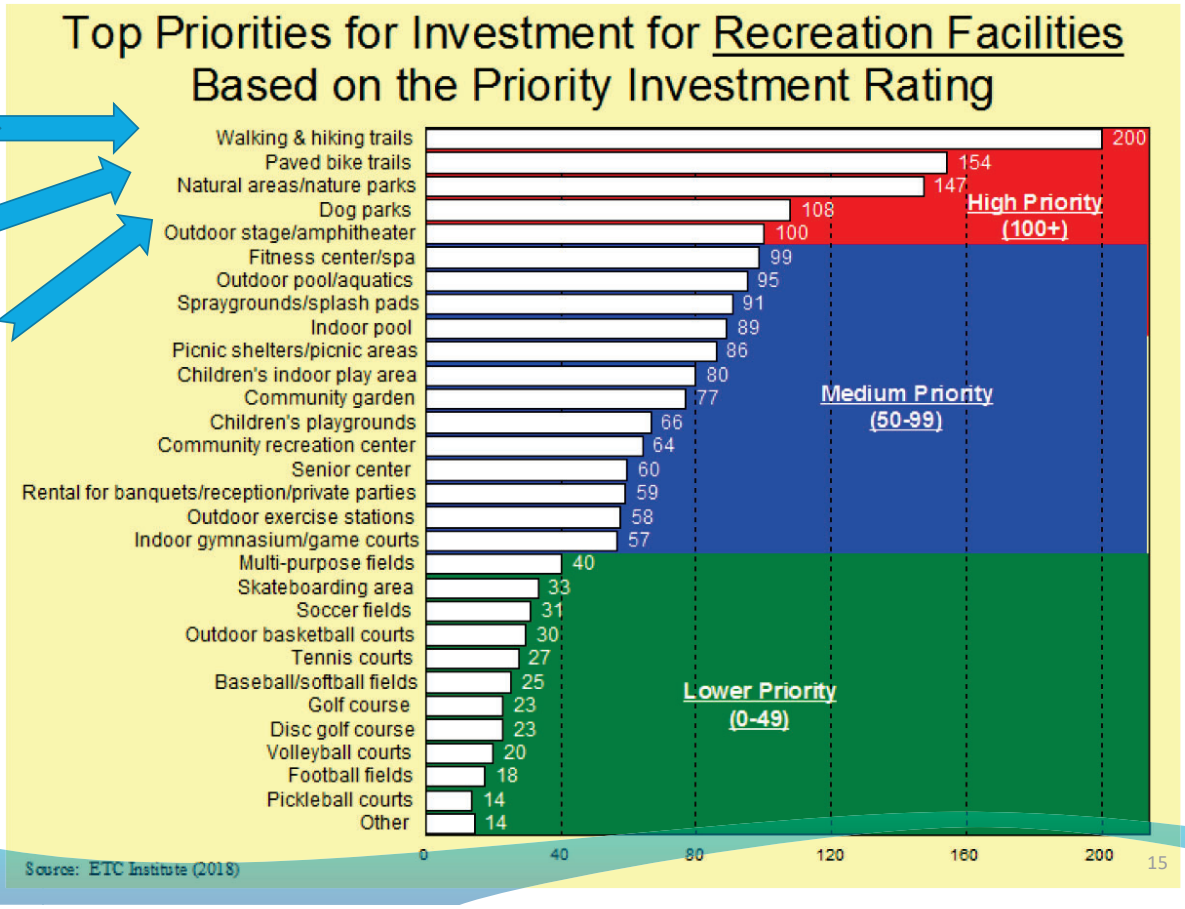
#1 WALKING TRAILS



#1 WALKING & HIKING TRAILS

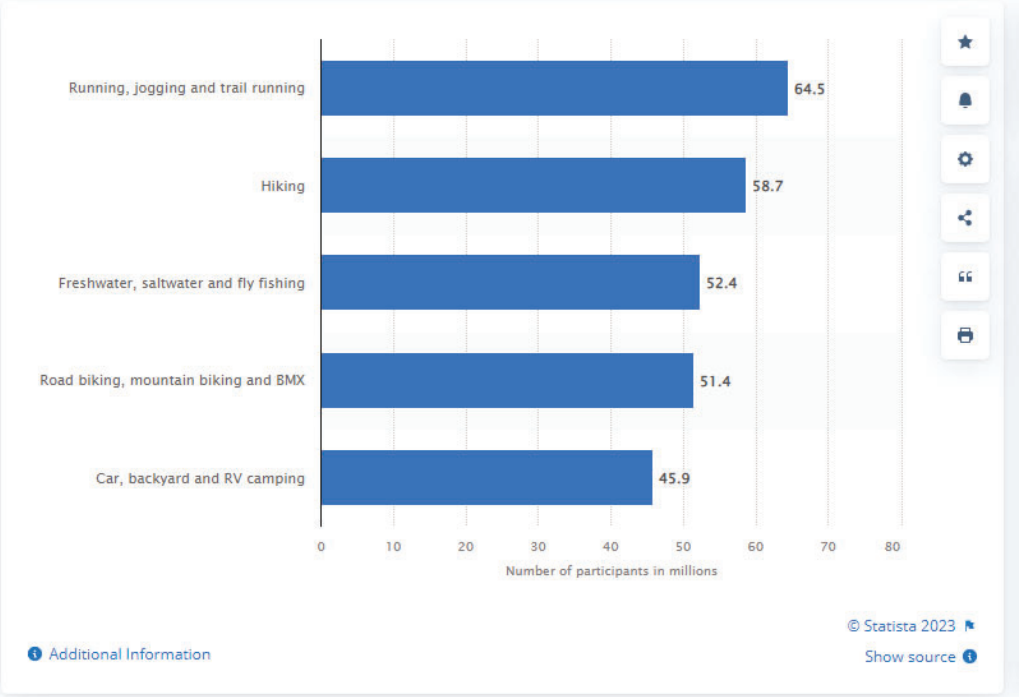
#2 PAVED BIKE TRAILS

#3 NATURAL AREAS & NATURE PARKS



Leading outdoor activities in the United States in 2021, by number of participants

(in millions)



Project Funding & History

- 2001 GWT Master Plan – 75 Miles in SLC
- 2015 FL Legislature created under 339.81,F.S.
- $25M/Year from New Vehicle Tag Revenues
- Shared Use Non-Motorized Trail
- FDOT SUN Trail Network Grant Funding
- Projects Fall within FDOT 5-year Work Plan(s)
- Projects Prioritized by ST. Lucie TPO
- (7) Local Projects Funded by FDOT
- >$30M in GWT Infrastructure Possible in SLC

EAST COAST GREENWAY TRAIL

- 3,000-mile Greenway Trail System
- 15 States, 450 Cities
- Maine to Key West
- 10-12’ Wide - Paved Trail Surface
- Alternative Transportation Benefits
- Appeals to Many Generations
- Brings Local Tourism
- Spurs Economic Development
- Provides Health Benefits

7 Local Projects

Goal:

18 Miles in St. Lucie County

- Savannas Preserve State Park
- Savanna Rec & Indian Hills Rec
- Indian Hills Recreation Area
- Indian Hills Golf Course
- Downtown Ft. Pierce
- Port Overpass Connector
- North A1A

East Coast Greenway

Target Trail

SUNTRAIL

Grant Funding Source

FDOT

Project Admin

St. Lucie County Florida

Environmental Resources Department

St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners

Lead Grant Applicant

Florida Park Service Environmental Protection

Fort Pierce, FL The Sunrise City

St. Lucie County Florida

City of Port St. Lucie Florida

Segment Partners

St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization

Establishes Local/Regional Priorities

Savannas Recreation Area Greenway

SHARED USE NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL FUNDING

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITIES TOGETHER WITH THE EAST COAST GREENWAY

SUN TRAIL PROJECTS IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY										
PROJECT NAME	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**FY 2026**
INDIAN RIVER LAGOON SCENIC HWY					$274,692					$1,110,479
PORT OVERPASS						$250,000				
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FT. PIERCE	$184,673	$2,412	$300,556		$1,956	$300,000				
HISTORIC HIGHWAYMAN TRAIL GAP	$71,093	$292	$100,000		$4,708		$762,176			
INDIAN HILLS REC AREA	$55,401		$524,127							
FEC OVERPASS	$102,203	$4,017				$450,000	$225,651	$64,750	$2,834,845	
SAVANNAS PRESERVE STATE PARK GAP	$119,001	$269,354	$989,258	$194,657	$5,993,855	$176,458	$9,466,204			
ANNUAL TOTAL	**$532,371**	**$276,075**	**$1,913,941**	**$194,657**	**$6,275,211**	**$1,176,458**	**$10,454,031**	**$64,750**	**$2,834,845**	**$1,110,479**

TOTAL: $24,832,818

Funding by District

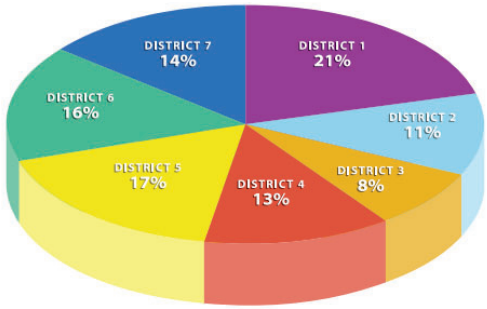
DISTRICT	COST	TOTAL %
1	$25,847,651	21%
2	$13,446,331	11%
3	$10,292,842	8%
4	$15,595,592	13%
5	$20,724,347	17%
6	$19,254,731	16%
7	$16,668,668	14%
Total	$121,830,162	100%

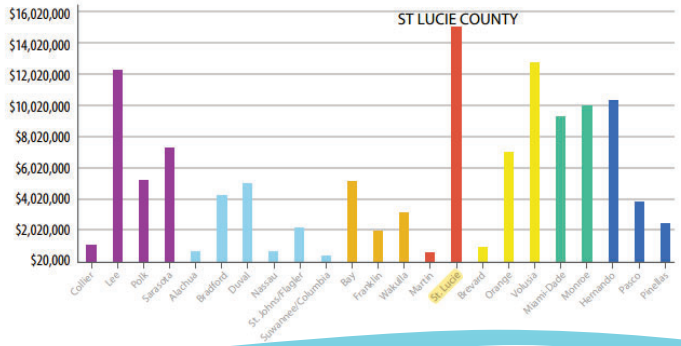
Funding by County

*Projects crossing county lines list the primary county first

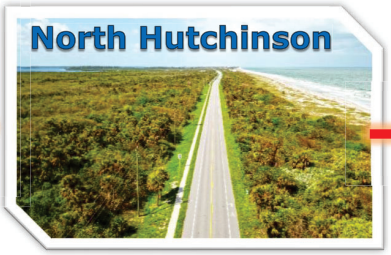
DISTRICT	COUNTY	COST	TOTAL %
1	Collier	$1,100,000	0.90%
	Lee	$12,175,398	9.99%
	Polk	$5,259,579	4.32%
	Sarasota	$7,312,674	6.00%
2	Alachua	$750,000	0.62%
	Bradford	$4,285,984	3.52%
	Duval	$5,073,371	4.16%
	Nassau	$686,976	0.56%
	St. Johns/Flagler	$2,200,000	1.81%
	Suwannee/Columbia	$450,000	0.37%
3	Bay	$5,121,829	4.20%
	Franklin	$2,000,000	1.64%
	Wakulla	$3,171,013	2.60%
4	Martin	$645,000	0.53%
	St. Lucie	$14,950,592	12.27%
5	Brevard	$1,000,000	0.82%
	Orange	$7,004,514	5.75%
	Volusia	$12,719,833	10.44%
6	Miami-Dade	$9,254,731	7.60%
	Monroe	$10,000,000	8.21%
7	Hernando	$10,316,845	8.47%
	Pasco	$3,877,366	3.18%
	Pinellas	$2,474,457	2.03%
Total		$121,830,162	100%

FDOT SUN Trail Adopted Work Program FY 21/22 to FY25/26 Funding by Florida Counties and FDOT Districts





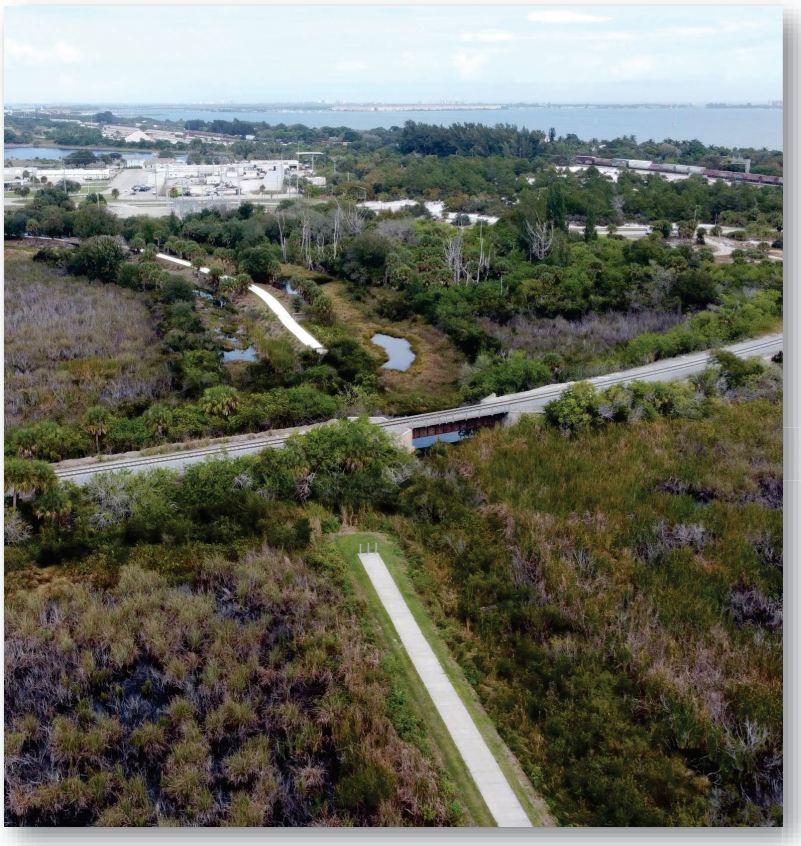
East Coast Greenway



East Coast Greenway

East Coast Greenway

State Park
Education Center
N
East Coast Greenway Extension
Walton Road
Green River Parkway
East Coast Greenway
Dead End



Savannas
Recreation Area
Greenway

Privacy Fence
Screening
Savannas
Recreation Area
Greenway

Landscape Screening
High Point 55+ Community

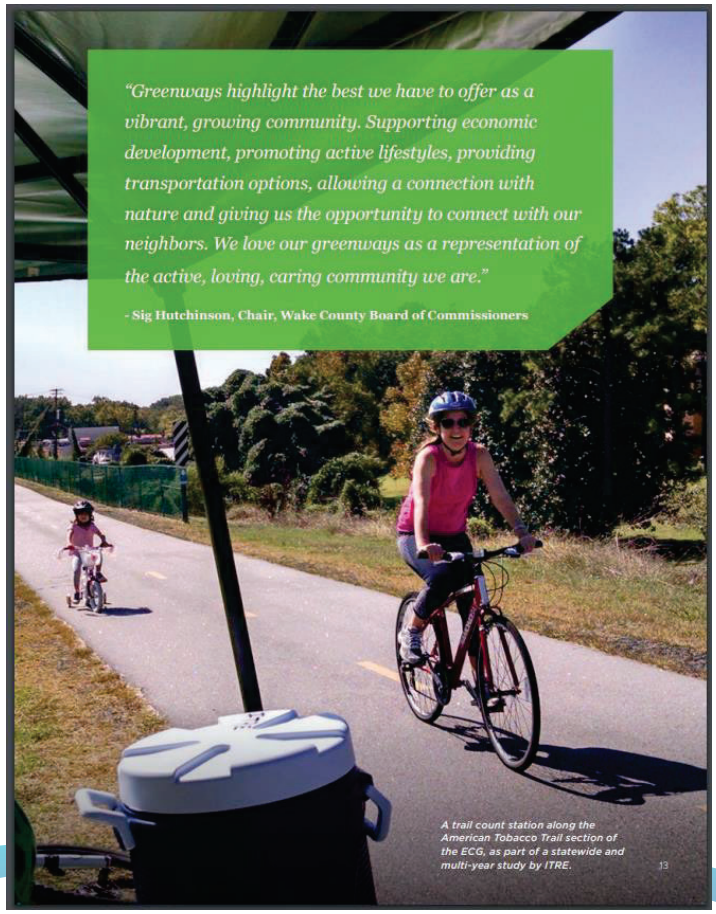
John Moran photo

Cyclists on the St. Johns River to Sea Loop in northern Florida

SUN Trail program means unprecedented state support

"Every $1 Spent on Greenways = $3 Savings in Medical Expenses"

(American Heart Association)



Economic development

Myrtle Beach Mayor John Rhodes and former planning director Jack Walker cut ribbon on trailhead

"Trails and greenways improve the overall health of an entire community. Our River Trail gives people a safe, accessible place to exercise, but it also connects businesses to a very active downtown, where we're excited to see an increase in new businesses developing along the way."

– DELPHA VERY, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PUTNAM, CT

Event Sampler

American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, ME

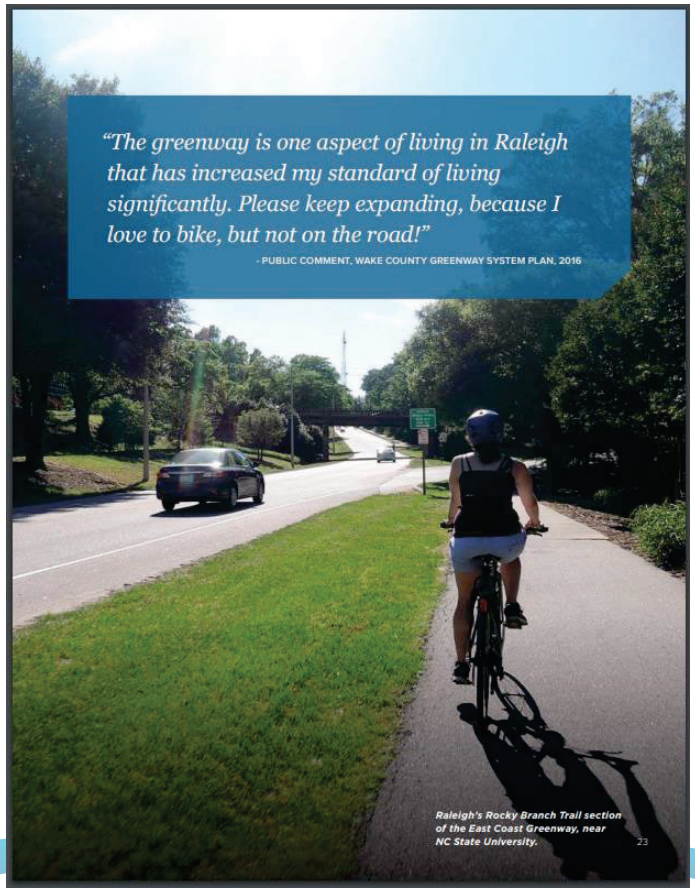
Welcome to NH with Gov. Sununu & other officials, Portsmouth, NH

City leaders' welcome breakfast, Putnam, CT

Trailhead ribbon cutting, Myrtle Beach, SC

Greenway sign dedication & reception, Titusville, FL

EMBRACING TRAILS: City leaders rolled out the red carpet for a Greenway dedication in Titusville, FL, during the Relay. Since the 1960s, NASA space-related industries and tourism were the city's economic lifeblood. As investment in the space program ebbs and flows, the city has reinvented itself and is fast earning its nickname, "Trail Town." Promoting the city as an active travel destination, Titusville leaders point to the East Coast Greenway as a key component of their impressive multi-use trail network.



"The greenway is one aspect of living in Raleigh that has increased my standard of living significantly. Please keep expanding, because I love to bike, but not on the road!"

- PUBLIC COMMENT, WAKE COUNTY GREENWAY SYSTEM PLAN, 2016

Raleigh's Rocky Branch Trail section of the East Coast Greenway, near NC State University.

Thank you to our PARTNERS!
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Greenways and Trails
Concepts to Implementation

ST. LUCIE COUNTY FLORIDA

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