

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of Greenways & Trails

Working to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails for recreation, conservation and alternative transportation purposes.



The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT), within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s Division of Recreation and Parks, provides leadership and coordination to establish and expand Florida's statewide greenways and trails system. To fulfill its mission under the Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Chapter 260, F. S), OGT does the following:

Implementing the Florida Greenways and Trails System

OGT coordinates and implements the Plan for the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) in partnership with communities, businesses, agencies, the Florida Greenways and Trails Council and many other stakeholders. OGT also maintains and updates the vision maps that are a companion to the FGTS Plan, and encompass multi-use trails, hiking trails, paddling trails and ecological greenways. OGT establishes the vision for the FGTS by identifying and coordinating greenways and trails planning efforts throughout Florida. OGT expands the statewide system through the acquisition of eligible projects under the Greenways and Trails portion of Florida Forever, and has partnerships with nearly 30 communities that develop and manage state acquired greenways and trails on behalf of OGT.

Supporting Communities and Projects

OGT coordinates with and provides technical assistance regarding the acquisition, development, designation and management of greenways and trails projects that fulfill the FGTS plan and vision. OGT also administers the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), a federally funded competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to local communities for the development of trails. Since inception, RTP has assisted communities in 42 Florida counties to establish and expand trails.

Serving the Public with Greenways and Trails Information

OGT disseminates information about the many benefits that greenways and trails provide to Florida residents and visitors. OGT provides information to residents and visitors about greenways and trails recreational opportunities through publications, e-newsletters, FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com and VisitFlorida.com/trails.

OGT's Functions and Responsibilities at a glance...

- Implement the Plan for the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS)
- Evaluate and prioritize greenways and trails corridors in the FGTS
- Provide statewide coordination of the FGTS through planning and community assistance
- Facilitate and provide support to state and regional greenways and trails projects
- Facilitate the FGTS through representation on various boards, committees and councils
- Serve as staff to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council
- Administer the Florida Greenways and Trails Designation Program
- Administer the Florida Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program
- Administer the federal Recreational Trails Program
- Publicize and promote greenways and trails and the FGTS

Why the Florida Greenways and Trails System?

Trails and greenways fuel our future by...

Attracting Tourists ***Improving Quality of Life***
Increasing Property Values ***Stimulating Business Development***
Providing Healthy Recreation ***Providing Alternative Transportation***

- Florida's state trails and the Cross Florida Greenway received over 4 million visitors in 2010, generating an estimated economic impact of \$95 million.
- The West Orange, Little Econ and Cady Way trails in Orange County supported 516 jobs and an estimated economic impact of \$42.6 million in 2010 (East Central Florida Regional Planning Council).
- In downtown Dunedin, private business occupancy rates increased from 30% to 95% following the establishment of the Pinellas Trail, which is described as an "economic engine" by Bob Ironsmith, the community's economic development director.
- Trails consistently remain the number one community amenity sought by prospective homeowners (National Association of Homebuilders, 2008).
- The repeated annual economic impact of cyclists has been estimated to be nine times the one-time cost to build bicycle facilities (North Carolina DOT, 2004).
- Business owners along the Great Allegheny Passage Trail in Pennsylvania and Maryland attribute 25% of revenues to their proximity to the Trail (Trail Town Economic Study, 2008).

