



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS MONTH

WHEREAS, greenways and trails conserve native landscapes and ecosystems, link natural areas with communities, and provide Florida residents and visitors of all ages and abilities with year-round opportunities for free health and fitness activities and a connection with the state's natural, historical and cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Greenways & Trails in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks is working with partners throughout Florida to establish a Statewide Greenways and Trails System for recreation, conservation and alternative transportation purposes and, in recognition of this vision and commitment, Florida received the inaugural award by American Trails as Best Trails State in America in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and eight state trails, managed by the Office of Greenways & Trails, hosts over 4 million visitors annually, generating an estimated economic impact of \$95 million and a recent survey and analysis conducted by the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, revealed that three trails in Orange County (Little Econ Greenway, West Orange, Cady Way) supported 516 jobs and had an estimated positive economic impact of \$42.6 million; and

WHEREAS, due to the high demand for trail information by visitors, VISIT FLORIDA has partnered with the Office of Greenways & Trails and other organizations to create four highly popular trail guides, and has developed a dedicated and full-featured trails website as a component of VISITFLORIDA.com; and

WHEREAS, Florida has formally designated over 900,000 acres of greenways and trails for recreation, conservation and alternative transportation routes, and Florida residents and visitors have access to over 8,000 miles of land-based trails and nearly 4,000 miles of water trails including the congressionally designated Florida National Scenic Trail and 32 National Recreation Trails; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail, the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail, and the longest segment of the East Coast Greenway, an ambitious national trail project extending from Calais, Maine to Key West.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2011 as *Florida Greenways and Trails Month* and encourage all citizens to enjoy and value the health benefits and the natural resources of Florida's greenways and trails for present as well as future generations.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 22nd day of September, in the year two thousand eleven.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written in a cursive style.

Governor