

Multi-Use Trail Network Opportunity Map: 2009 Public Ownership Analysis

A report by the
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Greenways & Trails
to the
Florida Greenways & Trails Council

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Office of Greenways & Trails
Jena Brooks, Director

Multi-Use Trail Network Opportunity Map: 2009 Public Ownership Analysis

Background

The Trail Network data represents the statewide vision for a connected system of trails and determines eligibility for funding to purchase land under the Florida's greenways and trails acquisition program.

The Trail Network data was originally developed as a companion to Florida's statewide greenways and trails plan in 1998. The original data consisted of five maps (multi-use, paddling, hiking, off-road biking and equestrian) which were developed primarily through a series of face-to-face Regional Greenways Task Force meetings. These maps were formally adopted when the Florida legislature approved the greenways and trails plan in 1999.

In 2003, given the rapid growth in local and regional planning of greenways and trails since the first maps were developed, the Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) felt it was important to update the data to reflect the tremendous progress being made throughout Florida in greenways and trails planning. An online system was developed for OGT by the University of Florida, GeoPlan Center (UF) to allow trail planners and trail user groups to submit updates to the trail data from their desktop computer. The online system was utilized to update the multi-use trail and paddling trail corridor maps. The hiking map was updated by conforming it to the planning corridor for the congressionally designated Florida National Scenic Trail. The prior equestrian and off-road biking maps were phased out since it was agreed that these uses were sufficiently covered under the multi-use map. This reduced the original five maps to three total maps.

Utilizing the same process as the 2003 updates, The Trail Network maps were revised in 2008. A total of 271 multi-use opportunity segments were identified and approved for the 2008 update, totaling 8087 miles of opportunity corridors. The Multi-Use Trail Network Opportunity Map represents the vision for a connected recreational trails system, but does not indicate if any or all of the corridors are currently an existing trail or part of a planned trail project.

Identification of Publicly Owned Corridors

Prior to this analysis, OGT and the Florida Greenways & Trails Council (FGTC) have discussed the need to evaluate progress toward establishing the Statewide Greenways and Trails System and to better target future acquisition priorities. In response, OGT implemented this study, following the 2008 update of the Opportunity Maps, to specifically analyze what has been accomplished under the Multi-Use Trail Network, the most extensive of the three trail network opportunity maps.

Process Overview:

OGT's Regional Coordinators conducted a qualitative review of corridors and identified,

based upon best available information, those that are known to be in *public ownership for an existing or planned trail*. This guideline did not require that publicly owned land had to be exclusively for a trail. For example, some segments are in public ownership within a larger project. In these, a proposed trail might be just one component of a broader managed conservation and recreation area. Nonetheless, it is the expectation that the corridor has an existing or planned trail by an agency or organization. The information sources utilized by the regional coordinators included a combination of:

- expert knowledge of individual corridors and trail projects;
- an evaluation of Existing Trails data from the OGT/UF GeoPlan Florida Trails Database (comprehensive database update was completed in April, 2009);
- reviews of related documents and plans; and
- personal communications with local contacts.

Based on the results from these information sources, OGT's GIS Staff collected the data for the identified corridors and combined them together in a newly created GIS layer that represents segments of the Multi-Use Trail Network that are known to be in public ownership for an existing or planned trail.

Result:

It is estimated that there are 135 total segments of Multi-Use Opportunity Corridor in public ownership for an existing or planned trail. Analysis of the data indicates that these segments represent an estimated 1,710 miles, which is approximately 21% of the 8,087 total miles within the 2008 Multi-Use Trail Network Opportunity Map.

Interpretation of Results:

The results of this analysis are intended to provide a progress report regarding current public ownership of corridors within the multi-use component of the statewide trails vision. As noted above, not all corridor segments identified through this project were put into public ownership specifically for a trail. However, most are believed to be acquired for the main purpose of providing a trail. The corridor segments identified as being in public ownership for an existing or planned trail have been acquired by various local, state and Federal government agencies, through a wide range of funding programs. As example, at the state level alone, land for trails has been acquired through Florida Forever, Preservation 2000, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, the State Infrastructure Trust Fund and other programs.

The results indicate that there has been significant progress toward the acquisition of land to provide for trails in the State of Florida. The first official state trail, from Tallahassee to St. Marks, was built in 1989 and the Statewide Greenways and Trails Implementation Plan was adopted by the Florida Legislature in 1999. The multi-use trails movement in Florida has been under way for more than 20 years, and the state's concerted efforts to establish a comprehensive trails and greenways system have been under way for more than a decade. Having more than 1,700 miles of corridor already in public ownership for trails should be

interpreted as significant progress. Further, at more than 8,000 miles, Florida's comprehensive vision for multi-use trails is likely the most ambitious in the nation. Having more than 20% of this expansive network in public ownership is itself a key measure of progress and the importance of multi-use trails within the State.

The Office of Greenways & Trails has increasingly pursued a proactive approach to soliciting acquisitions that help to complete projects or represent significant trail corridors. The results of this analysis will play an important role in the future to help OGT, as advised by the FGTC, to identify areas where acquisitions should be encouraged and pursued.

Future:

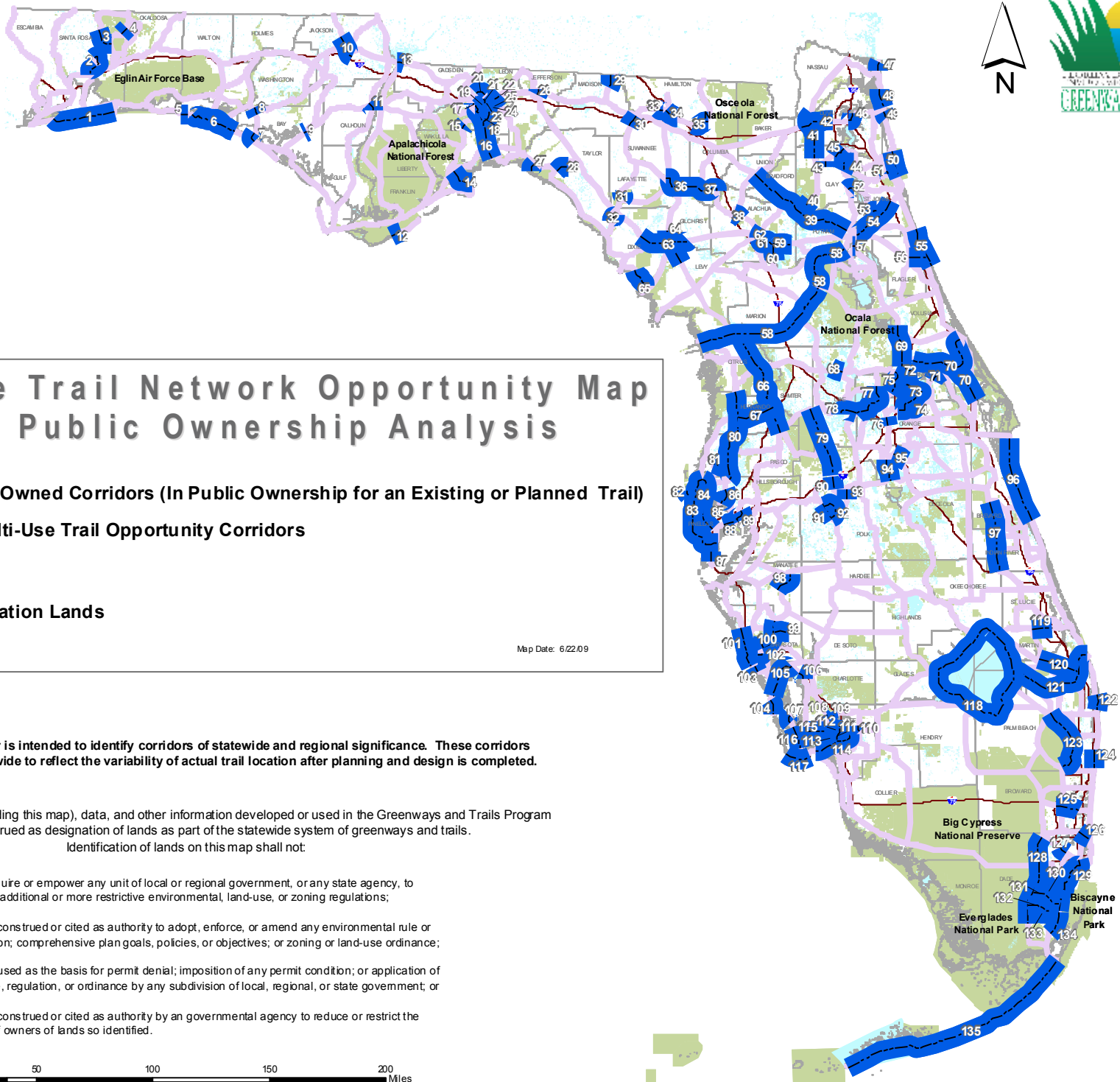
In order to continue to accurately assess the future progress being made towards the completion of the Multi-Use Trails Network, the identification of existing corridors will be updated every year and presented to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council.

Analysis for this project began in February, 2009 and was completed in June, 2009.

Project Staff

Jim Wood, Project Oversight
Heather Pence, Project Coordination
Dean Rogers, GIS
Marsha Connell, West Region
Matt Klein, East Region
Robin Turner, North Region

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Greenways & Trails
3900 Commonwealth Blvd
MS 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
(850) 245-2052
FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com



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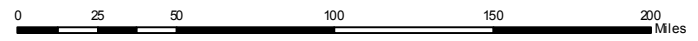
- Publicly Owned Corridors (In Public Ownership for an Existing or Planned Trail)
- 2008 Multi-Use Trail Opportunity Corridors
- Water
- Conservation Lands

Map Date: 6/22/09

Each Multi-Use Trail Corridor is intended to identify corridors of statewide and regional significance. These corridors are 4 KM (approx. 2.5 miles) wide to reflect the variability of actual trail location after planning and design is completed.

Planning materials, maps (including this map), data, and other information developed or used in the Greenways and Trails Program shall not be construed as designation of lands as part of the statewide system of greenways and trails. Identification of lands on this map shall not:

- (1) Require or empower any unit of local or regional government, or any state agency, to impose additional or more restrictive environmental, land-use, or zoning regulations;
- (2) Be construed or cited as authority to adopt, enforce, or amend any environmental rule or regulation; comprehensive plan goals, policies, or objectives; or zoning or land-use ordinance;
- (3) Be used as the basis for permit denial; imposition of any permit condition; or application of any rule, regulation, or ordinance by any subdivision of local, regional, or state government; or
- (4) Be construed or cited as authority by an governmental agency to reduce or restrict the rights of owners of lands so identified.



**Publicly Owned Corridors
July 2009**

| Segment ID | Name | Mileage |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Gulf Islands National Seashore Trail | 26 |
| 2 | Blackwater Heritage State Trail | 11 |
| 3 | Blackwater River State Forest Trail | 9 |
| 4 | Bear Lake Trail | 3 |
| 5 | Old Hwy 98 Trail | 3 |
| 6 | Timpochee Trail | 9 |
| 6 | Timpochee Trail | 20 |
| 7 | Hwy 79 - Gayle's Trail | 4 |
| 8 | Pine Log State Forest Trail | 4 |
| 9 | Harder's Park Trail | 1 |
| 10 | Chipola Greenway | 10 |
| 11 | Blountstown Greenway | 3 |
| 12 | St. George Island Trail | 4 |
| 13 | Chatahoochee Nature Preserve | 3 |
| 14 | Ochlockonee Bay Trail - Mashers Sands | 10 |
| 15 | GFA Trail | 3 |
| 16 | Tallahassee - St Marks Trail | 24 |
| 17 | Chapel Hill Trail | 1 |
| 18 | Woodville to Old St. Augustine | 6 |
| 19 | Cascade Trail | 2 |
| 20 | Phipps - Maclay | 4 |
| 21 | Goose Pond Trail | 2 |
| 22 | Miccosukee Greenway | 6 |
| 23 | Tom Brown Park Trail | 1 |
| 24 | Lake Lafayette Trail | 3 |
| 25 | Alford Arm Greenway | 2 |
| 26 | Ike Anderson Bike Trail | 3 |
| 27 | Econfina River State Park Trail | 4 |
| 28 | Spring Creek Greenway | 6 |
| 29 | Four Freedoms Trail | 6 |
| 30 | Twin Rivers Trail | 5 |
| 31 | RO Ranch Trail | 2 |
| 32 | Steinhatchee Trail | 2 |
| 33 | Allardt Trail | 2 |
| 34 | Fox Trail | 5 |
| 35 | Little Woodpecker Shoals | 7 |
| 36 | Suwannee River Greenway | 19 |
| 37 | Oleno to Lake Trail | 7 |
| 38 | San Felasco Hammock Trail | 4 |
| 39 | Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail | 48 |
| 40 | SR 21 Trail to Goldhead State Park | 6 |
| 41 | Callahan - Baldwin to Keystone Heights | 21 |
| 42 | Jacksonville to Baldwin RailTrail | 14 |
| 43 | Blackcreek Ravine Trail | 2 |
| 44 | Hwy 17 Blackcreek Trail | 8 |
| 45 | Doctors Lake Trail | 5 |

**Publicly Owned Corridors
July 2009**

| Segment ID | Name | Mileage |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| 46 | S-Line Trail | 4 |
| 47 | Egan's Creek Trail | 4 |
| 48 | Timucuan Trail | 8 |
| 49 | Hanna Park | 2 |
| 50 | Guana River Trail | 11 |
| 51 | Twenty Mile Swamp Trails | 2 |
| 52 | Bayard Conservation Area Trails | 2 |
| 53 | Deep Creek Conservation Area Trails | 2 |
| 54 | SR 207 Trail | 20 |
| 55 | Florida A1A Trail | 18 |
| 56 | Lehigh Greenway | 7 |
| 57 | Murphy Creek Conservation Area Trails | 1 |
| 58 | Cross Florida Greenway | 22 |
| 58 | Cross Florida Greenway | 60 |
| 58 | Cross Florida Greenway | 6 |
| 59 | Gainesville - Hawthorne State Trail | 10 |
| 60 | Lochloosa Wildlife Conservation Trails | 7 |
| 61 | Gainesville Downtown Connector | 6 |
| 62 | Gainesville - Waldo Road | 4 |
| 63 | Nature Coast State Trail | 10 |
| 63 | Nature Coast State Trail | 21 |
| 64 | Hart Springs Extension | 5 |
| 65 | Dixie Mainline Trail | 8 |
| 66 | Withlacoochee State Trail | 47 |
| 67 | Good Neighbor Trail | 16 |
| 68 | Tav-Lee Trail | 5 |
| 69 | Spring to Spring Trail | 18 |
| 70 | East Central Regional Rail Trail | 17 |
| 70 | East Central Regional Rail Trail | 34 |
| 71 | Flagler Trail | 5 |
| 72 | Riverwalk Trail | 6 |
| 73 | Cross Seminole Trail | 27 |
| 74 | Little Econ Greenway | 4 |
| 75 | Seminole Wekiva Trail | 11 |
| 76 | Shingle Creek Trail | 3 |
| 77 | West Orange Trail | 18 |
| 78 | South Lake Trail - Lake Minneola Trail | 8 |
| 79 | Van Fleet State Trail | 30 |
| 80 | Suncoast Trail | 39 |
| 81 | Starkey Wilderness Trail | 6 |
| 82 | Honeymoon Island Trail | 2 |
| 83 | Pinellas Trail | 38 |
| 84 | Progress Energy Trail | 24 |
| 85 | Bay Shore Trail | 6 |
| 86 | Upper Tampa Bay Trail | 7 |
| 87 | Skyway Trail | 4 |

**Publicly Owned Corridors
July 2009**

| Segment ID | Name | Mileage |
|-------------------|--|----------------|
| 88 | Friendship Trail | 4 |
| 89 | Bay Shore Blvd | 6 |
| 90 | TECO Auburndale Trail | 6 |
| 91 | Fort Fraser Trail | 8 |
| 92 | Lake Hancock Trail | 10 |
| 93 | Chain of Lakes Trail | 4 |
| 94 | Pleasant Hill Recreational Pathway | 9 |
| 95 | Bill Johnston Memorial Pathway | 6 |
| 96 | SR A1A Trail | 37 |
| 97 | Blue Cypress Conservation Area Trails | 30 |
| 98 | Duette Park Trails | 9 |
| 99 | Myakka Trails | 6 |
| 100 | Myakka Trails | 14 |
| 100 | Carlton Ranch Trails | 4 |
| 101 | Legacy Trail | 17 |
| 102 | Jelks Preserve Trails | 3 |
| 103 | Englewood Trail | 3 |
| 104 | Boca Grande & Gasparilla Island Trail | 7 |
| 105 | Cape Haze Pioneer Trail | 17 |
| 106 | Kings Highway Trail | 3 |
| 107 | String Fellow Trail | 3 |
| 108 | Tamiami Trail | 2 |
| 109 | Riverwood Trail | 3 |
| 110 | Sunshine Trail | 2 |
| 111 | Ortiz Six Mile Trail | 6 |
| 112 | Colonial Trail | 4 |
| 113 | Summerlin to Colonial | 9 |
| 114 | Summerlin to Daniels Buckingham | 18 |
| 115 | Veterans Trail | 10 |
| 116 | String Fellow Trail | 9 |
| 117 | Sanibel Captiva Trail | 11 |
| 118 | Lake Okeechobee State Trail | 106 |
| 119 | Jenkins Trail | 9 |
| 120 | Historic Jupiter-Indian Town | 17 |
| 121 | Ocean to Lake Trail | 43 |
| 122 | Lake Trail | 7 |
| 123 | Loxahatchee NWR | 29 |
| 124 | Ocean Blvd A1A Path | 8 |
| 125 | New River Greenway | 10 |
| 126 | Snake Creek Trail | 5 |
| 127 | Miami River Greenway | 3 |
| 128 | Everglades Trail (C-111 Canal) | 39 |
| 129 | M-Path Trail & South Dade Boundary Trail | 25 |
| 130 | Black Creek | 13 |
| 131 | Princeton Trail (C-102 Canal) | 13 |
| 132 | Mowry Trail (C-103 Canal) | 10 |

Publicly Owned Corridors
July 2009

| Segment ID | Name | Mileage |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 133 | Biscayne to Everglades Trail | 15 |
| 134 | Biscayne Trail | 10 |
| 135 | Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail | 103 |