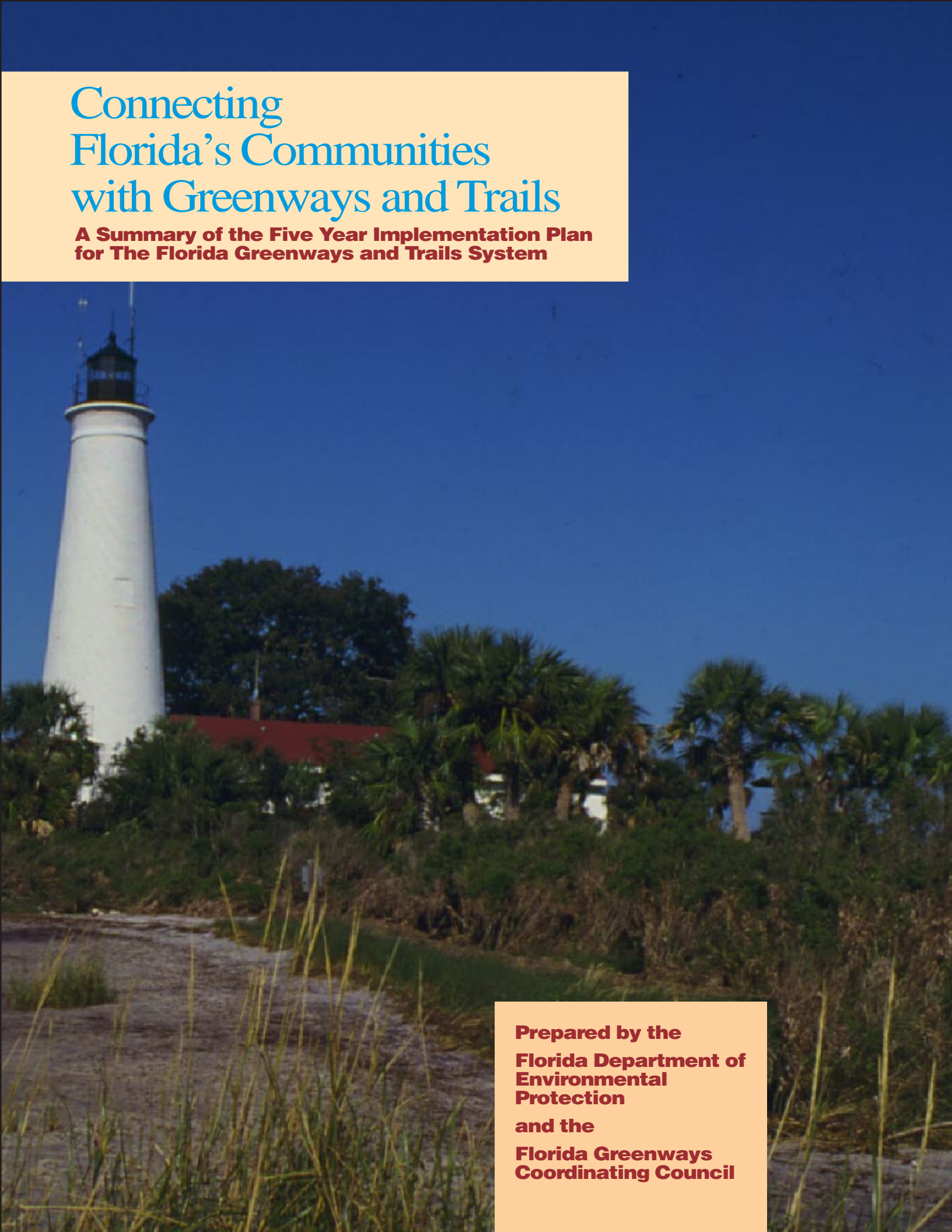


# Connecting Florida's Communities with Greenways and Trails

**A Summary of the Five Year Implementation Plan  
for The Florida Greenways and Trails System**



**Prepared by the  
Florida Department of  
Environmental  
Protection  
and the  
Florida Greenways  
Coordinating Council**

# Florida's Vision of Greenways and Trails



“Imagine walking out your front door, getting on a bicycle . . . or simply donning your backpack, and, within minutes of your home, setting off along a continuous network of recreation corridors . . .”

President's Commission on Americans Outdoors



The Florida we cherish is a place of meandering trails through deep pine forests, shell-strewn beaches and fragrant citrus groves. Its portrait is painted in greens and blues, with dark lazy rivers, crystal clear springs and broad green wetlands. In urban areas, parks offer peaceful respite from the hustle and bustle of city life. In the suburbs, green spaces beckon, inviting us in to walk, ride or paddle. Canopy roads offer a glimpse into the past, carrying us past tobacco barns and small country stores, restored Spanish settlements and native communities inhabited for hundreds of years.

So much of Florida is young and bold and energetic. This energy has carried us forward in great strides, giving us a strong economy, a burgeoning population, and innovative programs unequalled anywhere in the country.

But as we embrace this new Florida — its striving, its energy, its creativity — we must not lose the other Florida. The state of quiet green places that renew the spirit and restore our energy. The places that offer sanctuary to panthers and manatees, black bears, scrub jays and limpkins. We must not lose Florida's cherished landscapes such as the citrus groves of central Florida, Marion County's horse farms, south Florida's ranch lands, and north Florida's pine plantations. The environmental benefits of these privately owned lands are often overlooked.

We share the belief of the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors that every Floridian should be able to leave his or her house and, within minutes, be traveling along a natural corridor that connects to a park, conservation area or city center.

We believe these corridors — these greenways and trails — offer Florida a comprehensive way of looking at conservation and recreation, a way that recognizes the importance of each and the interconnectedness of both. The recommendations contained in this document — and the report that it summarizes — will move us toward our vision of Florida.

## **The goal: A statewide system of greenways and trails**

The Florida Greenways and Trails System has its roots in the Florida Recreational Trails System, the Florida Canoe Trail System, and the public parks, forests, refuges, wildlife management areas and water management areas created to protect Florida's natural heritage.

Created by the Legislature in 1979, the recreational trails system provides people with access to and enjoyment of outdoor recreation areas, and provides an essential framework for the recreational elements of today's greenways and trails system.

The vision of a system of greenways crisscrossing the state, connecting communities and conservation areas, began taking root in Florida nearly a decade ago. What began as a project undertaken by 1000 Friends of Florida and The Conservation Fund in 1991 quickly became a statewide initiative with the creation by Governor Chiles in 1993 of the Florida Greenways Commission. That public-private group made a bold recommendation: Florida should create a statewide system of greenways, a system that would link natural areas and open spaces, conserving native landscapes and ecosystems and offering recreational opportunities across the state. This "green infrastructure" would connect residents and visitors to the state's natural and cultural heritage, enhance their sense of place, and enrich their quality of life.

The Governor and Legislature agreed, and in 1995 appointed the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council to continue the commission's work and directed the Department of Environmental Protection to take the lead in the state's greenways efforts. Working together, these two groups have spent the past four years identifying existing and potential pieces of the statewide system and developing specific strategies for making it a reality. They also brought in the Florida Recreational Trails Council to review the proposed network of trails that could become part of a statewide system of greenways and trails.

## Defining greenways and trails.

The word greenway brings to mind two images: green suggests forest and wetlands, fish and wildlife, river floodplains and linear open spaces that generally are more natural than adjacent lands; way implies a route or path. Put the two together and it's easy to see why greenways come in so many different forms — forest corridors, waterways, working landscapes, recreational trails, urban pathways — ranging from pristine natural areas to landscapes transformed by human habitation.

“Greenway” is defined in the Florida Statutes as a linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or ridgeline, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road, or other route; any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage; an open space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and populated areas; or a local strip or linear park designated as a parkway or greenbelt.

Within the landscape, greenways serve at least three major functions: they protect and/or enhance remaining natural, cultural and historic resources; they provide linear open space for compatible human use; and they maintain connectivity between conservation lands, communities, parks, other recreational facilities, and cultural and historic sites. These connections are critical to the health, well-being and aesthetic values of human communities, and vital to native ecosystems and landscapes.

“Trails” are defined as linear corridors and their adjacent land or water that provide public access for recreation or authorized alternative modes of transportation.

Greenways can expand recreational opportunities when trails are located within them. Cultural sites also enhance the quality of the recreational experience for trail users. Compatible recreational opportunities should be actively promoted to encourage maximum usage throughout the system with due consideration for environmental and archaeological sensitivity.

## The benefits of greenways and trails

The great appeal of greenways and trails lies in the concept of connectivity. Greenways and trails multiply the benefits of conservation areas, parks and open spaces by linking them together.

They can conserve native ecosystems and landscapes by providing connections that can sustain biodiversity in plant and animal communities. Along waterways they provide natural buffers between water and development.

Greenways and trails often serve as walking and bicycling routes to work, school, local businesses and restaurants, parks and recreation sites. They can be used to conserve historic and cultural resources such as archaeological and historic sites. They provide places for visitors and residents to exercise and experience the many natural and cultural wonders of the state, and sometimes provide outdoor classrooms where both children and adults can learn about native plants and animals, Florida's ecosystems and ecological processes.

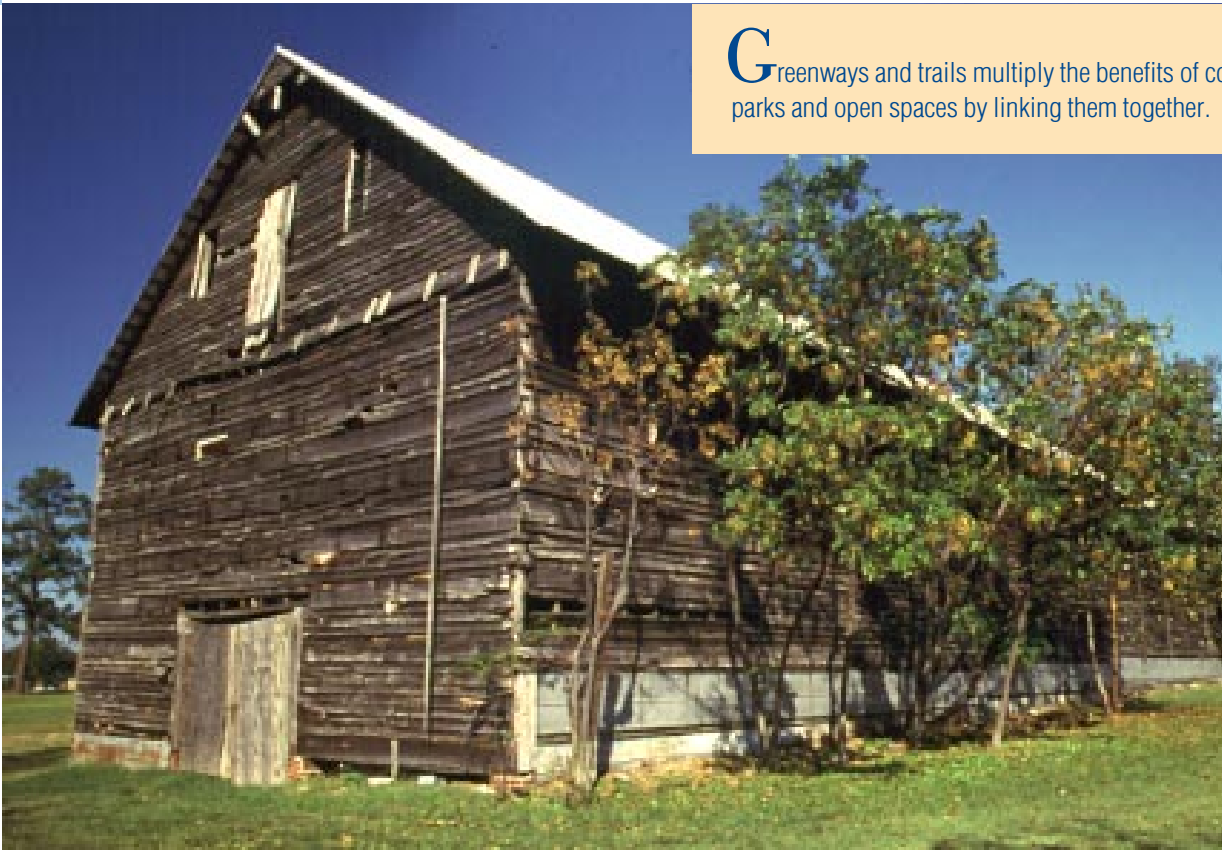
Greenways and trails in rural areas can be used to showcase working landscapes such as farms, groves and forests. Along scenic roadways, they provide travelers with a glimpse into Florida's historic past.

## Read more about it

This report summarizes the information contained in *Connecting Florida's Communities with Greenways and Trails: A Five Year Implementation Plan for the Florida Greenways and Trails System* which was adopted by the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council in September, 1998. For a copy of the full report, please contact:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection,  
Office of Greenways and Trails at:  
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 795  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400  
(850) 488-3701  
(850) 922-6302(Fax)  
[www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt)

Greenways and trails multiply the benefits of conservation areas, parks and open spaces by linking them together.



## Recommendations

Successful greenways and trails commonly share two key features – an outstanding natural, recreational or cultural feature and a leader or leaders with a vision. These recommendations and their accompanying strategies for developing the Florida Greenways and Trails System focus on supporting the public and private leadership needed to conserve the system’s natural, recreational and cultural components. The full document also includes action steps for each strategy.

**Recommendation One: Focus resources toward the most significant components of the Florida Greenways and Trails System.**

How will we determine which greenways and trails should be included in the statewide system? Which areas are most worthy of protection? Prioritizing potential greenways and trails will

help guide the selection of projects, the awarding of incentives, and the allocation of agency resources.

**Strategy 1:** Prioritize the ecological and recreational/cultural features found in the statewide vision. There are large areas that could be included within a statewide system of greenways and trails. A process is needed to identify areas of ecological priority and recreational significance.

**Strategy 2:** Identify the most critical linkages in the statewide system of greenways and trails. After looking at broad priorities, a more specific analysis will be made to determine which pieces need to be brought into the statewide system most quickly. Because the system will include only lands whose owners have agreed to participate, private lands will not be identified as critical links if the landowners have asked to have their lands removed from the maps.

**W**e must not lose Florida's cherished landscapes such as the citrus groves of central Florida, Marion County's horse farms, south Florida's ranch lands, and north Florida's pine plantations.



Strategy 3: Evaluate specific greenways and trails proposals received by the Department of Environmental Protection for allocation of greenways and trails project funding. A process must be developed to prioritize specific proposals for funding.

**Recommendation Two: Adopt a process to designate lands and waterways as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System.**

Florida is a national leader in conservation land acquisition, and many of the lands and waters that will be included in the Statewide Greenways and Trails System have already been protected through innovative land acquisition programs. In

fact, some land and water trails have already been designated under a process managed by DEP and the Florida Recreational Trails Council. Additional state-owned conservation areas could easily be officially designated as part of the statewide system first, followed by regional and local areas identified through public outreach.

Strategy 1: DEP should adopt a new process for designating lands and waterways into the Florida System of Greenways and Trails. Designation is intended to include all greenways and trails, and it is anticipated that both public and private lands will be designated as components of the statewide system. The designation process proposed below is



voluntary on the part of private landowners and designed to be sensitive to the needs of private and public land managers.

Strategy 1A: Develop a streamlined designation process for public conservation lands and waterways. In addition to those trails already designated, the initial elements for the Florida Greenways and Trails System would be recognized through a streamlined designation process that does not require designation applications. This process will be used for the public conservation lands and waterways included in the maps in this document.

Strategy 1B: Develop a four-step designation process for other lands and waterways. This process is proposed for all private lands and for public conservation lands and waterways not included on the maps in this document:

1. Submission of an application by the project sponsor.
2. Evaluation by DEP, followed by negotiation of a designation agreement.
3. Review by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council (see Recommendation Six).
4. Approval by the Secretary of DEP.

Strategy 2: DEP should develop a process for monitoring designated components of the system of greenways and trails. Once an area is included in the system, it will be monitored to ensure that its natural, recreational, cultural and/or historic resources are maintained.

**Recommendation Three: Stimulate awareness, involvement and action in public and private groups that can help create and manage community greenways and trails, and components of the statewide system.**

Strong citizen support is the hallmark of most successful greenways and trails, especially those with public access. At the heart of nearly all successful projects is a dedicated volunteer or small group of volunteers who emerge to become primary torch bearers. These core groups should be integrally involved in developing and building consensus on the objectives, including planning, design, fund-

ing, conservation, management, and promotion.

Strategy 1: Gain landowner support for and participation in the creation of the Florida Greenways and Trails System by encouraging voluntary participation, including sale or donation of conservation easements or fee simple title to land that can be included in the statewide system. Landowners are important partners in this effort. They need to be assured that participation is voluntary, and that not all greenways must be accessible to the public. They also need to be made aware of the incentives for participation.

Strategy 2: Generate support for and involvement in the creation of greenways and trails in local communities. This can be done through the many local groups already active in areas such as hiking, walking, running, bird-watching, horseback riding, paddling, bicycling, fishing, youth, conservation and the environment, and historic and archaeological issues.

Strategy 3: Generate support and sponsorship by local and national businesses of specific public awareness projects and special events to both promote greenways and trails in their community and on their properties, and to educate the general public about the benefits of greenways and trails. National corporations and local businesses whose products and services appeal to greenways and trails users are excellent sources of support for projects, as are utility companies, agricultural interests, and outfitting and ecotour businesses.

Strategy 4: Work with owners of linear facilities — such as abandoned railroad beds, pipeline and drainage corridors, canals and utility rights of way — to encourage their participation in the greenways and trails system. Florida is crossed by thousands of miles of linear facilities containing pipelines, water and sewer lines, fiber optic lines, electric transmission lines, drainage canals and levees, roads and railroads. Partnerships should be developed to take advantage of those circumstances where gaps in the statewide system can be bridged by using existing or proposed rights-of-way.

Strategy 5: Encourage developers to include greenways and bicycle, equestrian and pedestrian trails within large developments and to link internal trail systems with the larger state greenways and trails system. Developers need to know there are economic advantages to having greenways and trails in residential areas.

Strategy 6: Encourage government agencies at all levels to include greenways and trails in their planning processes. Encourage governmental entities to make land available for greenways and trails. Local, regional, state and federal agencies that own or manage property should be included in the outreach program.

Strategy 7: Expand the greenways and trails system by using existing greenways and trails as models for developing new components. Existing greenways and trails projects can serve as excellent models for new ones, and existing partners can provide valuable information to those just beginning their projects.

**Recommendation Four: Provide additional resources for local, regional, state and federal agencies and private landowners to acquire, protect and develop lands for greenways and trails.**

Funding from local governments, special districts and the private sector as well as local citizens' direct and in-kind contributions are essential for securing the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

On the state level, the Preservation 2000 Program has provided most of the funding for state and local conservation and recreation lands, many of which will be included in the statewide system. Unfortunately, the Preservation 2000 program is coming to an end. In November 1998 citizens approved a proposal that will allow the Legislature to authorize a new bond program for conservation and recreation lands, and a post-Preservation 2000 acquisition program is already in the works.

Strategy 1: There should be a program to succeed Preservation 2000 which includes the concept

**M**any volunteer support organizations are involved in creating and maintaining parts of the statewide greenways and trails system by providing in-kind services and innumerable volunteer hours.

of greenways and trails. While funding must come from a variety sources, the state should play a lead role in funding large statewide projects as well as some local initiatives.

Strategy 2: Communities should pursue a combination of funding sources and other tools at the federal, state, regional and local level to support greenways and trails initiatives. To stimulate greenways and trails activity at the local level, communities must make the best use of available funding and develop innovative direct and in-kind funding mechanisms.

Strategy 3: The state should provide incentives for private landowners to participate in the statewide greenways and trails system and protect their lands from conversion to other uses. The future of Florida's natural resources and the establishment of a statewide greenways and trails system depend largely on private landowners' willingness and ability to keep their lands under some form of conservation. To gain the voluntary cooperation of private landowners, it will be essential to encourage their participation in the greenways and trails system through a variety of incentives.

**Recommendation Five: Provide additional resources to local, regional, state and federal agencies and private landowners to manage and maintain their greenways and trails.**

The key to helping partners conserve the statewide greenways and trails system is to identify and use the proper tools to protect particular resources. Assistance programs should focus on the resources to be protected, the project's objectives, and the landowner's stewardship objectives. Matching the proper assistance





program to a particular situation is critical to successfully conserving greenways and trails. Because of the complexity of these programs, it is often necessary to combine resources from several sources to develop a comprehensive conservation package.

A number of government agencies and private organizations offer assistance to help manage and maintain greenways and trails, including DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails. Many volunteer support organizations also are directly involved in creating and maintaining

parts of the statewide greenways and trails system by providing in-kind services and innumerable volunteer hours. The system will continue to benefit from the work of organizations such as the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the Florida Trail Association, the Florida Canoe and Kayak Association, the Florida Off-Road Bicycling Association, and the Sunshine State Horse Council. Agencies such as the Florida Park Service and the USDA Forest Service can assist, as can programs such as the national Recreational Trails Program, the American Greenways Awards Program, and the Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program. Land managers should be encouraged to share management responsibilities with volunteer groups to help encourage a sense of ownership and long-term commitment to greenways and trails management.

While funding from government agencies is important, creating greenways and trails involves much more than passing referenda or issuing bonds to purchase land and make capital improvements. There must be funding to provide ongoing operation and maintenance of greenways and trails, to stimulate grassroots and community efforts to develop and manage greenways and trails, to stimulate user group initiatives and public/private partnerships, and to leverage other funds or in-kind contributions.

Strategy 1: The Legislature should make management and maintenance funds available for greenways and trails projects. The Florida Greenways and Trails System will include thousands of acres managed by local, regional, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other private interests. The overall program administration should remain with the Department of Environmental Protection but funding is needed to plan, design, develop,



manage, and promote greenways and trails. A portion of post-P 2000 funding should be used for management and maintenance.

**Strategy 2:** The state should provide technical assistance to private landowners and incentives for their participation in the statewide greenways and trails system. Efforts to work directly with private landowners must be continued and expanded to encourage stewardship on private lands and to maintain land uses beneficial to the environment.

**Strategy 3:** The Legislature should make funds available to maintain and update the greenways and trails database. The University of Florida has been applying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to greenways and trails planning since 1991, developing maps and a data library for distributing GIS information. Funding for this effort expired in December 1998. Without funding the database will quickly become outdated and lose its usefulness.

#### **Recommendation Six: Develop mechanisms to coordinate management within Florida Greenways and Trails System.**

Managing the lands and waters in Florida's greenways and trails system is a complicated task, and a formal mechanism is needed to coordinate management activities between and

among agencies. Although DEP is the lead agency for greenways and trails, a multitude of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals have substantial roles and responsibilities for greenways and trails in Florida, and the relationships among these partners exist at many levels. Many greenways and trails are managed through partnerships between the landowner/manager and volunteer groups. Management of greenways and trails on state lands is governed by land management plans reviewed and approved by the Land Acquisition and Management Advisory Council and, in some cases, by the Governor and Cabinet. Many other agencies also have land management plans, and what is required may differ from one greenway to another.

**Strategy 1:** Create a new council, the Florida Greenways and Trails Council, to be an ongoing group that promotes greenways and trails and replaces the two councils currently acting in an advisory capacity to DEP for greenways and trails issues — the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council and the Florida Recreational Trails Council. The new council would, among other things: advise on policies related to the Florida Greenways and Trails System; promote interagency cooperation; determine priorities; make funding recommendations; review designation proposals; and provide advocacy.



Florida must sustain and expand its system of native landscapes and ecosystems that supports native plant and animal species; sustains clean air, water, fisheries, and other natural resources; and maintains the scenic natural beauty that attracts people to our state.

Strategy 2: Foster regional initiatives through the appropriate entities. The six regional greenways task forces established in February 1997 will phase out of existence once they have reviewed the applications for seed grants and made recommendations to the Secretary of DEP. However, regional partnerships are worthwhile and DEP should help local organizations establish regional initiatives and support the work of groups already involved in regional issues.

Strategy 3: Improve existing management techniques to more effectively manage lands and waterways within the statewide system. Greenways and trails often transcend jurisdictional boundaries, creating coordination challenges for the agencies managing them. Effective management will entail reviewing existing tools to ensure they are coordinated, and sometimes developing new techniques.

**Recommendation Seven: Educate and inform Florida's residents and visitors about the value of the state's greenways and trails system.**

To ensure liveable communities and a sustainable, prosperous economy, Florida must sustain and expand its system of native landscapes and ecosystems that supports native plant and animal species; sustains clean air, water, fisheries, and other natural resources; and maintains the scenic natural beauty that attracts people to our state.

Strategy 1: Promote awareness, understanding, and recreational use of Florida's greenways and trails, and make eco-tourism and heritage-tourism profitable and sustainable industries in Florida. Use Florida's Greenways and Trails System as an educational tool for children. For

the 14 million citizens who live in Florida, and the 41 million tourists who visit Florida each year, greenways and trails offer opportunities to experience Florida's natural environment, to develop a strong sense of identity with the land and its historical and cultural resources, and to learn appreciation for the responsible use of natural resources.

Strategy 2: Generate involvement in the use and maintenance of greenways and trails in local communities and build support for the expansion of the statewide system of greenways and trails. Greenways and trails initiatives go hand-in-hand with conservation and preservation efforts. Collaboration with local conservation, preservation, and recreation groups is key to the continuation of a successful greenways and trails system.

## Measuring Success

The future of Florida's greenways and trails effort will require our state's leaders to provide the administrative and financial commitment needed to make these recommendations a reality. It also will require the enthusiastic support of many partners, including all levels of government, public and private organizations, individuals and landowners.

How will we know if we are succeeding? These benchmarks describe the results we should work toward:

### Benchmarks

#### **1. Establish a connected system of greenways and trails from one end of Florida to the other.**

The number of acres and miles within the statewide greenways and trails system can be determined easily, and the numbers can be maintained on a continuous basis. The Office of Greenways and Trails can use a computerized database to compile updated figures every time a new greenway or trail is designated.

Additional measures to look at would be:

- number of historical or archaeological sites



The ecological elements of the system will help protect Florida's native biological diversity in the face of rapid human population growth.



linked through the greenways and trails system,

- longest stretch of connected greenways and trails,
- number of connected public conservation lands, and
- number of critical linkages designated as part of the system.

**2. Maintain or restore natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources on greenways and trails to the extent necessary for the areas to continue to be suitable for designation.**

The measurement for this benchmark will be the number of designated greenways or trails removed from the Florida Greenways and Trails System because they fail to accomplish or become unsuitable for the purpose for which they were designated.

**3. Establish a greenways and trails system that is so extensive that all Floridians can reach a greenway or trail which has public access by traveling 15 minutes from their home or workplace.**

As lands and waterways are designated as part of the statewide system, the department will be able to determine the area served by each greenway or trail.

**4. For those greenways and trails with public access, ensure that 95 percent of visitors are satisfied with the quality of their experience.**

The first step in collecting data on visitor usage/satisfaction would be to contact the land managing agency to obtain any data collected by that entity. However, since greenways and trails do not always have on-site staffing, other methods for obtaining visitor information will also need to be employed.

# Developing the Vision: The Maps

With the help of a team from the University of Florida's GeoPlan Center, DEP developed a series of vision maps that for the first time show the conservation areas and trails that could make up our statewide system.

The maps were first developed using the University's Geographic Information System (GIS) and with the recognition that a statewide system of greenways and trails will be comprised of elements of statewide, regional and local significance, all of which are equally important to the formation of a complete system. The maps were then refined during an extensive public comment process that included evaluation by both councils, public hearings, meetings with conservation and recreation groups, and review by private landowners.

Due to landowner concerns about the maps being used in ways which could diminish the economic value of private lands, DEP agreed to remove private lands from the opportunity areas shown on the maps if the landowner so requested. While public lands are shown on the maps as possible trailheads, the land management agencies will make decisions about the use of their lands on a case-by-case basis.

The six maps resulting from this process are included in this section. They show the backbone, or spine, of greenways and trails that can then be linked by local and regional systems. The maps represent the current opportunities in two broad areas — conservation/ecological opportunities and trail opportunities. Since this process is not a static one, the maps will be modified as additional opportunities arise.

## Conservation/Ecological Opportunities

This map shows how an ecological subsystem could be created to protect Florida's biological diversity and important ecological functions and services, and conserve other important natural resources while maintaining compatible land uses.

## Trail Opportunities

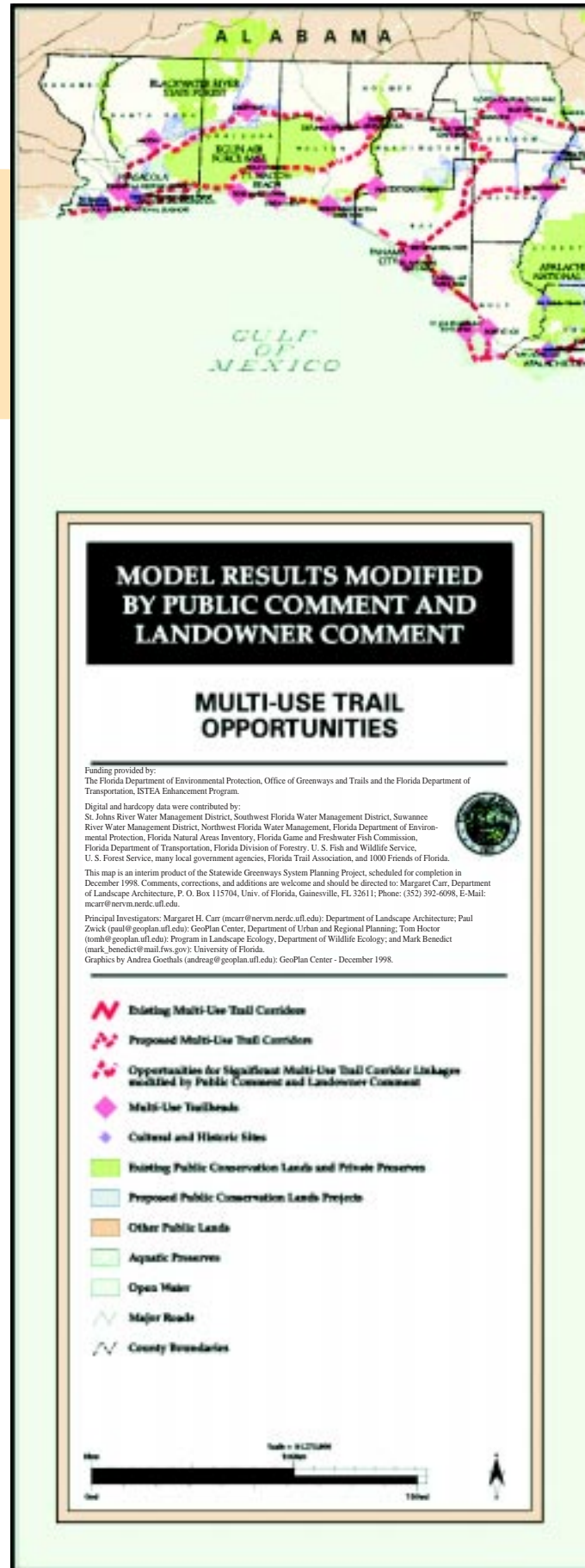
These maps show five sub-networks within the trails network. Cultural and historic sites have been identified as trailheads and as sites in or near proposed corridors. Maps include:

- Multi-Use Trail Opportunities
- Equestrian Trail Opportunities
- Hiking Trail Opportunities
- Off-road Bicycling Trail Opportunities
- Paddling Trail Opportunities

The multi-use trail sub-network supports the others, providing each with important connecting trail segments.

The Florida Greenways and Trails System will maintain and restore connections from North to South Florida, helping to maintain the key ecological processes essential for conserving wildlife and important for people. The ecological elements of the system will help protect Florida's native biological diversity in the face of rapid human population growth. The trail network will allow users to travel the length and breadth of the state, promoting appreciation of the state's natural and working landscapes, providing routes for alternative transportation, and protecting cultural and historic sites.

# Map 1 - Multi-use trail opportunities







**MULTI-USE TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES**

Pursuant to Chapter 260.0141 Florida Statutes:

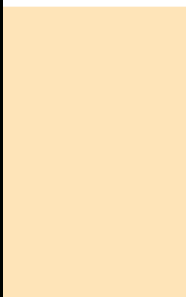
The Opportunities as illustrated by this map are intended to establish an informational framework for voluntary participation by citizens, private property owners and all levels of government subject to the following limitations:

- a) The map does not require or empower any unit of local government, regional government or any state agency to impose additional or more restrictive environmental, land use or zoning regulations.
- b) The map may not be construed or cited as authority to adopt, enforce or amend any environmental regulation or statute, zoning, or land use ordinance or any other rule, regulation or ordinance by any subdivision of local, regional or state government.
- c) The map may not 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.
- d) Government agencies may not reduce or restrict the rights of private owners as a result of private lands being identified on this map.
- e) No private lands will be considered as designated greenways or trails pursuant to Section 260.018, Florida Statutes, unless the owner of such lands has voluntarily and explicitly agreed in writing to such designation.
- f) The reliability of this map is limited by the resolution and timeliness of the underlying data and information.
- g) Identification of named, existing or proposed public lands is solely for planning purposes and not for regulatory purposes. The actual line delineating the boundary of such properties is as designated by the applicable state, federal or regional agency which boundary for all purposes shall take precedence over any mapping as contained herein. Better site-specific data, if available, for any features or resources shown on this map should be used to identify whether any such resources are, in fact, present on that site.

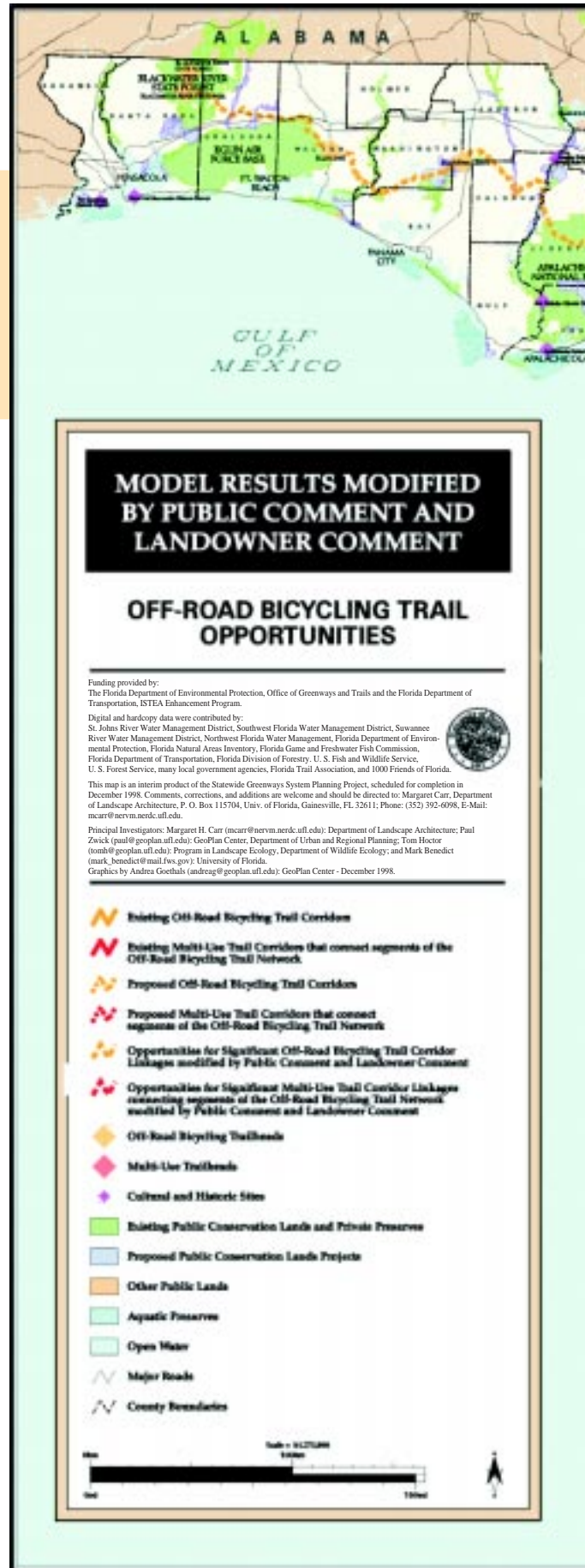
This map reflects private lands data received by the University of Florida GeoPlan Center as of December 31, 1998.

Establishment of the Greenways and Trails System is a dynamic process. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council (FGCC) have made every effort to work with private landowners and public land managers to assure them the Statewide Greenways and Trails Program is voluntary. As a result, DEP and the FGCC agreed to remove ecological/conservation features from this map if they occur within the ownership of those who do not wish to have their lands included. Therefore, the Ecological/Conservation Opportunities included on this map do not represent a complete statewide vision. This map represents a vision as modified by requests from landowners to remove or include their lands in the system.

Additional lands, particularly in the Northeast region of the state, have been requested to be removed from future depictions of the statewide system. The Department of Environmental Protection will make every effort to obtain the data and boundary information necessary to honor these requests.



# Map 2 - Off-road bicycling trail opportunities







**OFF-ROAD BICYCLING TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES**

Pursuant to Chapter 260.0141 Florida Statutes:  
 The Opportunities as illustrated by this map are intended to establish an informational framework for voluntary participation by citizens, private property owners and all levels of government subject to the following limitations:

- a) The map does not require or empower any unit of local government, regional government or any state agency to impose additional or more restrictive environmental, land use or zoning regulations.
- b) The map may not be construed or cited as authority to adopt, enforce or amend any environmental regulation or statute, zoning, or land use ordinance or any other rule, regulation or ordinance by any subdivision of local, regional or state government.
- c) The map may not 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.
- d) Government agencies may not reduce or restrict the rights of private owners as a result of private lands being identified on this map.
- e) No private lands will be considered as designated greenways or trails pursuant to Section 260.018, Florida Statutes, unless the owner of such lands has voluntarily and explicitly agreed in writing to such designation.
- f) The reliability of this map is limited by the resolution and timeliness of the underlying data and information.
- g) Identification of named, existing or proposed public lands is solely for planning purposes and not for regulatory purposes. The actual line delineating the boundary of such properties is as designated by the applicable state, federal or regional agency which boundary for all purposes shall take precedence over any mapping as contained herein. Better site-specific data, if available, for any features or resources shown on this map should be used to identify whether any such resources are, in fact, present on that site.

This map reflects private lands data received by the University of Florida GeoPlan Center as of December 31, 1998.

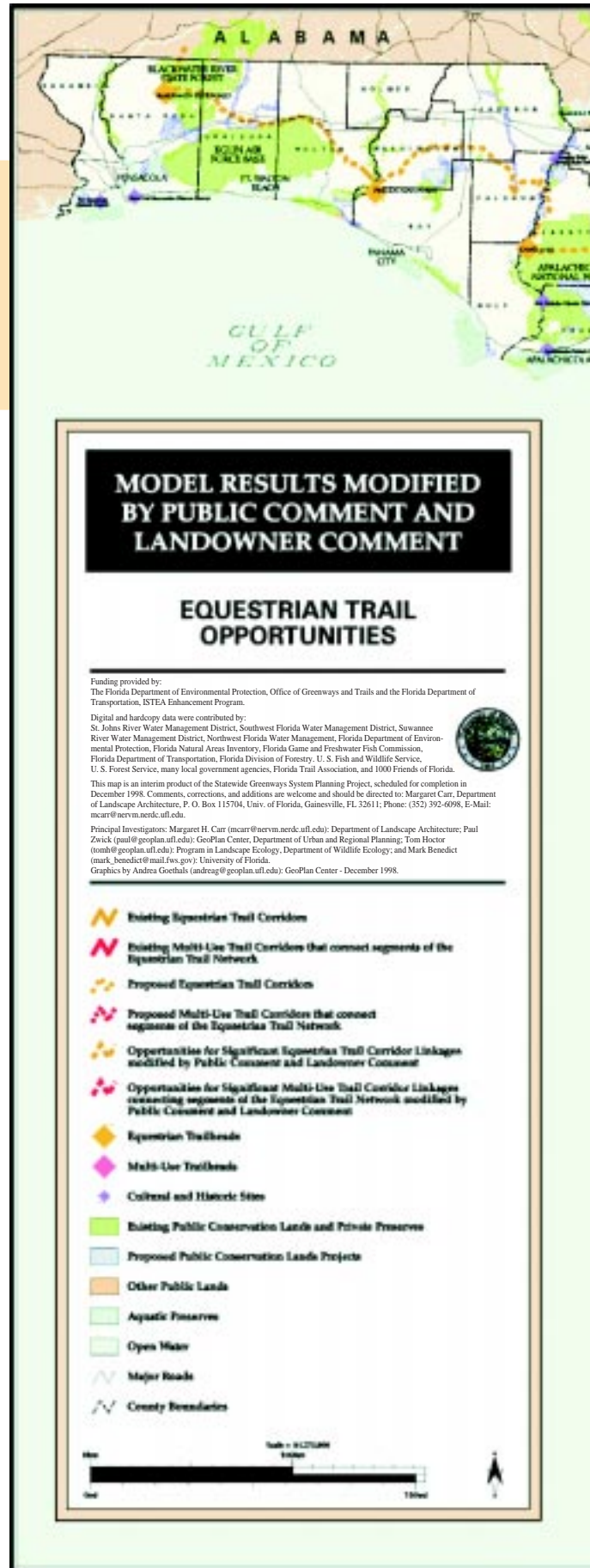
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Additional lands, particularly in the Northeast region of the state, have been requested to be removed from future depictions of the statewide system. The Department of Environmental Protection will make every effort to obtain the data and boundary information necessary to honor these requests.





# Map 3 - Equestrian trail opportunities





**EQUESTRIAN TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES**

Pursuant to Chapter 260.0141 Florida Statutes:  
 The Opportunities as illustrated by this map are intended to establish an informational framework for voluntary participation by citizens, private property owners and all levels of government subject to the following limitations:

- a) The map does not require or empower any unit of local government, regional government or any state agency to impose additional or more restrictive environmental, land use or zoning regulations.
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- c) The map may not 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.
- d) Government agencies may not reduce or restrict the rights of private owners as a result of private lands being identified on this map.
- e) No private lands will be considered as designated greenways or trails pursuant to Section 260.018, Florida Statutes, unless the owner of such lands has voluntarily and explicitly agreed in writing to such designation.
- f) The reliability of this map is limited by the resolution and timeliness of the underlying data and information.
- g) Identification of named, existing or proposed public lands is solely for planning purposes and not for regulatory purposes. The actual line delineating the boundary of such properties is as designated by the applicable state, federal or regional agency which boundary for all purposes shall take precedence over any mapping as contained herein. Better site-specific data, if available, for any features or resources shown on this map should be used to identify whether any such resources are, in fact, present on that site.

This map reflects private lands data received by the University of Florida GeoPlan Center as of December 31, 1998.

Establishment of the Greenways and Trails System is a dynamic process. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council (FGCC) have made every effort to work with private landowners and public land managers to assure them the Statewide Greenways and Trails Program is voluntary. As a result, DEP and the FGCC agreed to remove ecological/conservation features from this map if they occur within the ownership of those who do not wish to have their lands included. Therefore, the Ecological/Conservation Opportunities included on this map do not represent a complete statewide vision. This map represents a vision as modified by requests from landowners to remove or include their lands in the system.

Additional lands, particularly in the Northeast region of the state, have been requested to be removed from future depictions of the statewide system. The Department of Environmental Protection will make every effort to obtain the data and boundary information necessary to honor these requests.



# Map 4 - Paddling trail opportunities



## PADDLING TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

This map depicts the existing Paddling Trail Opportunities along Florida's waterways and coastlines. Because paddling trails are limited to waterways and open water, paddling trail opportunities were not modeled as were the terrestrial trails.

Funding provided by:  
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails and the Florida Department of Transportation, ISTEA Enhancement Program.

Digital and hardcopy data were contributed by:  
St. Johns River Water Management District, Southwest Florida Water Management District, Suwannee River Water Management District, Northwest Florida Water Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Division of Forestry, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, many local government agencies, Florida Trail Association, and 1000 Friends of Florida.

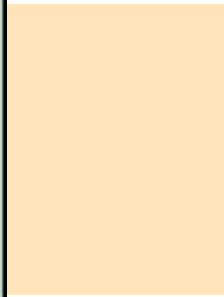
This map is an interim product of the Statewide Greenways System Planning Project, scheduled for completion in December 1998. Comments, corrections, and additions are welcome and should be directed to: Margaret Carr, Department of Landscape Architecture, P. O. Box 115704, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611; Phone: (352) 392-6098; E-Mail: mcarr@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu.

Principal Investigators: Margaret H. Carr (mcarr@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu); Department of Landscape Architecture; Paul Zwick (paul@geoplan.ufl.edu); GeoPlan Center, Department of Urban and Regional Planning; Tom Hector (tomh@geoplan.ufl.edu); Program in Landscape Ecology, Department of Wildlife Ecology; and Mark Benedict (mark\_benedict@mail.fws.gov); University of Florida.  
Graphics by Andrea Goethals (andrag@geoplan.ufl.edu); GeoPlan Center - December 1998.

- Paddling Trail Opportunities
- Paddling Trail Access Points
- Cultural and Historic Sites
- Existing Public Conservation Lands and Private Preserves
- Proposed Public Conservation Lands Projects
- Other Public Lands
- Aquatic Preserves
- Open Water
- Major Roads
- County Boundaries

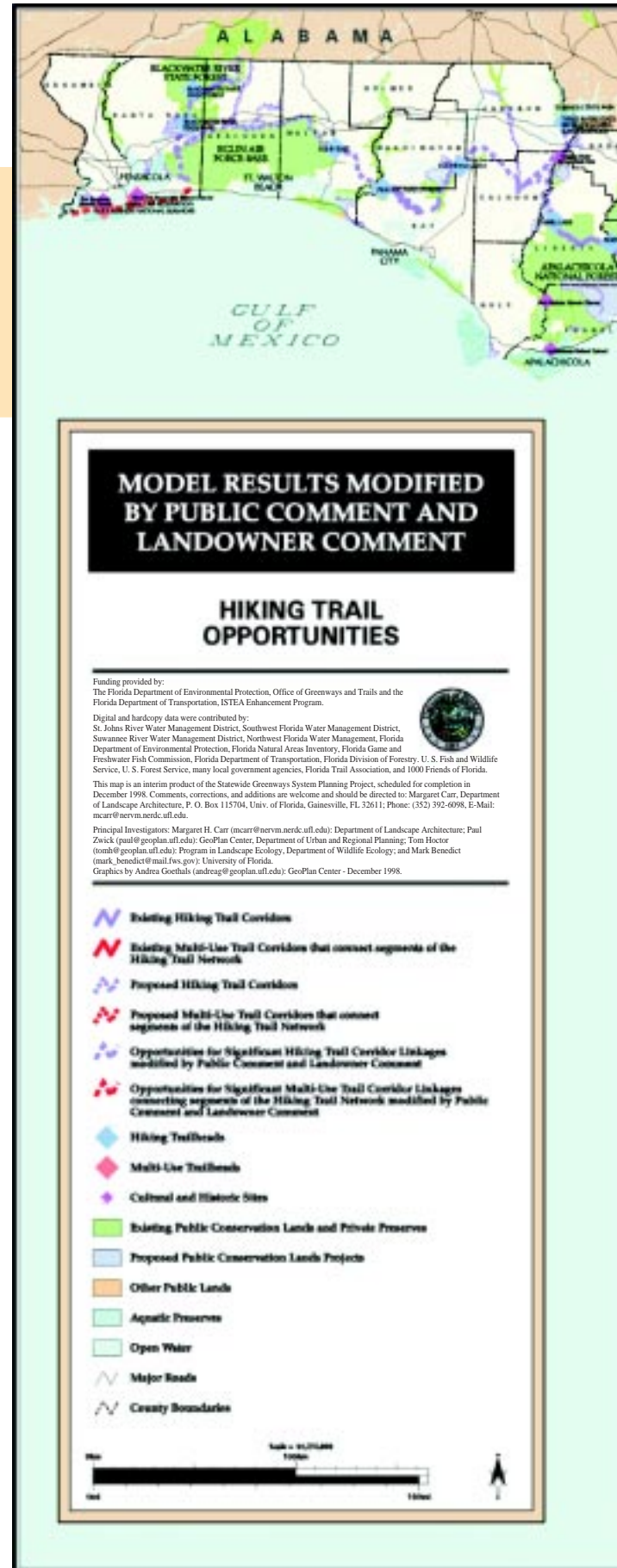








# Map 5 - Hiking trail opportunities







**HIKING TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES**

Pursuant to Chapter 260.0141 Florida Statutes:

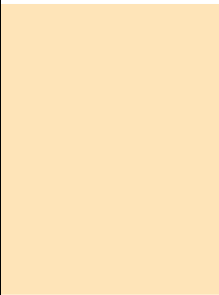
The Opportunities as illustrated by this map are intended to establish an informational framework for voluntary participation by citizens, private property owners and all levels of government subject to the following limitations:

- a) The map does not require or empower any unit of local government, regional government or any state agency to impose additional or more restrictive environmental, land use or zoning regulations.
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- d) Government agencies may not reduce or restrict the rights of private owners as a result of private lands being identified on this map.
- e) No private lands will be considered as designated greenways or trails pursuant to Section 260.014, Florida Statutes, unless the owner of such lands has voluntarily and explicitly agreed in writing to such designation.
- f) The reliability of this map is limited by the resolution and timeliness of the underlying data and information.
- g) Identification of named, existing or proposed public lands is solely for planning purposes and not for regulatory purposes. The actual line delineating the boundary of such properties is as designated by the applicable state, federal or regional agency which boundary for all purposes shall take precedence over any mapping as contained herein. Better site-specific data, if available, for any features or resources shown on this map should be used to identify whether any such resources are, in fact, present on that site.

This map reflects private lands data received by the University of Florida GeoPlan Center as of December 31, 1998.

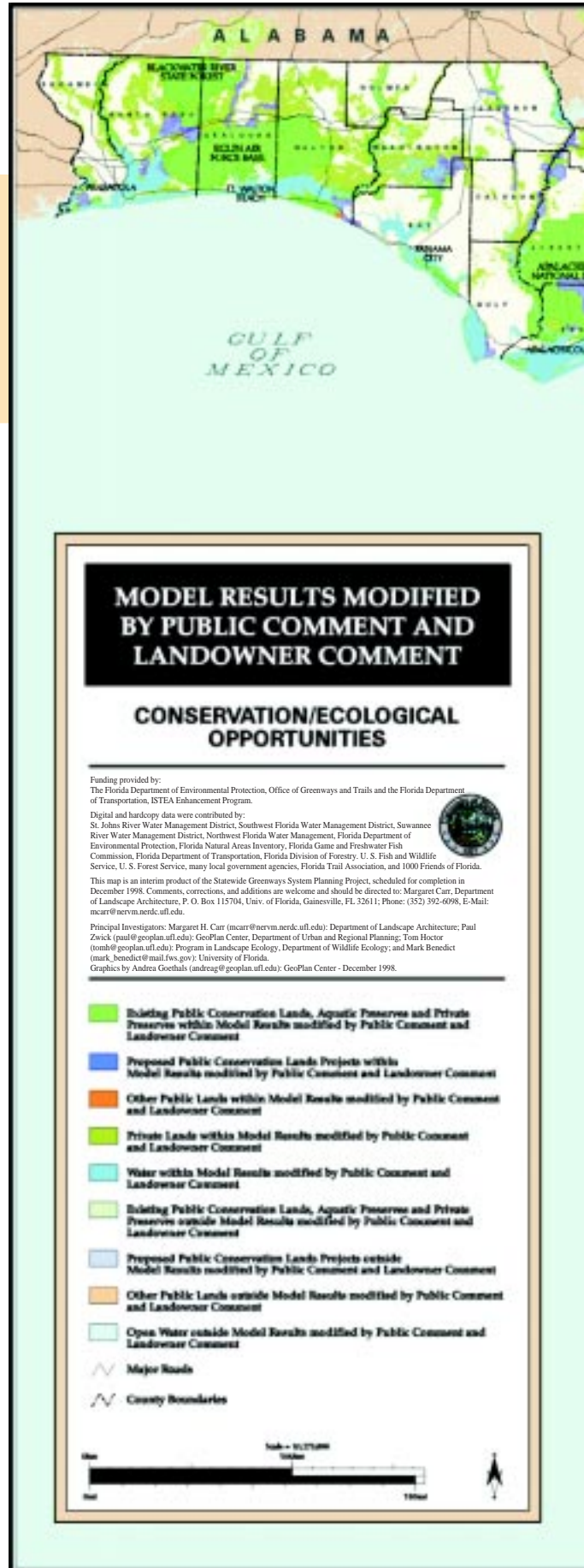
Establishment of the Greenways and Trails System is a dynamic process. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council (FGCC) have made every effort to work with private landowners and public land managers to assure them the Statewide Greenways and Trails Program is voluntary. As a result, DEP and the FGCC agreed to remove ecological conservation features from this map if they occur within the ownership of those who do not wish to have their lands included. Therefore, the Ecological Conservation Opportunities included on this map do not represent a complete statewide vision. This map represents a vision as modified by requests from landowners to remove or include their lands in the system.

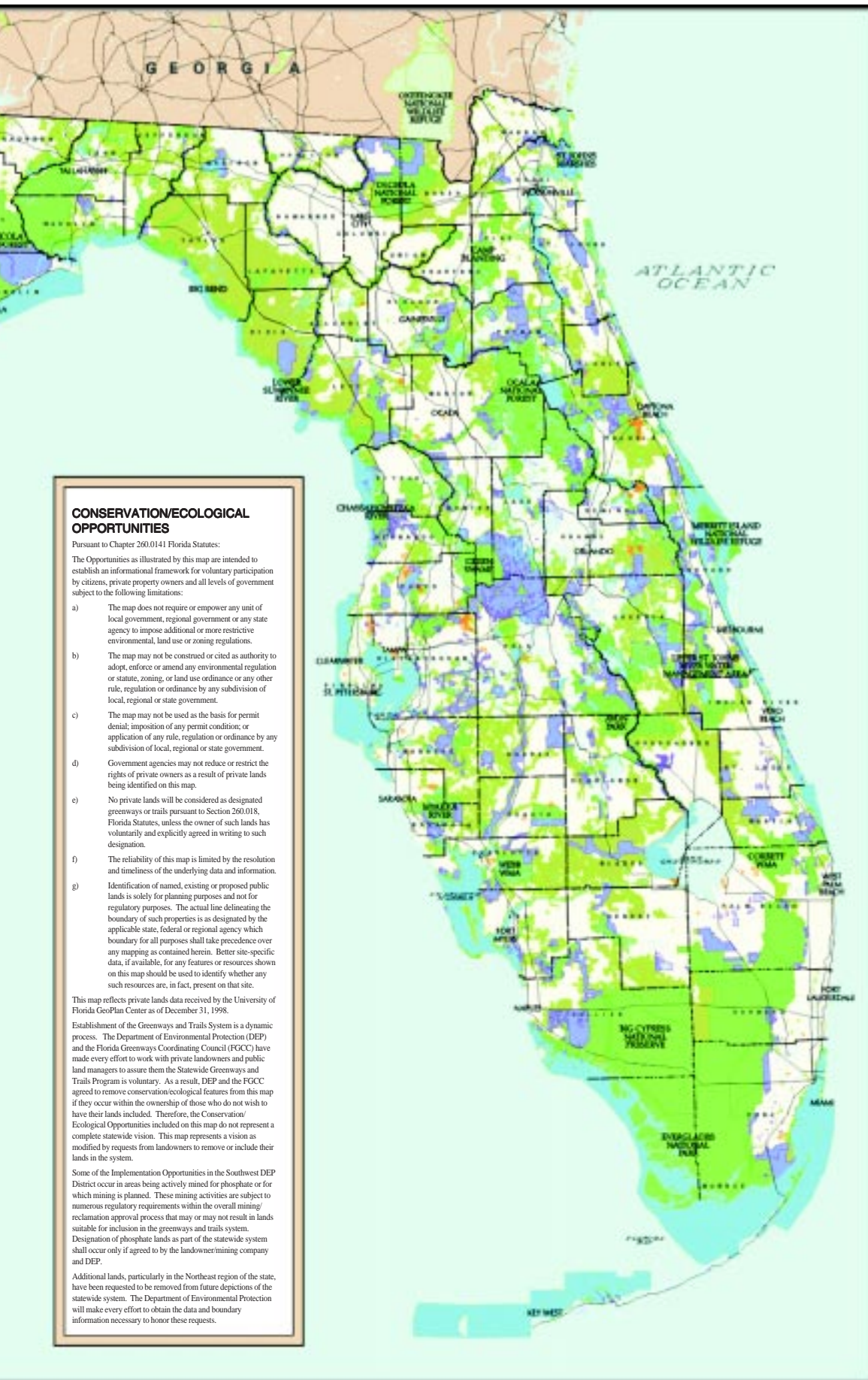
Additional lands, particularly in the Northeast region of the state, have been requested to be removed from future depictions of the statewide system. The Department of Environmental Protection will make every effort to obtain the data and boundary information necessary to honor these requests.





# Map 6 - Conservation/ Ecological opportunities





**CONSERVATION/ECOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Pursuant to Chapter 260.0141 Florida Statutes:

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This map reflects private lands data received by the University of Florida GeoPlan Center as of December 31, 1998.

Establishment of the Greenways and Trails System is a dynamic process. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council (FGCC) have made every effort to work with private landowners and public land managers to assure them the Statewide Greenways and Trails Program is voluntary. As a result, DEP and the FGCC agreed to remove conservation/ecological features from this map if they occur within the ownership of those who do not wish to have their lands included. Therefore, the Conservation/Ecological Opportunities included on this map do not represent a complete statewide vision. This map represents a vision as modified by requests from landowners to remove or include their lands in the system.

Some of the Implementation Opportunities in the Southwest District occur in areas being actively mined for phosphate or for which mining is planned. These mining activities are subject to numerous regulatory requirements within the overall mining/reclamation approval process that may or may not result in lands suitable for inclusion in the greenways and trails system.

Designation of phosphate lands as part of the statewide system shall occur only if agreed to by the landowner/mining company and DEP.

Additional lands, particularly in the Northeast region of the state, have been requested to be removed from future depictions of the statewide system. The Department of Environmental Protection will make every effort to obtain the data and boundary information necessary to honor these requests.



# Acknowledgements

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Printed on recycled paper  
February, 1999