Establishing and Promoting Paddling Trails
SCORP Workshop, March 3, 2016

Liz Sparks, Paddling Trails Coordinator
Office of Greenways and Trails
Why Paddling Trails?

- Tourism Destination
- Physical Fitness Opportunity
- Environmental Awareness
- Conservation Stewardship
According to the 2012 Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) report, outdoor recreation generates big economic impacts for Florida:

- $38.3 billion in consumer spending
- Nearly 330,000 jobs
- $2.5 billion in state and local taxes
- $10.7 billion in wages

Outdoor Industries Association, 2012. The Outdoor Recreation Economy, Florida
SCORP Outdoor Recreation Profile

Top Five Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Residents & Tourists

**RESIDENTS**
1. Saltwater Beach Activities (excludes fishing) - 63%
2. Wildlife Viewing - 49%
3. Fishing - 46%
4. Bicycling - 44%
5. Picnicking - 40%

**TOURISTS**
1. Saltwater Beach Activities (excludes fishing) - 49%
2. Wildlife Viewing - 47%
3. Picnicking - 37%
4. Swimming (in outdoor swimming pools) - 29%
5. Visiting historical or archeological sites - 26%

Top Desired Facilities - Residents and Tourists

**RESIDENTS**
1. Community parks
2. Biking paths
3. Playgrounds
4. Outdoor public swimming pools
5. Hiking/walking trails

**TOURISTS**
1. Improved amenities at existing recreation areas (bathrooms, etc.)
2. Community Parks
3. Beach Access/Parking
4. Waterpark
5. Saltwater Boat Access/Ramps
## Appendix G - Outdoor Recreation Participation by Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Residents</th>
<th></th>
<th>% of Residents Participating</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>% of Tourists Participating</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saltwater Beach Activities*</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>11,844,825</td>
<td></td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>42,385,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Viewing</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>9,212,642</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10,806,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycling - Paved Trails</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>7,520,524</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>32,005,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>7,520,524</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>32,005,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Historical or Archaeological Sites</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>7,332,511</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22,490,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing - Saltwater</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>7,144,498</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17,300,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>From Boat</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>5,001,148</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12,283,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Pier/jetty/Catwalk</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2,929,244</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6,055,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Shore</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2,643,464</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4,844,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing - Freshwater</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>5,264,367</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6,055,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>From Boat</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>3,000,680</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3,451,350</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>From Pier/jetty/Catwalk</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1,316,092</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1,755,950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Shore</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>2,632,183</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2,361,450</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Canoeing or Kayaking</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>4,888,341</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8,650,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Canoeing/Kayaking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>% of Participation*</th>
<th>Total Participation**</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residents</td>
<td>Tourists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central West</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central East</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percent of participation represents the percentage of residents and tourists who participated in activity at least one time during the year.

**Total participants represents the combined number of residents and tourists who participated in activity at least one time during the year.
In 2011, 4.3 million people participated in some form of wildlife viewing in Florida, generating more than $3 billion in economic impact.* Many people view wildlife from a kayak or canoe. Look for the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail in your area.

Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail

Directory of Trail Locations

There are multiple ways to find, map and obtain information about the 500-plus Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail locations. Use the section map below to get a list of sites in each Trail section. From there, click on the site you are interested in to read more about it. Or, use the Trip-Planning Wizard, which uses an interactive map (powered by Google Maps software), to search by site name, county, city, Trail section, bird species, habitat or amenity/feature. You can display those sites on a map and get GPS coordinates and driving directions. Access the Trip-Planning Wizard from the Trip Planning category on the main menu on the left, or use the Trip-Planning Wizard button under the Quick Links on each web page. You may also order or download the four Trail guidebooks (with maps) or you may download our free mobile device app entitled Nature Viewing Along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail at iTunes.com or at play.google.com/store/ The free
A gateway to conservation. There are numerous ways to for boaters and paddlers to help expand our knowledge of Florida’s fish and wildlife and to assist the FWC with research and management efforts. Find out more about becoming a Citizen Scientist.

- Work with local civic groups and paddling clubs to host cleanup events
- Develop Friends’ group or ‘CSO’ to support & maintain waterway trail
- Recruit knowledgeable volunteers, master naturalists to lead trips
Paddling Trails = Fitness Opportunity

Lots of calories to burn on Florida’s abundant waterways!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity, Exercise or Sport (1 hour)</th>
<th>130 lb</th>
<th>155 lb</th>
<th>180 lb</th>
<th>205 lb</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing, camping trip</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>372</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canoeing, rowing, light</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing, rowing, moderate</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing, rowing, vigorous</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>1117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew, sculling, rowing, competition</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>1117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calculations are based on research data from Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, the official journal of the American College of Sports Medicine.
Kayak Fishing is Big Business!

Kayak fishing is extremely popular, part of Florida’s $4.6 billion recreational fishing industry*

**Provide information for boat access, local freshwater or saltwater fishing through FWC**

**40% increase in kayak anglers in past two years!**


** Outdoor Industries Association, 2012. The Outdoor Recreation Economy, Florida
Creating Popular Paddling Trails

A majority of casual paddlers enjoy short trips of < 3 miles that lead to an interesting destination, restaurant, etc.

Paddlers prefer a variety of distances and loop trails.

Average paddler = 2 miles of distance an hour (depending on currents, tides, wind + weather)

Long-distance trails appeal to a smaller, more experienced user group
Become a Destination

Identify opportunities to make your community an outdoor destination:

- Partner with local public land managers, tourism professionals and chamber of commerce
- Partner with local guides and hotels to certify as ‘green’
- Inventory opportunities and amenities

Create Multi-day Itineraries to encourage overnight stays.

Develop Adventure Combos and mix paddling with hiking or biking. Provide secure racks to lock-up boats/bikes
Partner with Green Lodging Program

The Florida Green Lodging Program is a voluntary initiative of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that designates and recognizes lodging facilities that make a commitment to conserve and protect Florida’s natural resources. The program’s environmental guidelines allow the hospitality industry to evaluate its operations, set goals and take specific actions to continuously improve environmental performance. Learn more about Florida Green Lodging Program.

**Spotlight**

**DEP AWARDS THE GREEN LODGING PROGRAM’S FIRST FOUR PALM DESIGNATION**

On May 20, 2015, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection awarded the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables the Florida Green Lodging Program’s Four Palm Designation for its remarkable conservation efforts. The hotel is the first in the program’s 11-year history to receive a Four Palm Designation, the highest level possible.

**Designated Lodges**

Welcome to the Green Lodging Program’s interactive map for locating Green Lodges throughout Florida. Click on the map image to access the Green Lodging Program’s interactive map and begin exploring Florida’s Green Lodges who are designated as either 1 Palm, 2 Palm, 3 Palm or 4 Palm.

For additional help using this map, view the Video Quick Start Guide.
Encourage ethical ecotourism for local guides and businesses
Who is your target user? What skill level is required?

What do paddlers want? Ask for input from local paddling clubs and outfitters
Planning Safe Paddling Trails

Visit proposed trail at different tide levels and seasons

Recruit experienced paddlers and boaters to share local knowledge of waterway issues

Avoid user conflict as much as possible (Keep beginners out of the ICW and busy boating channels!)

Share simple information about ‘rules of the road’
Planning Safe Paddling Trails

Accurately describe conditions:
• Tidal influences
• Wind and weather effects
• Hazardous features to avoid

Provide a float plan pdf.

**Remind paddlers to alert designated contact if they are returning later than planned to avoid unnecessary search and rescue**
Include universal accessibility throughout planning. Access can be simple by providing a firm surface and a small staging prop—a large rock or bench might suffice.

Contact the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association for input. They have volunteers throughout the state who are able to make site visits.
Management of Paddling Trails

Keep it SIMPLE.

Partner with land managers.

Are reservations/permits required for overnight camping?

Who will monitor?
- wildlife disturbance
- natural resource impacts
- cultural/historic sites
- user conflicts

Who will clear the trail of blockages and maintain signage and facilities?
Maps & Budget

Creating a map doesn’t have to be expensive. Put pdf maps on your website for users to print themselves. Keep them updated!

Paper maps should be simple, user friendly, water resistant, and easy to fit in map bag.

Draft maps need to be tested by paddlers of all abilities before publishing.

Provide digital options: pdf maps, QR codes, kmz, gpx files.

Users need a range of options to safely navigate trails.
Features to Include on a Map

Longer trails require more info

Include:
- points of interest
- historical and cultural information
- weather, tides, river levels
- Potable water, restrooms

It is a delicate balance to provide information while not making your map over crowded.
Share Critical Information

- Provide local EMS numbers and identify emergency facilities on land
- Link to tide charts and weather info
- Downloadable float plan
- Give distance between access points, amenities, camping sites
- Users should not solely rely on smart phones for navigation
GPS Features

Good maps and GPS coordinates can eliminate need for signage.

Make clear if you are using:
• decimal-degrees
• degrees-minutes-seconds; or
• degrees-decimal-minutes.
Identify lodging opportunities:
- Describe access & distance from the water
- Primitive or developed camping
- Link to TDC sites to keep listings current
- Avoid endorsement
Once your draft map is ready give to paddlers of all abilities and ask to ‘ground truth’ or ‘field verify’.

Are beginners comfortable with the guide and the trail experience? Is the access and route information accurate?

Ask for feedback to assure that all your information is clear.
Avoid endorsement by linking to local Chamber of Commerce or Tourism Development Council websites with information about lodging, dining, outfitters, kayak and canoe rentals, and shuttle opportunities. The updating of these website will not be your responsibility.
Promote Good Stewardship

PROMOTE LOW IMPACT PRINCIPLES

• Plan ahead

• Travel and camp on durable surfaces

• Dispose of waste properly

• Leave only what you find

• Minimize campfire impacts

• Respect wildlife – keep distance and use binoculars or zoom lens

• Be considerate of other visitors
Popular Amenities for All Boaters

- Restrooms
- Fresh water for drinking and rinsing boats and gear
- Storage for kayaks
- Safe overnight parking
- Unload close to access
- Firm but soft launch surface for kayak can be as simple as rubber matting or outdoor carpeting
Marking a Waterway

Keep signs to a minimum as they are hard to maintain, and installation can be expensive.

Signs posted in water must follow specific legal requirements and the FWC permitting process may be lengthy.

You may be eligible for FWC Boating Improvement grants for funding.

A narrow waterway May be appropriate for painting blazes on trees
## Marking a Waterway

### Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boating Regulations</th>
<th>Application Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety &amp; Education</td>
<td>February 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016 (tentative).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchoring &amp; Mooring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterway Management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boat Ramps &amp; Access</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Boating Grant Programs</td>
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<td><strong>FBIP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funded Projects</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>BigP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derelict Vessels</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety &amp; Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Council</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Related Documents
- Program Guidelines
- Annual Report
- Funded Projects
- 2015 FBIP Scores and Ranking

### Application Forms
- Instructions
- Application Form A: Recreational Channel Markers
- Application Form B: Boat Access Facilities
- Application Form C: Derelict Vessel Removal
- Application Form D: Boater Education
- Application Form E: Other Local Boating-related Projects
Trail Promotion & Publicity

- FAM tours
- Social media
- Plan ‘Meetup’ events with local paddlers
- Celebrate designations

Make sure all promotional photos include people WEARING life jackets!
Plan a celebration kickoff event or join an existing local festival. Highlight designation as state paddling trail, FPTA Blueway Community, other...
Events & Festivals

Large paddling events and festivals bring in revenue and expose more people to a great destination, prompting return visits.

Hidden Coast Paddling Festival
$50,000 - $60,000 was spent on food, lodging and miscellaneous over the course of this three day event in 2013*

*Hidden Coast Paddling Festival Committee
Join Florida Paddling Trails Association and apply for “Blueway Community” designation
Designating a trail in the Florida Greenways and Trails System increases exposure and can contribute to higher scores on grant applications.

Seeking National Recreation Trail designation is a logical next step.
The Office of Greenways and Trails coordinates and provides assistance to implement the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan. If you need assistance or are seeking useful resources to advance a greenways and trails project in Florida, please contact the appropriate Greenways and Trails Coordinator. Your Coordinator can also discuss how a trail or greenway project relates to the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan. Please also consult these resources for helpful information:

**Accessibility**

- ADA Requirements: Wheelchairs, Mobility Aids, and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMD), U.S. Department of Justice
- Outdoor Developed Areas: A Summary of Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas (by United States Access Board)
- American Trails Accessibility Resources - American Trails Website
- Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access, Federal Highway Administration
- Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads and Campgrounds- Chapter 11, US Department of Transportation
- National Trail Surfaces Study [PDF], National Center on Accessibility

**Design, Planning, Construction, Maintenance and Operation of Trails**

- Paved Trails/Rail-Trails/Shared Use Paths
  - Building a Bicycle Friendly America [PDF], The League of American Bicyclists
  - Complete Streets Implementation Plan, Florida Department of Transportation, 2015 [PDF]
  - Conflicts on Multiple-Use Trails, Federal Highway Administration
  - Designed to Move: Active Cities, Nike 2015
  - Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access, Federal Highway Administration

Unless indicated, documents on this Web site are Adobe Acrobat files, and require the free reader software.
The NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS (NRT) program works to preserve and celebrate our nation’s pathways. We invite you to explore America’s great national system of trails and greenways. You’ll find trails that bring our communities closer together. You’ll discover nature and wildlife. You’ll enjoy fitness and family fun. Celebrate America’s history and future on a National Recreation Trail! Learn more about the NRT Program.

NRT Program Links

Download the NRT Brochure (PDF 3.7MB)

Latest News and Features

NRTs designated for 2015
On June 4, 2015, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Service Director Jonathan Jarvis designated 10 local and state National Recreation Trails

Read more...
The Office of Greenways & Trails within the Division of Recreation & Parks provides statewide leadership and coordination to establish, expand and promote the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) pursuant to the Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Ch. 260, FS).

The Florida Greenways and Trails Opportunity Maps are being updated in 2015! Click here to get involved

2015 OSGT Acquisition Cycle July 1 - August 31

OUTDOOR RECREATION & TRAILS!
CONNECTING THE BOGS BETWEEN TRAILS & TOURISM

New flyer about the Economics of Florida Outdoor Recreation & Trails!
See Office Overview for more information.
Story Maps for Designated Paddling Trails

Lake Kissimmee State Park: Buster Island Paddling Trail

Lake Kissimmee is remote and unspoiled, offering endless reflecting waters, stunning stars in dark skies, and excellent fishing. Paddlers encircle Buster Island, a hiker and equestrian’s delight with miles of trails winding between moss-draped live oak. The paddling loop meanders through the Zipperer Canal, Lake Rosalie, Rosalie Creek, Tiger Lake, Tiger Creek, and Lake Kissimmee.

Access #1, Start of the Trail, Cowboy Camp Bridge

Paddlers launch just next to the road bridge that accesses the traditional cowboy camp, a short distance from the marina parking lot. Photo credit: Liz Sparks

1. Paddling Experience
2. Access #1, Start of the Trail, Cowboy Camp Bridge
3. Cowboy Camp
4. Zipperer Canal
5. Lake Rosalie
6. Rosalie Creek
7. 22 m
8. 22
9. 7
10. Lake Kissimmee State Park
Beginning at Big Lagoon State Park near Pensacola, and ending at Fort Clinch State Park near the Georgia border, the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail (The CT) is a 1,515-mile sea kayaking paradise.

There may be overlap with local coastal trails.

Some hardy souls have paddled the entire trail in 3-4 months. Others seek to complete the trail in segments over several years, similar to how hikers often tackle the Florida or Appalachian Trail.
Boating Safety Grants - BoatUS Foundation
Clean Marina Program - DEP
Coastal Partnership Initiative – kayak launches, access, map publication
Florida Communities Trust - DEP
Florida Inland Navigation District
Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program - DEP
Greenways and Trails - DEP
Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program
Waterfronts Florida Program - DEO
West Coast Inland Navigation District
Clean Vessel Act Grants - DEP