

Benchmarks for Council Duties

1. Facilitate a statewide system of interconnected landscape linkages, conservation corridors, greenbelts, recreational corridors and trails, scenic corridors, utilitarian corridors, reserves, regional parks and preserves, ecological sites, and cultural/historic/recreational sites using land-based trails that connect urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state and facilitate expansion of the statewide system of freshwater and saltwater paddling trails.
 - A. Get to know the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Opportunity and Priority maps – especially in your area.
 - a. Assign areas to Council members with corresponding OGT Coordinators.
 - b. Assign trail discipline champions.
 - c. Develop a Regional Trail System map presentation and identify the priority areas within each system.
 - B. Attend local and state meetings to educate others about the maps and encourage Inclusion-Get Involved-Be the ambassador for trails/Access to PPTS/Information for people (Council Members) to use when going out and speaking/presenting/educating. (Resource Library-Added to the Share Point Page)
 - a. Identify meetings or groups for Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) members to attend or join. Council members should attend at least 3 per quarter.
 - b. Create a calendar on Sharepoint to share meetings dates and locations.
 - c. Create a “log-it” page on the Sharepoint site where FGTC attendance at meetings can be documented.
 - d. OGT Coordinators should notify Council members of known public meetings regarding trails.
 - e. Identify local and agency partners for each regional system identified.
 - f. Council members coordinate with local and agency partners in respective areas.
 - g. Notify Council members of the TPO’s/MPO’s, County Commission and Parks & Rec. Department contacts that are active or need to be contacted.
 - h. Encourage local governments to know and work with legislative contacts.
2. Recommend priorities for critical links in the Florida Greenways and Trails System.
 - A. Participate in the public meetings when updating the Opportunity/Priority maps.
 - a. Encourage others in your respective areas to attend public meetings.
 - b. Attend public workshops in your area and engage with public.
 - c. Provide comments and feedback to OGT staff.
 - B. Review changes to maps.
 - a. Be aware of proposed changes/additions/deletions to the maps.
 - b. Engage with public on any recommended changes.
 - c. Be prepared to make informed decisions on recommended changes to the maps.

- C. Identify and recommend the priorities.
 - a. Engage with public and local officials to learn about regional priorities.
 - b. Establish a “gap focus” committee to help identify the most critical gaps within the priority corridors.
- 3. Review recommendations of the office for acquisition funding under the Florida Greenways and Trails Program and recommend to the Secretary of Environmental Protection which projects should be acquired.
 - A. Educate local governments in your areas.
 - a. Be aware of the critical gaps in the system and engage/educate local officials.
 - B. Encourage acquisition applications that will help complete the FGTS.
 - a. Identify landowners of potential acquisitions.
 - b. Encourage local officials to share acquisition opportunities with potential landowners.
 - C. Review the acquisition applications.
 - a. At least 2 weeks prior to the FGTC acquisition meeting, review applications and submit any questions to staff.
 - b. Be prepared to discuss merits or concerns of acquisition applications.
 - D. Approve/recommend projects that help complete the FGTS Priority System.
 - a. Attend the FGTC acquisition meeting.
 - b. If necessary, be prepared to ask informed questions of the presenters.
 - c. Approve/recommend projects based on most critical needs within the FGTS Priority system.
- 4. Review designation proposals for inclusion in the Florida Greenways and Trails System.
 - A. Be familiar with the Designation program.
 - a. Know the designated trails/sites in your geographic area.
 - b. Develop an information sheet to share with potential designees.
 - B. Encourage public/private designations.
 - a. Be aware of connections that could be accomplished through a designation.
 - b. Share information and encourage communication with OGT staff.
 - C. Develop criteria to determine designation eligibility.
 - a. Establish committee to recommend designation criteria.
 - b. Present to full council by June 30, 2017.
 - c. Include designation criteria in FGTS 5-year plan.
 - D. Review/Approve designation applications.
 - a. At least 2 weeks prior to FGTC meetings, review designation applications and submit any questions to staff.
 - b. Be prepared to discuss merits or concerns of designation applications.
 - c. Approve designations based on criteria established by FGTC.
- 5. Encourage public-private partnerships to develop and manage greenways and trails.

- A. Create informational one-pager about the benefits of trails (economy, tourism, health, transportation, recreation and conservation) for FGTC members.
 - B. Develop “elevator speech” to quickly provide information.
 - C. Educate local governments, developers, health organizations, hotel/restaurants, TPO/MPO, visitor bureaus, schools, tourist development councils, etc.
 - D. Facilitate meetings between these groups to establish partnerships.
 - a. Meet with at least 1 organization quarterly to educate about benefits of greenways and trails.
 - b. Encourage joint meetings between at least 2 organizations quarterly.
 - c. Attend local meetings and request to present information about greenways and trails.
 - E. Coordinate with the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation.
 - a. Know the members of the FGTF.
 - b. Share known meeting information with FGTF members.
 - c. Share direction of the FGTC with foundation members and determine ways to work together to achieve like goals.
6. Review progress toward meeting established benchmarks and recommend appropriate action.
- A. Develop work plan with measurable goals and objectives.
 - a. Establish goals and objectives by November 2016.
 - b. Establish working groups to accomplish goals by November 2016.
 - c. Working groups will develop strategy to accomplish goals by December 2016.
 - B. Discuss progress at each quarterly meeting to ensure you are meeting goals.
7. Make recommendations for updating and revising the implementation plan.
- A. Include tasks from the FGTC workplan in the upcoming 5-year plan.
 - B. Review draft report every 5 years prior to submitting to public for comment.
 - a. Each council member will provide, at a minimum, 1 recommendation per section for each FGTC 5-year plan update.
 - C. Review map data and make recommendations prior to submitting to public.
 - a. For updates to both opportunity and priority maps, council members will be responsible for reviewing and providing comments for their geographic region.
8. Promote greenways and trails support organizations.
- A. Engage local organizations.
 - a. Compile list of organizations in each geographic region that supports greenway and trail initiatives.
 - b. Council members should become members of at least one local organization.
 - c. Attend regular meetings to share and solicit information.
 - B. Educate about the benefits of greenways and trails and encourage participation from these organizations.
 - a. Share information handouts and prepared “elevator speech.”

- b. Share dates of any upcoming meetings with the groups.
 - c. Invite local organizations to host FGTC meetings and share local information.
 - C. Explore opportunities to work with the FGTF on joint ventures.
 - a. Compile a list of projects that could be potential joint projects between the FGTC and FGTF.
 - b. Schedule one on one meetings with appropriate foundation members to discuss common goals.
 - c. Attend foundation meetings when located in your region.
 - d. Present at foundation meetings to provide updates on council activities.
- 9. Support the Florida Greenways and Trails System through intergovernmental coordination, budget recommendations, advocacy, education, and any other appropriate way.
 - A. Establish rotational meeting cycle that will focus on specific geographic regions, topic or trails.
 - a. Develop annual calendar and identify geographic regions for meetings.
 - b. Develop list of focus topics for council meetings.
 - c. Develop list of regional trails to explore during council meetings.
 - d. For each meeting, identify council member(s) responsible for "hosting."
 - B. Establish partnerships and coalitions.
 - a. Develop list of potential partners for the FGTC.
 - b. Invite potential partners to speak at the council meetings.