The Florida
Circumnavigational
Saltwater Paddling Trail

Doug Alderson, Office of Greenways and
Trails
Florida Department of Environmental
Protection
Circumnavigational Trail History

Late 1980s – Idea conceived by paddler David Gluckman after establishment of the Maine Island Trail

2005 – Pursuant to Chapter 260, the "Florida Greenways and Trails Act," the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) was given the responsibility for developing and coordinating a circumnavigational saltwater paddling trail around the entire state of Florida and naming 26 individual trail segments.

2007 - Designated a national recreation trail
Trail mapping occurred from 2005-2007
1,515 Miles from Pensacola to Key West to the Georgia border
Each segment includes an index map...
And individual maps covering 10-15 mile sections. Key junctions and locations are marked by GPS coordinates.
Trail guides feature 90 primitive campsites and 48 campgrounds…
41 coastal motels and resorts...
15 post offices, 19 medium to large supermarkets, 28 small stores, and numerous restaurants…
And numerous points-of-interest
Benefits

• Promotes Tourism
• Physical Fitness
• Environmental Awareness
• Sense of Place
Trail guides promote Leave No Trace Principles

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors
The Trail website features equipment and safety recommendations.
Paddlers should be prepared for all types of conditions.
While most users paddle short distances, long-distance paddlers find it to be a journey of a lifetime.
Scott Warren, 2017 thru paddler, before and after
"The trail is amazing! It goes through so many different ecosystems. How the beaches change along the trail is just incredible. The trail made me a stronger paddler and it also redefined who I am in a way, bringing me back to the essence of being human. It's a powerful experience to go through."
--Jodi Eller
CT Thru Paddlers
29 and Counting
The Florida Paddling Trails Association
Volunteer Stewards of the Circumnavigational trail
The Florida Paddling Trails Association
Trail Angel Network. 41 members and growing...

"When you were totally exhausted and about to lose hope after a hard day on the CT...Bam! A Trail Angel would show up to offer a ride or share a meal. Uncanny how that kept happening". – Marc Deluca, CT 2014
Annual Trail Reunions

Next reunion is April 19-21 at Tomoka State Park
Big Lagoon State Park—western terminus
Henderson Beach
Topsail Hill
Grayton Beach
Deer Lake
Camp Helen
St. Andrews
Forgotten Coast—barrier islands and Old Florida
The 105-mile Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail
The Nature Coast
The Pinellas segment--natural and spoil islands for exploration and camping
Southwest Florida: premier islands and parks
And the trail incorporates several county blueway systems.
The Ten Thousand Islands/Everglades, wild and rich in history
The unique Florida Keys segment
Biscayne Bay is another popular stretch
Southeast Florida--scenic parks and historic sites in a largely urban setting
Unique attractions in southeast Florida
The trail includes the entire Indian River Lagoon.
The Halifax and Matanzas rivers offer several scenic stretches.
Northeast Florida offers history and beauty
Eastern terminus: Old Fernandina/Ft. Clinch State Park
The trail’s success depends on volunteers and cooperative public and private land managers.
Some of the many public partners who have helped to develop, maintain and promote the CT