



FLORIDA TRAIL TOWN QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill in the below. Be brief. To assist, a self-assessment and more information are available on the Office of Greenways and Trails website.

TRAIL

What types of trails connect to or are located near your town? (hiking, biking, paddling, shared use non-motorized, multi-use, equestrian, etc.)

Numerous greenway and blueway trails connect to the Vilano Beach Town Center.

See attached maps reflecting: A1A Scenic & Historic Byway along A1A; East Coast Greenway Trail; State of Florida Office of Greenway Trails priority map; St Johns River to Sea Loop Trail map and others.

Hiking trails are available in the GTM NERR state facility which connect to the A1A corridor; biking along the expanded A1A Byway links Ponte Vedra to Vilano Beach along the FL East Coast Greenway connector; paddling is available in the GTM NERR and along the Matanzas waterways between the mainland and the barrier island; equestrian trails are found in the GTM NERR and beachside with a common departure spot at Surfside Park; a pilot water shuttle project is underway with the City of St Augustine and St Johns County to offer regular water shuttle availability between the mainland and barrier islands. An A1A Multi-Use Trail is in planning stages to connect a 10 foot – off road path from Ponte Vedra to Vilano Beach. TPO priority ranking has been obtained for the Ponte Vedra Trail just north of the Vilano Town Center. Additional funding is being pursued for to close the gaps along the corridor.

List any neighboring trails to your town? (if yes, please specify proximity)

Vilano Beach Main Street's Town Center lies along the northern section of the 72 mile National A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway in. The East Coast Greenway Trail traverses the length of A1A in Florida. The 260 mile St Johns River to Sea Loop Trail cuts through the City of St Augustine and serves as a connector to the Vilano Beach Town Center just 2 miles over the Usina Bridge. The Guana Tolomato National Estuary Research Reserve Trails are within 8 miles to the Vilano Beach Town Center. FDOT has just widened the bike lanes by one foot on each side for safety and access. The City of St Augustine is also now refining its

mobility plan to include biking/trail access routes through downtown. A1A is the natural scenic link for many trails along the coast.

The blueway linkages and many stops along the Matanzas River (Intercoastal Waterway) and along the Atlantic Ocean allows for access to Vilano Town Center. Camachee Island and Vilano Boat Ramp are two of many blueway stops near Vilano Town Center. Within St. Johns County's Blueway Masterplan, Nease Beachfront Park, Mussallem Beachfront Park and Vilano Beach Oceanfront Park comprise large sections of recreational property funded through

Who maintains your trail(s)? Please identify each trail and the manager.

For the proposed A1A Multi-use Trail, maintenance will be synchronized between St Johns County and Friends of A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway who currently maintain maintenance agreements for other projects. The St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department service the Vilano Town Center for landscaping and maintenance projects. This is a specialized overlay district within the county with acquired designations as a Main Street Community (2003) and Waterfront Florida Community (1999).

For the trail system in the GTM NERR (state park), state maintenance staff and volunteers maintain the walking, biking, & equestrian trails.

- Yes No Are the trail users day travelers?
- Yes No Are the trail users long distance travelers?
- Yes No Are there multiple types of trail users entering your town?
- Yes No Can trail users refill their supplies and repack their bags to continued their journey?

If you checked Yes to any of the above, please explain how your town accommodates these trail users.

Vilano Beach Town Center has a Publix Supermarket and small retail shops along with restaurants and hotels to accommodate overnight visitors and trail enthusiasts.

Additionally, North Beach Camp Resort just north of the Town Center has restock supplies for the trail enthusiasts.

See attached maps.

Many biking enthusiasts are one day visitors but occasionally groups do plan extended overnight stays along the route.

ACCESSIBILITY

How close is/are the trail(s) to your town? Do you think this is a reasonable distance for the trail users to travel? Why or why not?

Please review the maps. Vilano Town Center is in the heart of the traffic pattern for traversing from Ponte Vedra to St. Augustine and beyond.

The Town Center as a designated Trail Town is most logical given its proximity to the main corridor of A1A and linkages to the connecting River to Sea Loop Trail through St. Augustine.

Palm Valley and Ponte Vedra are additionally developing smaller trail systems which complement the larger pattern for greater distances.

Yes No **Is there a path connecting the trail to your downtown business area?**

Along A1A there is a Nature Boardwalk in the Vilano Town Center which naturally connects cyclists and pedestrians to the Town Center.

The boardwalk was constructed in 2002 and updated with interpretive signage in 2014 and consistently used for community events.

Access is regularly used by neighboring residents to visit the Town Center by bike, foot or even golf cart.

Can trail users easily recognize that your town is near the trail? Is there direct signage on the trail leading into your town? Please describe.

Signage for the A1A Byway is well marked. Additional signage is planned for East Coast Greenway Trail identification.

BikeVilano.com – newly created website & APP - now contains cycling rack sites and other information for trail travelers.

What kinds of amenities are directly at or near the trail entrance into your town?

Rest rooms – public pavilions & private businesses

Restaurants – currently 6 in the Town Center with additional five in neighboring communities.

Hotels – currently 4 in the Town Center with an additional 2 under construction. Nearby areas include four more – including a campground.

Retail – A few multi-functional small businesses carry needed coastal community type accessories needed for travelers.

The City of St Augustine – just 2 miles southwest from the Town Center – hosts a multitude of shops with goods and amenities desired by travelers.

Are your business owners and citizens aware that there is a trail near your town? Are they well informed about the trail? If not, what steps will you take to accomplish these goals?

Since 2017 with the concept proposal to create the A1A Multi-Use Trail from Ponte Vedra to Vilano Beach, the public has received a great deal of information regarding future plans and existing plans.

Monthly, Vilano Beach Main Street, conducts community meetings wherein all topics are discussed and information exchanged. This includes trail issues, business development, and transportation issues which are timely matters.

Currently over 1000 names have been secured for the support of the trail development through a public petition process spearheaded by a resident community team wanting the multi-use trail.

Residents desire alternative transportation paths to access the Town Center from North Beach which extends 8 miles north of the Town Center.

TOWN PARTICIPATION

Do you have a trail-oriented Community Support Organization or a local trail advocacy group? If so, please identify them. If not, please describe who has expressed interest in supporting the community by becoming a Trail Town.

Friends of A1A is collaborating with Vilano Beach Main Street, North Shore Improvement Association, Friends of GTM NERR, Velofest and other organizations to develop trails and maintenance efforts agreeable to the state and county for ongoing use.

Please see the attached presentation materials listing all HOAs and community groups involved.

What events take place on or near your trail? Please specify the purpose of the event, local participation, who hosts it, and how often it occurs.

Multiple NGOs host events along A1A. Recently the MS Society with help from Velofest sponsored a bike ride from Ponte Vedra to Vilano.

Vilano Beach Main Street spearheads beach and Town cleanups which include bike lane cleanups periodically in tandem with other civic groups such as Kiwanis Kids and Rotary.

Do you have a Trail Town plan or a local development plan that includes trails? Please describe.

Yes – St. Johns County has a MASTER PLAN which includes development of Greenway and Blueway Trails.

See some maps attached.

The A1A Byway plan includes alternative multi-use trail development.

Describe the citizen initiatives in your town that foster and maintain trail growth and traffic.

Citizen initiatives reflect activism through the Friends of A1A plan implementation; Vilano Beach Main Street volunteer contributions; Velofest participation on bike inventory and safe and so much more.

What efforts have been made to coordinate with neighboring communities for events and trail connectivity? Please describe.

Within the last 12 months, community presentations have been made to multiple HOAs and community groups educating them on trails and plans.

See attached PowerPoint presentation. City, County, NGO and individual presentations at festivals all assist in the education process. (ie Vilano Fest 2018)

BUSINESSES

What businesses provide necessary goods and services and incentives to trail users? Please list the name of the business, the owner and the goods and services and incentives provided.

See attached map of Town Center Businesses and other area attractions.

**For each of the following, list your contact person and their telephone number:
Chamber of Commerce**

Isabelle Rodriguez, President, St Johns County Chamber of Commerce
904-829-6477 / isabelle.rodriquez@sjcchamber.com / One News Place, St. Augustine, FL
Very supportive.

Visitor, Tourism or Economic Development Council

Richard Goldman , President & Chief Executive Officer
St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors & Convention Bureau
office:904.829.1711 direct:904.209.4426 www.FloridasHistoricCoast.com

Tera Meeks, Executive Director, St. Johns County Tourist Development Council 1.800.653.2489
meeks@sjctdc.com / (904) 209-0655

Mayor or City Council or City Commissioner's Office

Vilano Town Center is unincorporated and reports to St. Johns County Commissioners.
Commissioner Henry Dean is most supportive and is the current Chair.
500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084
P: (904) 209-0305 // C: (904) 325-3924 E: bcc5hdean@sjcfl.us

Does your town have a coalition of local businesses that support the trail? Please describe. If not, please list which businesses you have contacted to be Trail Town businesses.

Yes – please see the trail presentation listing.

Friends of A1A has a host of supporting businesses supporting the trails and Vilano Town Center is along the trail. This includes multiple recreational businesses and state, federal and county park supporters.

What kind of discounts, deals, or special packages are offered to trail users?

Usually 10% discounts are offered on retail items and special lodging discounts offered on event day stays. This is highly variable by proprietor and activity.

AMENITIES

Yes No **Does your town have bike racks, boat dock and launches, hitching posts, etc.? If not, please describe any planned amenities that will be provided.**

See maps attached.

Bike rack inventory has recently been completed.

Boat launches are available at GTM NERR; Boating Club Road and Vilano Boat Ramp as well as Porpoise Point and beach access areas.

List the restaurants in your town and near your trail. Describe what kind of food is offered, the distance from the trail and the average prices for each location.

See attached attractions maps.

Food ranges from \$ to \$\$\$ depending on preferences.

All dining areas are along the A1A trail which abuts to the Vilano Town Center and continues.

List the overnight accommodations available to trail users and any plans for expanding these options. Include any special rates or packages offered for trail users.

See attached attractions maps.

Special discounts are negotiated dependent upon events.

Overnight stays are tracked.

List all water fountains/spigots available for trail users and their distance from the trail.

All trail users have access to public water spigots in the Town Center at each pavilion and at the various county parks along the route.

Where can food be purchased and easily packaged for trail use? Please list all locations and their distance from the trail.

See attached maps.

INFORMATION

Is there clear signage on the trail with information about the town? Please describe.

Yes – A1A signage is in place; East Coast Greenway Trail Signage in planning stages; Vilano Town Center wayfinding signage updated periodically.

Yes No Is there directional signage leading from the trail into town?

Yes No Is there directional signage in the town with information about amenities?

Do central businesses have pamphlets or other material about what your town offers? Please list these businesses and which ones you may have contacted to begin doing so.

Website & APP information have usurped sign preferences. Can be updated immediately.

SAFETY

Yes No Does your town have wide sidewalks (10-12')?

Yes No Does your town have protected bike lanes?

Yes No Does your town have crosswalks?

Yes No Is your downtown business district well-lit?

Yes No Is your downtown business district safely navigable by foot or bicycle?

If you checked No to any of the above, please describe your plans to improve upon safety features.

When infrastructure of streetscapes completed in 2008, Vilano Town Center supports 12 ft wide sidewalks maintained by St Johns County. This includes lighting, crosswalks, cycling routes.

All else in compliance.

Are your law enforcement officers and first responders familiar with the trail location, terrain and length? Please describe the extent of their knowledge and any training they have received in this matter.

Vilano Beach has a Sheriff Office substation at Meadow and First Street.

Yes – officers are informed and knowledgeable of the trails existing in the area.

For each of the following, list your contact person and their telephone number:

Fire Department:

Vilano Beach / South Ponte Vedra Fire Station

2998 S Ponte Vedra Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 [Phone: \(904\) 209-1700](tel:9042091700)

Police Department:

St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
Shirley E. Terry, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
904-824-8304 // tshirley@sjsso.org

Medical Services:

911 Services – Beaches at Baptist in Jax Beach (904) 627-2900 and Flagler Hospital in St Augustine are the nearest facilities. (400 Health Park Blvd St Augustine, 32084 /904-819-4425) Additional urgent care facilities and additional Fire Rescue units are in the area. Specifically Vilano / South Ponte Vedra has a dedicated station along A1A.

List all medical services available to trail users, including specialized equipment, specialized training and facilities.

911 Services – as trail develops and Adopt a Trail Advocates develop contacts, lists will be available along the trails for emergency needs.

AAPS to be updated as well.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

It is the intent of **Vilano Beach Main Street, Inc. on behalf of Vilano Beach Town Center** (name of community, town, city etc.) to recognize this community as a Florida Trail Town. By execution of this consent, the undersigned confirms the community's desire to participate in the Office of Greenways and Trails' Florida Trail Town program.

Date: **08.27.2018**

Printed Name: **Vivian Browning, President of Vilano Beach Main Street, Inc.**



[Signature of community leadership]

Email or mail to:

Office of Greenways and Trails
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Doug.Alderson@dep.state.fl.us