



MARTIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD • STUART, FL 34996

Telephone: 772-220-7114
Fax: 772-288-5955
Email: myustin@martin.fl.us

DOUG SMITH
Commissioner, District 1

ED FIELDING
Commissioner, District 2

HAROLD E. JENKINS II
Commissioner, District 3

SARAH HEARD
Commissioner, District 4

EDWARD V. CIAMPI
Commissioner, District 5

TARYN KRYZDA, CPM
County Administrator

SARAH W. WOODS
County Attorney

August 3, 2017

Ms. Christine Small
Office of Greenways and Trail
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard,
M.S. 795
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Ms. Small,

Please find the attached application from the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails to designate Florida Paddling Trails within Martin County.

The Martin County Board of County Commissioner appreciates the value and importance of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River, which in addition to its biological importance, provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County, with potential to benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with national paddling groups and organizations. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the "27-80 Paddlers Club", who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.

TELEPHONE
772-288-5400

WEB ADDRESS
<http://www.martin.fl.us>

An officially recognized Florida Paddling Trail in Martin County will strongly benefit water-based industries and the local community. On behalf of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to request that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Greenways and Trails designate the South Fork of the St. Lucie River and Martin County portion of the Indian River Lagoon as Florida Paddling Trails.

Sincerely,



Michael Yustin
Project Manager
Ecosystem Restoration and Management Division

Cc: Deborah Drum,
Ecosystem Restoration and Management Manager

**APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION
OF PUBLIC LANDS OR WATERWAYS**

NAME OF PROJECT: Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River Paddling Trails

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: Indian River Lagoon, South Fork of the St. Lucie River and St. Lucie River

COUNTY/COUNTIES: Martin County

OWNER OF PROJECT: Board of Trustee of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
PLEASE NOTE: A completed and signed "Owner Consent," DEP Form #OGT-7, effective July 10, 2003, must be attached to this Application at the time of submittal.

CONTACT: Director, Division of State Lands

ADDRESS: 3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS 100, Tallahassee, Fl 32399

TELEPHONE: (850) 245-5525 FAX: ()

MANAGING ENTITY OF PROJECT: Martin County Board of County Commissioners
PLEASE NOTE: A completed and signed "Management Certificate," DEP Form #OGT-8, effective July 10, 2003, must be attached to this Application at the time of submittal.

CONTACT: Michael Yustin

ADDRESS: 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Fl 34996

TELEPHONE: (772) 220-7114 FAX: ()

PROJECT SUBMITTED BY (Check one): ☐ OWNER ☒ MANAGING ENTITY

TYPE OF PROJECT (Check One):

☐ National park, forest or trail, preserve, seashore, wildlife refuge, wild scenic river, military reservation, Native American Lands, or other (describe): _____

☒ State park unit, forest, recreation area, submerged land, wildlife management area, historical or archaeological site, ornamental or botanical garden, university system property, museum or other special feature site, public game area, preserve, or other (describe): The trail extends through Sovereign Submerged Lands. The Indian River Lagoon portion is within an Aquatic Preserve.


☐ Lands owned by a port authority, flood control district, water management district, navigation district or other agency created by general or special law (describe): _____

☐ Local government conservation or recreation land, urban open space area or other (describe): _____

Please attach a location map and general description of the lands and/or waterways proposed for designation, including the length of trails, total acreage and points of interest or special features. If trails will be available for public access, please identify the trail alignment, public access points, trailheads, and facilities to accommodate the proposed types of public uses over the length of the trail(s). Photographs and printed brochures or other information may also be attached, if available.

The undersigned hereby certify that the Project consists solely of Public Conservation or Recreation Lands or Waterways, as that term is defined in Section 62S-1.100(19), F.A.C., and that the undersigned will negotiate with the Office of Greenways and Trails to formulate and thereafter enter into a mutually satisfactory designation agreement to govern the Project's participation in the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

SIGNATURES OF SUBMITTING PARTY(IES):



DATE: 7/27/2017

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

☐ OWNER ☒ MANAGING ENTITY (CHECK ONE)

Return Completed and Signed Application To:

Office of Greenways and Trails
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Telephone: (850) 245-2052

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS**

**MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR DESIGNATION OF LANDS OR WATERWAYS AS PART OF THE
FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS SYSTEM**

TO: Office of Greenways and Trails
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River Paddling Trails
Name of Project

Martin County, Florida
Address or Location of Project

FROM: Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Name of Managing Entity

Michael Yustin
Name of Contact/Representative

2401 SE Monterey Road
Address of Managing Entity

Stuart, FL 34996
City, State and Zip Code

(772) 220-7114
Telephone Number

(772) 288-5955
Facsimile Number

Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
Name of Owner of Property Proposed for Designation**

3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS 100
Address of Owner of Property Proposed for Designation

Tallahassee, FL 32399
City, State and Zip Code

(850) 245-5525
Telephone Number

()
Facsimile Number

**** Attach additional sheet(s) if more than one owner**

The undersigned Managing Entity hereby ratifies and confirms:

- (1) That it is willing to manage the Project following its designation by the Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System;
- (2) That management of the project will be based on and proceed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the following:
 - (a) Existing leases, subleases, management plans, licenses, easements or other agreements or encumbrances previously executed and currently in effect for any portion of the lands or waterways located within the Project; and
 - (b) A designation agreement to be negotiated among and executed by the undersigned Managing Entity, the Owner(s) of the lands or waterways proposed for designation and the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, which designation agreement shall be subordinate to any existing leases, agreements or other encumbrances described in paragraph (a) above.
- (3) That in the event the undersigned ceases to be the Managing Entity of the Project or if the aforementioned designation agreement is amended, rescinded or otherwise terminated for any reason, the undersigned will notify the Department's Office of Greenways and Trails within five (5) business days following the occurrence of any such event.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this instrument to be signed as of the date set forth below.

MANAGING ENTITY

Martin County Board of County Commissioners

[Print Name of Managing Entity]

By: 

Print Name: TARYN KRYZDA

Title: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Date: 7/27/12

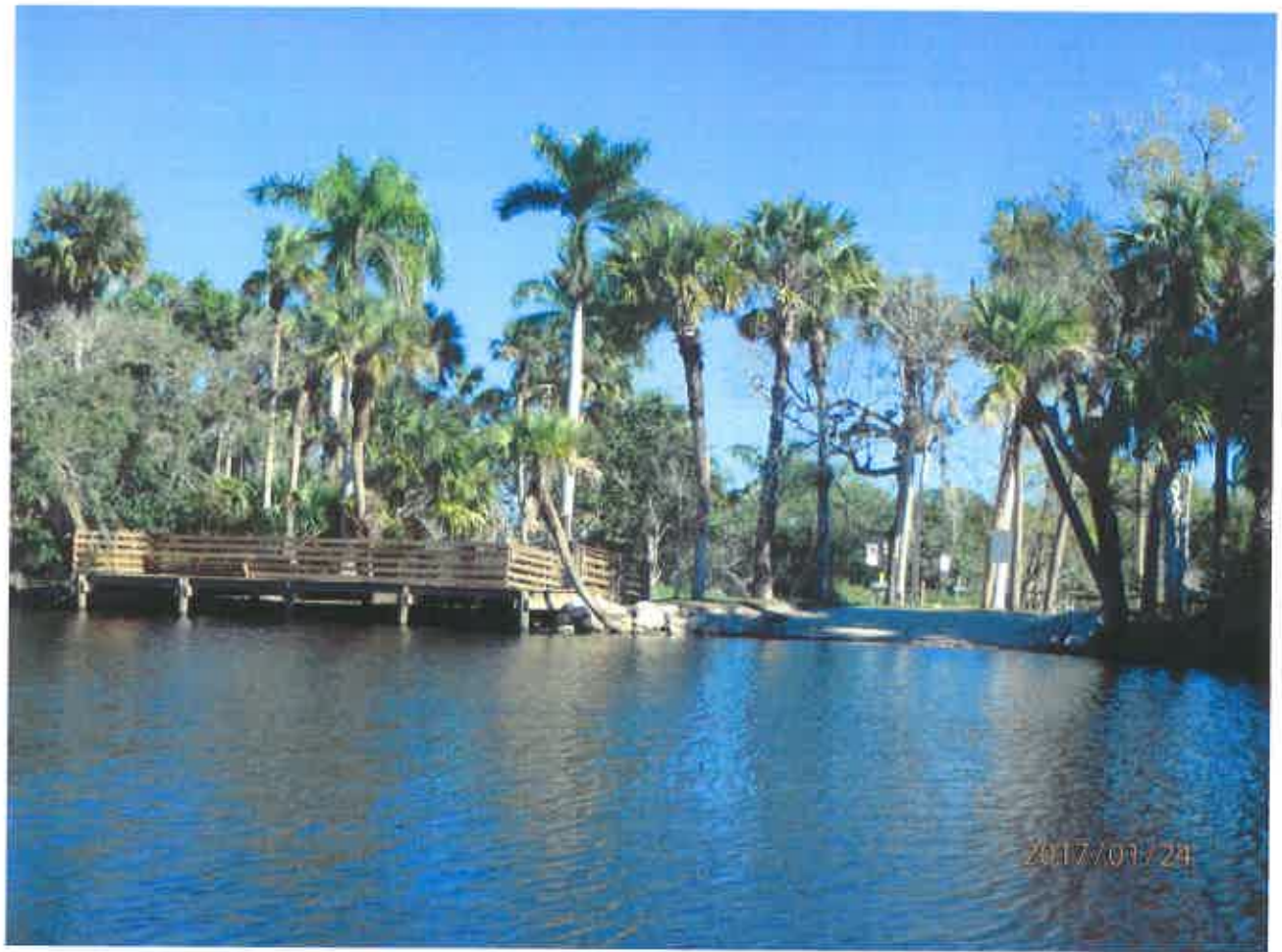
Photographs taken from the Proposed Paddling Trail



South Fork Spur Trail (Halpatiokee Park)



South Fork Spur Trail



Delaplane Dock and Launch Site



Kiplinger Launch Site



Pendarvis Cove Shoreline



Flagler Park Boardwalk Photo



Indian RiverSide Park Dock and Launch Site



Joe's River Park Dock and Launch Site



River Cove Shoreline Photo



Perry Beach Site Dock and Future Launch Site



Spoil Island MC-3 Shoreline Photo



St. Lucie River State Park Spur Trail



Peck Lake Park View From Pavilion



Indian River Lagoon Paddling Trail

Trail Map of the Proposed Paddling Trail

Site_Name	Restrooms	Launch_Site	Picnic_Tables	Trails
Chastain Beach	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cove Road Park	No	Yes	Yes	No
Delaplane Preserve	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Flagler Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Halpatiokee North	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Halpatiokee South	No	No	Yes	Yes
Hosford Park	No	Yes	Yes	No
Indian RiverSide Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jensen Beach Causeway	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Jimmy Graham	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Jock Leighton	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Joes River Park	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kiplinger Preserve	No	No	Yes	Yes
Manatee Cove Boat Ramp	Yes	Yes	No	No
Peck Lake Park	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Pendarvis Cove	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Perry Beach	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Phipps Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
River Cove Park	No	Yes	Yes	No
Sandspritt Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Shepard Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Spoil Island MC-3	No	No	No	Yes
St. Lucie Inlet State Park	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Legend

 Trail Destinations

Paddle_Trail

Trail_Name

 IRL South

 IRL South Spur

 St. Lucie

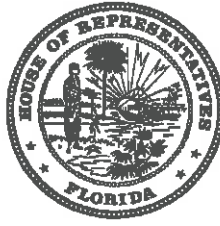
 St. Lucie Spur



Paddling Trail Total Distances
St. Lucie Spur 3.6
St. Lucie 17.9
IRL South Spur 2.6
IRL South 13.6

Disclaimer
This Geographic Information System Map Product received from Martin County ("COUNTY") in fulfillment of a public records request is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, and the COUNTY expressly disclaims all express and implied warranties, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. The COUNTY does not warrant, guarantee, or make any representations regarding the use, or the results of the use, of the information provided to you by the COUNTY in terms of completeness, accuracy, reliability, timeliness or otherwise. The entire risk as to the results and performance of any information obtained from the COUNTY is entirely assumed by the recipient.

Community Support for the Proposed Paddling Trail



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Gayle Harrell

District 83

District Office:
900 SE Federal Hwy.
Suite 325
Stuart, FL 34994
(772) 221-4011
(772) 221-4013 (fax)

Tallahassee Office:
214 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5083

Email: gayle.harrell@myfloridahouse.com

July 14, 2017

Ms. Christine Small, Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Ms. Small,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails.

The Treasure Coast Delegation sees significant value and importance of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River, which in addition to its biological importance, provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County, with potential to benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with national paddling groups and organizations to enhance tourism benefits. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the "27-80 Paddlers Club", who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.

Officially recognized Blueways would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. On behalf of the Treasure Coast Delegation, we strongly support the actions being taken for a Paddling Trail designation of the St. Lucie River Southern Fork and Indian River Lagoon – Martin County portion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle".

Gayle Harrell, District 83
Florida House of Representatives



Florida House of Representatives
Representative MaryLynn Magar
District 82

District Office:
11700 SE Dixie Hwy.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
(772) 545-3481
(772) 545-3483 (fax)

Tallahassee Office:
214 House Office Bldg.
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5082

July 17, 2017

Ms. Christine Small
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Ms. Small,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails.

I see significant value and importance of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River, which in addition to its biological importance, provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County, with potential to benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as "Blueways", partnering with FDEP and with national paddling groups and organizations to enhance tourism benefits. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the "27-80 Paddlers Club", who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.

Officially recognized "Blueways" would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. I strongly support the actions being taken for a Paddling Trail designation of the St. Lucie River Southern Fork and Indian River Lagoon – Martin County portion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M Magar".

Representative MaryLynn Magar
House of Representatives, District 82

Cc: Deborah Drum, Martin County Ecosystem Restoration Manager

Committees:
Health Innovation Subcommittee - Chair
Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee
Health & Human Services Committee
Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
Post-Secondary Education Subcommittee



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

SENATOR JOE NEGRON

President
25th District

July 24, 2017

Ms. Christine Small
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: Paddling Trail Designation

Dear Ms. Small:

I am writing to express my support of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Office of Greenways and Trails.

The South Fork of the St. Lucie River provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County that benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with national paddling groups and organizations to enhance tourism benefits. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public. Officially recognized Blueways would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community.

Your favorable consideration of this application is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Negron", is written over a blue circular stamp.

Joe Negron
State Senator
District 25

JN/cl

Cc: Deborah Drum, Martin County Ecosystem Restoration Manager

REPLY TO:

☐ 3600 SW Corporate Parkway, Suite 204, Palm City, Florida 34980 (772) 219-1885 FAX: (888) 263-7895
☐ 305 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5025

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

JOE NEGRON
President of the Senate

ANITERE FLORES
President Pro Tempore



Resolution

27-80 Paddlers is a group of kayakers that participate in organized kayak trips primarily in Martin, St. Lucie and Palm Beach Counties. Our membership at this time numbers 160, most of who reside in Martin and St. Lucie Counties and enjoy biking, hiking and social events as well as paddling. The club functions as a cooperative group. All activities the club engages in are dependent upon contributions made by club members.

It is hereby Resolved:

The members of 27-80 Paddlers support the Florida Greenways and Trails Act. We would be proud to assist in the monitoring of local waterways which have been named "Florida Designated Paddling Trails" to the best of our ability. We will report to authorities designated in the USE plan any issues we observe regarding the designated trails. We will solicit volunteers from our membership as requested to assist the Trail Manager who will be maintaining the Trail.

By:

John Stiles, President
27-80 Paddlers Board of Directors

Dated: March 14, 2017



BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 59-2017

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A LETTER SUPPORTING THE MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' APPLICATION FOR A PADDLING TRAIL DESIGNATION THROUGH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP) OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

* * * * *

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA** that:

SECTION 1: The CITY COMMISSION **authorizes** the Mayor to execute a letter supporting the Martin County Board of County Commissioners' application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of Greenways and Trails.

SECTION 2: Effective Date: This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

Commissioner KRAUSKOPF offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner GLASS LEIGHTON and upon being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:


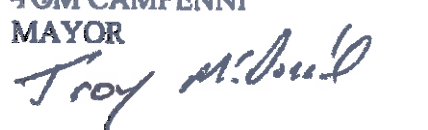
TOM CAMPENNI, MAYOR
 TROY MCDONALD, VICE MAYOR
 JEFFREY A. KRAUSKOPF, COMMISSIONER
 EULA R. CLARKE, COMMISSIONER
 KELLI GLASS LEIGHTON, COMMISSIONER

YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
		X	
X			
X			
X			
X			

ADOPTED this 22ND day of May, 2017.

ATTEST:


 for CHERYL WHITE
 CITY CLERK


 TOM CAMPENNI
 MAYOR


APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
 CORRECTNESS:


 MICHAEL MORTELL
 CITY ATTORNEY



Mayor
City Commission

City of Stuart

121 S.W. Flagler Avenue • Stuart • Florida • 34994

Telephone: (772) 288-5312

May 22, 2017

Christine Small
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Christine.Small@dep.state.fl.us

Dear Mrs. Small,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of Greenways and Trails.

The City of Stuart sees the significant value and importance of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River which, in addition to its biological importance, provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County with potential to benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with national paddling groups and organizations to enhance tourism benefits. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the "27-80 Paddlers Club", who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.

Officially recognized Blueways would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. On behalf of the City of Stuart, we strongly support the actions being taken for a Paddling Trail designation of the St. Lucie River South Fork and Indian River Lagoon within Martin County.

Sincerely,

Tom Campenni, Mayor



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park
4810 Southeast Cove Road
Stuart, FL 34997

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

June 13, 2017

Dear Ms. Small:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails.

The Florida Park Service sees significant value and importance of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River, which in addition to its biological importance, provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County, benefitting eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with national paddling groups and organizations to enhance tourism benefits. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the "27-80 Paddlers Club", who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.

The kayak trail at St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park is a popular recreational activity with many of our park visitors. Monthly guided kayak tours as well as visitor led trips are a huge draw to the park and surrounding areas. Adding the Blueway would only further enhance the recreational opportunities available to the public.

Officially recognized Blueways would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. The increased awareness of how unique and important the Indian River Lagoon and South Fork are is truly invaluable. On behalf of St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park, we strongly support the actions being taken for a Paddling Trail designation of the St. Lucie River Southern Fork and Indian River Lagoon – Martin County portion.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Andy Flanner, written in a cursive style.

Andy Flanner, Park Manager
St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park



MARTIN MPO

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

2401 S.E. Monterey Rd.
Stuart, Florida 34996
<http://www.martinmpo.com>

May 24, 2017

TROY MCDONALD

Chair
Commissioner For
The City Of Stuart

VINNY BARILE

Vice Chair
Commissioner For
The Town Of Sewall's Point

SARAH HEARD

Martin County Commissioner

TOM CAMPENNI

Commissioner For
The City Of Stuart

EDWARD CIAMPI

Martin County Commissioner

HAROLD JENKINS

Martin County Commissioner

DOUG SMITH

Martin County Commissioner

ANTHONY DOWLING

Indiantown Representative

Ms. Christine Small

Division of Recreation and Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795

Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Martin County Board of County Commissioners Application
Paddling Trail Designations, Martin County, Florida
St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon

Dear Ms. Small,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails.

The Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) sees significant value and importance of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River, which in addition to its biological importance, provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County, with potential to benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the MPO's 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with paddling groups and organizations to enhance the paddling experience for both residents and visitors. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the "27-80 Paddlers Club", who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.



TELEPHONE:
(772) 221-1498

FAX:
(772) 288-5789

Ms. Christine Small
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Page 2

Officially recognized Blueways would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. On behalf of the Martin MPO, we strongly support the actions being taken for a Paddling Trail designation of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon-Martin County portion.

Sincerely,



Troy McDonald
Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization
Chairman

TM:mhb



Martin County Administrative Center | 2401 SE Monterey Road | Stuart, FL 34996 | 772-288-5445 | 877-585-0085 | www.discovermartin.com

**Ms. Deborah Drum, Ecosystem Restoration & Management Division
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Engineering
2460 Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996**

**Re: Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) –
Office of Greenways and Trails**

Dear Ms. Drum:

Thank you for informing us of your plans to apply for the Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails.

The opportunity to be an officially recognized Blueway would be incredibly beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. The ability to market our unique ecotourism assets allows us to attract visitors that are looking for eco-based activities. This designation will have a positive impact on tourism retention and growth.

Tourism is the number one industry in Florida, having prestigious designations helps us to attract a larger visitor base, which will lead to an increase in tourism expenditures. This increase in tourism expenditures will in turn help with the creation of new jobs, improving the quality of life for our county, region and the State of Florida.

The Martin County Office of Tourism and Marketing looks forward to working with Martin Engineering Department to help make this project a success. If you need further assistance with this project, please contact me at (772) 288-5445.

Sincerely,

**Nerissa Okiye
Tourism and Marketing Manager
Martin County Office of Tourism and Marketing**



**MARTIN COUNTY CHAPTER
FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

Po Box 233
Stuart, FL 34995-0233

May 31, 2017

Dear Mrs. Small,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) application for a Paddling Trail designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails.

The Martin County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society sees significant botanical importance in the South Fork of the St. Lucie River which provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most biologically diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County, with potential to benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with national paddling groups and organizations to enhance tourism benefits. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the “27-80 Paddlers Club”, who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.

Officially recognized Blueways would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. On behalf of the Martin County Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, we strongly support the actions being taken for a Paddling Trail designation of the St. Lucie River Southern Fork and Indian River Lagoon – Martin County portion.

Sincerely,

Ellen Broderick, President
Martin County Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society

Michael Yustin

From: Nerissa Okiye
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:37 PM
To: Michael Yustin
Cc: Deborah Drum
Subject: FW: Designated paddle trail Letter of Support

Below is from Ohana Surf Shop. Thanks-Nerissa

Nerissa Okiye
Tourism & Marketing Manager
Martin County Office of Tourism & Marketing
County Administrative Center
2401 S.E. Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida 34996
nokiy@martin.fl.us
Office: (772)288-5445
Cellphone: (772)631-8534



From: Ohana Surf Shop [<mailto:ohanadocs@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 11:23 AM
To: Nerissa Okiye
Subject: Designated paddle trail Letter of Support

The creation of a Designated Paddle Trail will help promote paddling safety and Eco awareness. A trail that is used specifically for non-motorized water craft will provide added safety and encourage novice paddlers to explore our beautiful Eco system in Martin County. Knowing that Martin County has a safe and designated paddle trail will bring visitors from near and far to experience our waterways. It will also be a boost to local business when more people visit and fall in love with Martin County.

Sincerely,
Jordan Schwartz
Ohana Surf Shop
652 ne Ocean Blvd
Stuart, Fl 34996



MARTIN

2401 S.E. Monterey Rd.
Stuart, Florida 34996
<http://www.martinmpo.com>

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

May 24, 2017

TROY MCDONALD
Chair
Commissioner For
The City Of Stuart

VINNY BARILE
Vice Chair
Commissioner For
The Town Of Seewall's Point

SARAH HEARD
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Martin County Commissioner

HAROLD JENKINS
Martin County Commissioner

DOUG SMITH
Martin County Commissioner

ANTHONY DOWLING
Indian River Representative

Ms. Christine Small
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

RE: Martin County Board of County Commissioners Application
Paddling Trail Designations, Martin County, Florida
St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon

Dear Ms. Small,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails.

The Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) sees significant value and importance of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River, which in addition to its biological importance, provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County, with potential to benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the MPO's 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with paddling groups and organizations to enhance the paddling experience for both residents and visitors. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the "27-80 Paddlers Club", who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.

TELEPHONE:
(772) 221-1498

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(772) 288-5789

**Ms. Christine Small
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
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Officially recognized Blueways would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. On behalf of the Martin MPO, we strongly support the actions being taken for a Paddling Trail designation of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon—Martin County portion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Troy McDonald', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

**Troy McDonald
Martin Metropolitan Planning Organization
Chairman**

TM:mhb



May 15, 2017

Dear Mr. Yustin,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) application for a Paddling Trail Designation through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – Office of Greenways and Trails.

South River Outfitters, Inc. and the Stout family see significant value and importance of the South Fork of the St. Lucie River, which in addition to its biological importance, provides connections to the Intracoastal Waterway, water access inland, and a connection to Lake Okeechobee via the St. Lucie Canal (C-44). Additionally, the Indian River Lagoon is the most diverse estuary in North America. These ecosystems serve an integral role in Martin County, with potential to benefit eco-tourism, public parks and preserves, wildlife, and adjacent local businesses.

It was recommended in the 2014 Martin and St. Lucie Regional Waterways Plan to seek designation of local paddling trails as Blueways, partnering with FDEP and with national paddling groups and organizations to enhance tourism benefits. The designation of the South Fork and Indian River Lagoon also has support from various members of the public, including the "27-80 Paddlers Club", who have specifically requested this designation from county staff.

Officially recognized Blueways would be beneficial to Martin County and the associated water-based industries and community. On behalf of the South River Outfitters, Inc. and the Stout family we strongly support the actions being taken for a Paddling Trail designation of the St. Lucie River Southern Fork and Indian River Lagoon – Martin County portion.

Sincerely,

Ed Stout
South River Outfitters, Inc.