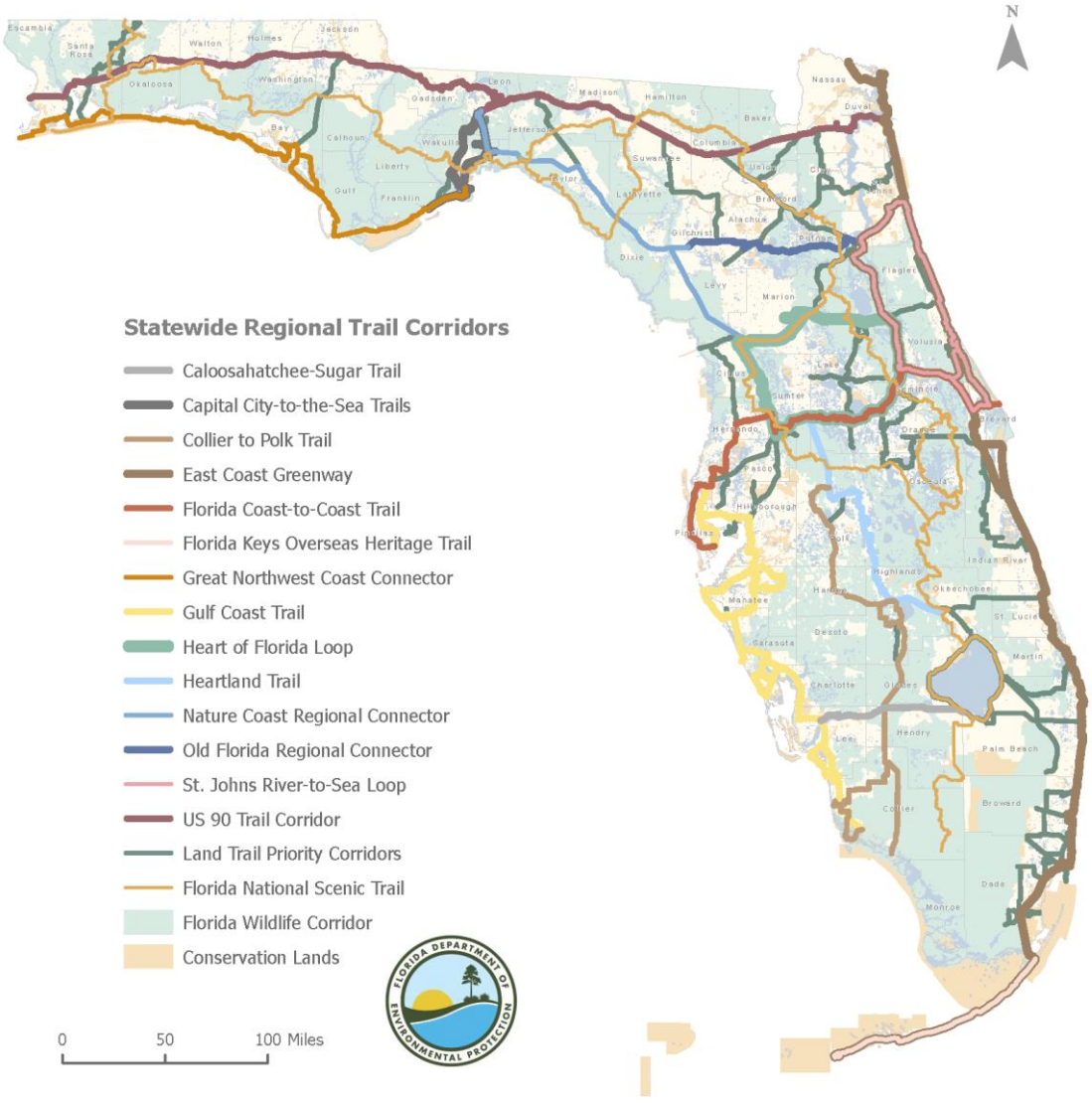
Trail Town Information

Trail

Is your town connected to (or near) a regional trail?

- Identify the Regional Trail(s) that connect to or are near your town, depicted in the below map. These Regional Trails represent identified connections within the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Priority Network. To be considered for inclusion in the Trail Town program, candidates must have existing trails in their community.



List other neighboring trails and their proximity to your town (in miles).

- Identify what other trails are in or near your town. This is important for promoting your Trail Town and the recreational opportunities that are available, as well as partnering with neighboring trail communities.
- If your town is not directly on a Regional Trail, identify what other existing, long-distance trail goes through your community. What existing trails link your town to the closest Regional Trail?

What types of trails exist in/near your town (hiking, biking, paddling, multi-use, equestrian, etc.)?

- Is your trail a hiking, biking, paddling, shared use or non-motorized, multi-use, or equestrian trail? How many trails connect to your town?
- Defining this will help you further identify what types of trail users will be entering your town and what amenities will be necessary to provide for their needs.
- Ex: Will the trail users need bike shops? Will the trail users need paddling equipment and/or an outfitter? Will the trail users need campgrounds or cabins? Will there be multiple types of trail users entering your town?

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

- Please list all managers for the trail(s) in your town. Do you have a good working relationship with the manager(s)?
- The trail should be easy to use, safe, and well-maintained. Trail users' first impression of your town will likely be from the status of the trail. A trail user's visit should be enjoyable, safe, and scenic. Maintenance is crucial to ensuring the safety of trail users, attracting tourists, and encouraging return visitors.

Accessibility

What is the location of the trail, compared to the business district? Does your trail go right through the heart of downtown? Or is it more towards the edge of town?

- In order to be a successful Trail Town, you must have a trail near enough to your central business district (within two miles) to be accessible to trail users.
- Consider the type of trail user that will need to access your town. If it is primarily a biking trail, a two-mile journey to your town may not be too difficult. However, if it is a hiking or paddling trail, two miles can be taxing. Think about your town's trail connectivity, proximity to amenities, and types of trail users when planning for visitors.

Do you have signage on the trails that clearly identifies the direction/distance to your town? Can trail users easily recognize that your town is near the trail? Please describe.

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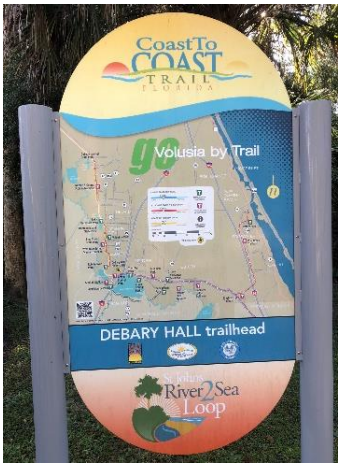
- Trail users should be able to clearly identify information indicating that your town is located nearby. The farther removed that the trail is from your downtown, the more important direct signage will be. Ideally, these signs should list how far the town is, give directions, and list what amenities are available in town.
- There should be signs on the trail and on any connecting paths pointing trail users to your town (think of this like a highway exit sign). Examples below:



Town Participation

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?

- Town participation through local businesses is an important step to creating a welcoming community and Trail Town environment. Local businesses should be able to provide visitors with information about the recreational opportunities, resources, and amenities offered within your town.

- Do you have a Main Street organization or something similar that can ensure businesses are well-informed? What efforts have you taken towards verifying that businesses know about the local trail system or towards educating them?

What events take place on or near your trail? Please specify the purpose of the event, degree of local participation, who hosts it, how often it occurs, and recent attendance numbers (if available):

- At least one event per year must be held that is either for the trail or draws attention to the trail. This can be an event that takes place on or near a trail (race, fundraiser, etc.). The goal is to draw attention to the trail(s) and attract people that may not normally be trail users. In doing so, you will boost the Trail Town's visibility and economy.

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

- A written plan with attainable goals helps ensure that Trail Towns continue fostering trail development and improvement beyond attaining designation. A specific "Trail Town Plan" is not necessary but is encouraged. If your town does not have a master plan that includes trails, is it included in any plans made by the County or regional group such as a TPO?

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

- The goal of the Trail Town program is to engage citizens with Florida's trail system through active community participation. This enhances the quality of the trail experience, creates a connection between citizens and trail users, and integrates the trail into the community's culture.
- Strong Trail Town candidates will show that there is motivation from both the citizens/community and the local government for designation. It is beneficial to have a central group that coordinates and organizes all Trail Town information to ensure longevity and commitment to the Trail Town program goals after designation.

Describe any efforts that have been made to coordinate with neighboring communities on trail related events/activities and trail connectivity:

- To engage as many citizens as possible with Florida's trails, it is important that neighboring communities have open communication and coordinate trail efforts where possible. For example, are there any group bike ride events where riders start in one community and ride to another? Consider contacting your neighboring communities to see what ongoing trail efforts they have or to coordinate on events/promotion.

Amenities (select all that apply)

- ☐ **Public Restrooms**
- ☐ **Trailheads**
- ☐ **Trash cans/Recycle bins**
- ☐ **Water Fountains**
- ☐ **Bike Racks**
- ☐ **Bicycle Repair Stations**
- ☐ **Boat Docks & Launches**
- ☐ **Hitching Posts, Mounting Stations, Water Troughs, etc.**
- ☐ **Welcome Center**
- ☐ **Pavilions**
- ☐ **Picnic Tables**
- ☐ **Free Parking**
- ☐ **Other**

- Consider what amenities your town offers to different kinds of trail users. If a bike trail is the main feature of the town, are the places to fill up bike tires or conduct general repairs?

- Accessible water stations are crucial to a trail user's health and safety. Strong Trail Town candidates will have water fountains available on and near the trail. If there are not water fountains on/near the trail, consider having water jugs, free water bottles, or free water filling within businesses. This is a friendly way to invite trail users into the town.

Information

When visitors come to your town, how do they get information?

- Is directional signage clearly visible? Are there maps throughout the town detailing where to find local businesses? Are there informational pamphlets in a Welcome Center or central location?

Physical location to get information:

- Do you have a Welcome Center or central location where visitors can find information?

- It is advisable to have a pamphlet about what your town has to offer within the central downtown area that trail users will be visiting. This is a great way to inform them about the attractions and events in your town that they may not have previously known about.

Website location:

- All relevant Trail Town information should also be easily accessible on your town's website.

Is there wayfinding signage and information about the town on the trail?

- Successful Trail Towns have signage on the trail and on any connecting paths pointing trail users into town. Ideally, signage should list how far the to the town, what direction to go, and list what amenities/businesses are available in the town.
- Detail what kind of information is listed on your town's trail signage below.

What type of information is provided on the wayfinding signage on the trail? (select all that apply)

- ☐ **Mileage**
- ☐ **Direction**
- ☐ **Other trails**
- ☐ **Towns**
- ☐ **Attractions**
- ☐ **Restrooms**
- ☐ **Local Businesses**
- ☐ **Overnight Accommodations**
- ☐ **Emergency Information**

In town, is there wayfinding signage and information about the amenities?

- Once the trail user is in your town, are they able to find their way around to access amenities? Is there signage that directs visitors to businesses or information centers?
- It is important to make navigation of your town easy for trail users. Provide as much information as possible as quickly as you can via signage.

What type of information is provided on the wayfinding signage in town? (select all that apply)

- ☐ **Mileage**
- ☐ **Direction**
- ☐ **Other trails**
- ☐ **Towns**
- ☐ **Attractions**
- ☐ **Restrooms**
- ☐ **Local Businesses**
- ☐ **Overnight Accommodations**
- ☐ **Emergency Information**

Health

Is your town engaged in any healthy community initiatives? Please describe:

- Healthy community initiatives are another great tool to engage citizens with the trail(s) and other recreational opportunities while also promoting healthy lifestyles. These kinds of programs help foster engagement and partnerships with local health organizations to cross-promote beneficial programs.

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 safely navigable by foot/bicycle?**
- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **Does your trail/town have emergency wayfinding?**
- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **Does your trail/town have emergency call boxes?**
- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **Is your community engaged in any safety initiatives?**
- ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** **Have first responders received training for trail emergencies?**

Has local law enforcement taken any initiatives to address pedestrian and bicycle safety? Please describe:

- Is your town part of the Vision Zero initiative? Does law enforcement distribute any bicycle or pedestrian safety materials? What kind of communication efforts have been taken to promote safety?

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 on this:

- This is crucial to the safety of your trail users. If an emergency occurs on the trail, first responders should be familiar with it in order to get to the location quickly. First responders and law enforcement should know where trail users will be coming from (access points), if there are connecting trails, and what types of trail users and equipment will be in and around the town.
- A working relationship between local government and first responders is necessary for open communication and cooperation for the safety of trail users, visitors, and citizens.
- Emergency signage on the trail makes communication about location much easier. This can be through mile markers and/or coded location points that emergency responders are familiar with.

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

Fire Department: _____
Police Department: _____
Medical Services: _____

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

- Depending on what type of trail is near your town, trail users might need more specific kinds of medical equipment.
- For example, if you have a mountain biking trail, you might need emergency services with an off-road vehicle to reach injured bikers. If you have a paddling trail, you might need a rescue boat to reach injured or stranded paddlers. If you have a biking trail, you might need a small vehicle able to access and pick-up injured or stranded bikers.

Businesses

Overnight Accommodations: (please select all that apply)

- ☐ **Hotel**
- ☐ **Motel**
- ☐ **Bed & Breakfast**
- ☐ **Vacation Rentals**
- ☐ **Hostel**

- [ ] **Cabins**
- [ ] **Camping**
- [ ] **Other:** _____

- Trail users coming into town by foot, bike, or paddle likely do not have access to a car to travel several miles for a hotel. Strong Trail Town candidates will have overnight accommodations that are easily accessible from the trail if not directly on it.

Restaurants & Food Options: (please select all that apply)

- [ ] **Fast Food**
- [ ] **Locally-Owned Restaurants**
- [ ] **Coffee Shop**
- [ ] **Brewery**
- [ ] **Tavern**
- [ ] **Pub**
- [ ] **Bakery**
- [ ] **Other:** _____

- Local restaurants will give trail users a taste of your town. Strong Trail Town candidates will offer various kinds of dining opportunities alongside places to park a bicycle or include options for outdoor seating or walk-up windows.

Retail & Services: (please select all that apply)

- [ ] **Grocery Store**
- [ ] **Convenience Store**
- [ ] **Pharmacy**
- [ ] **General Store**
- [ ] **Laundromat**
- [ ] **Bank/ATM**
- [ ] **Gas Station**
- [ ] **Emergency Services**
- [ ] **Post Office**

☐ **Other:** _____

- If your town is located on a long-distance trail, trail users may need to do laundry, send mail, or go to a bank when they arrive.

Outdoor Recreation Outfitters: (please select all that apply)

☐ **Rentals**
☐ **Sales**
☐ **Equipment & Repairs**
☐ **Apparel**
☐ **Supply Re-stock**
☐ **Equine Supplies**
☐ **Other:** _____

- Successful Trail Towns encourage outdoor recreation even to those visitors and residents who are not established trail users. Are there opportunities to rent kayaks or bikes for individuals that do not have their own? For those coming into town with their own equipment, are there shops or outfitters who can provide more advanced repairs or replace gear if needed?

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

Chamber of Commerce: _____
Visitor, Tourism or Economic Development Council: _____
Mayor or City Council or City Commissioner's Office: _____

Trail Town Information

For additional questions about the Trail Town program or Self-Assessment, please contact OGT at: OfficeofGreenwaysandTrails@FloridaDEP.gov.