

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of Greenways & Trails

Establishing the Florida Greenways and Trails System to advance Florida's economy, tourism, health, alternative transportation, recreation, conservation and quality of life.



The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT), within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s Division of Recreation and Parks, provides leadership and coordination to establish and expand the Florida Greenways and Trails System. To fulfill its mission under the Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Chapter 260, F. S), OGT does the following:

The Florida Greenways and Trails System

OGT implements the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan to establish priorities and define the role of the FGTS in advancing Florida's economy, tourism, health, alternative transportation, recreation, conservation and quality of life. OGT oversees the priority and opportunity maps that define the FGTS, and works in partnership with communities, agencies and organizations to close gaps in the system. OGT expands the FGTS through the acquisition of eligible projects under the Greenways and Trails portion of Florida Forever, and has partnerships with nearly 30 communities that develop and manage state acquired greenways and trails on behalf of OGT.

Supporting Communities and Projects

OGT coordinates with and provides technical assistance regarding the acquisition, development, designation and management of greenways and trails projects that fulfill the FGTS plan and vision.

Serving the Public with Greenways and Trails Information

OGT disseminates information about the many benefits that greenways and trails provide to Florida residents and visitors. OGT provides information to residents and visitors about greenways and trails recreational opportunities through publications, e-newsletters, and FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com.

OGT's Functions and Responsibilities at a glance...

- Implement the Plan for the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS)
- Evaluate and prioritize greenways and trails corridors in the FGTS
- Provide statewide coordination of the FGTS through planning and community assistance
- Facilitate and provide support to FGTS priority and opportunity projects
- Facilitate the FGTS through representation on various boards, committees and councils
- Serve as staff to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council
- Administer the Florida Greenways and Trails Designation Program
- Administer the Florida Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program
- Publicize and promote greenways and trails and the FGTS

Why the Florida Greenways and Trails System?

Trails and greenways fuel our future by...

Attracting Tourists **Improving Quality of Life**
Increasing Property Values **Stimulating Business Development**
Providing Healthy Recreation **Providing Alternative Transportation**

- In downtown Dunedin, private business occupancy rates increased from 30% to 95% following the establishment of the Pinellas Trail, described as an “economic engine” by Bob Ironsmith, the community’s economic development director.
- Three Orange County trails were estimated to support \$42 million of economic impact and 516 jobs (East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2010).
- Trails consistently remain the number one community amenity sought by prospective homeowners (National Association of Homebuilders, 2008).
- The repeated annual economic impact of cyclists was estimated to be nine times the one-time cost to build bicycle facilities (North Carolina DOT, 2004).
- Every \$1 million spent on the construction of off-street multi-use trails yields 9.6 jobs (University of Massachusetts, 2011).
- Business owners along the Great Allegheny Passage Trail in Pennsylvania and Maryland attribute 25% of revenues to their proximity to the Trail (Trail Town Economic Study, 2008).

