



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.)

The City of Clermont is home to both non-motorized, shared use trails for pedestrians, rollers, strollers and bicycles. The most notable trails are the South Lake Trail, Hancock Extension and Clermont Legacy Loop Trail. It is here, these trails connect to the Coast to Coast Trail system. In fact, Clermont is the mid-point of the Coast to Coast Trail, creating a special trail-head aptly named, Meet in the Middle. The trail-head will feature all of the amenities to support pedestrians and cyclists with restrooms, small business kiosks, showers, human/dog water fountains and trail information. The area will also be integrated with the city owned fiber network for free Wi-Fi along all of the trails and the Meet in the Middle Gateway. In addition, the gateway/trailhead will feature instant selfie spots to send and celebrate the mid-point of the coast to coast trail. The South Lake Trail and Clermont Legacy Loop trails will also become part of the Clermont Wi-Fi trail, whereby users of the trails can access free high-speed Wi-Fi both for way-finding and a safety component for visitors unfamiliar with the area. The City also has a series of Blue ways trails through the Clermont Chain of Lakes, designated an Outstanding Body of water by the State of Florida. The City shared use trail systems have apt signage for way-finding, restrooms, benches, shade, kiosks for information, human and dog water fountains and showers. In addition, the trail system is moments to downtown which provide provisions for pedestrians, hikers, paddlers and bicyclists alike. The city also has overnight accommodations along the trail. From branded hotels like Hampton Inn, Home2Suites and Fairfield Inn along the Hancock Extension, to quaint Cabana style over-night accommodations in downtown along the South Lake Trail and Clermont Legacy Loop Trail.

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

Winter Garden 4-miles, Groveland- 2miles Minneola 1-miles

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

The City of Clermont Public Works Department maintains all of the city trails.

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

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

The trail system accommodates a variety of users on any given day. From day-users who enjoy spending a period of time during the day, to users whom are traveling via foot or cycle for overnight stays. The city accommodates these users with a well-lit trail system, lights are provided at dusk through dawn. In addition, the city is implementing a free wi-fi system for out of town visitors unfamiliar with the city for wayfinding and signage. To this end, the city has Park Rangers who cycle the trail system providing front line service to trail users. The city also has two designed police officers who also monitor the trail system. Well positioned signage and kiosks with information further provide for an informed visitor experience along the trail. The city has support accommodation development near the trail so that overnight travelers can access over night stays.

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?

The city trails run throughout the city limits and through the heart of downtown connecting to the Coast to Coast Trail system.

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

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.

Trail users have a unique experience in Clermont, whereby the South Lake Trail traverses through 2.5 miles along the waters edge of Lake Minneola with pristine views. The South Lake Trail also connects users into the heart of downtown and the business community with bicycle shops, breweries, eateries and shopping via the Clermont Legacy Loop Trail. Furthermore, the South Lake Trail also connects users to the Hancock Extension, which takes users to the National Training Center, a center for professional, Olympic and amateur sport training, South Lake Hospital, University of Central Florida, Lake Sumter State College and the Cooper Memorial Library.

The city is also home to the oldest and largest US owned triathlon and running races in the USA, Sommer Sports. Sommer Sports uses portions of the South Lake Trail for running events. In addition, portions of the South Lake Trail are used for recreational bicycle rides associated with the largest bicycle event in the southeast, the Horrible 100. Additionally, the city is also home to a weekly free 5k event called, parkrun, which also uses portions of the South Lake Trail.

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

Water stations, dog water stations, restrooms, showers, bike repair stations, soon to come free Wi-Fi, trails monitored by police and park rangers, wayfinding, signage, information kiosks, open businesses for food, provisions, repairs and information.

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?

The business owners in Clermont have come together to develop a trail town community. The downtown business owners and the city meet monthly to discuss events, visitors and how to engage trail users. At the same time, many of the businesses are pursuing or have pursued Bicycle Friendly designations through the League of American Bicyclists. The City is leading the way with its own Bicycle Friendly designation.

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.

Yes, the Lake Sumter MPO, South Lake Chamber of Commerce Sports and Tourism Committee and South Lake Hospital.

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.

All of the following are annual events along the trail: Sommer Sports Great Floridian Triathlon 35th annual in 2018, Sommer Sports Great Clermont 36th annual in 2019, parkrun, Sommer Sports 5k events, Horrible 100 in its 32nd year, Ride Latino, Pig on the Pond Festival, Great Clermont Music Festival, Caribbean Jerk Festival, Ride and Seek Clermont, The Clermont Boat House along the South Lake Trail serves as an event for regattas and winter training for athletes such as Danish National Team, Harvard, Grand Valley University and the local Lake County Rowing Association. The city hosts an annual Light up Clermont along the trail for the celebration of the winter holiday and annual July 4th event. These combined events attract over 250,000 people annually to the South Lake Trail.

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

Yes, the city engaged Toole Design group to assist the city in developing as a trail town. Jeff Ciabotti and Ken Ray assisted the cities along the GAP trail and used similar framework to support the City of Clermont. In addition, any new residential development in downtown must make trail connections to the trail network.

See attached.

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

Citizens and visitors alike rely upon the trail system for health, wellness and fitness. Many of the citizens desire living in proximity to the trail. We often hear from the real estate professionals that the growing hot spots in the city are residential communities adjacent to trails.

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

The city works in concert to adjacent communities through a variety of modes. The city participates in the Lake Sumter MPO, which neighboring city leaders also participate in the planning and management of trails. We also participate in the West Orange South Lake Transportation and Economic Development Task Force to plan and manage trails with neighboring Orange County. In addition, the city works with the Chamber of Commerce and event hosts in coordination, cultivation and management of events.

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.

The businesses which provide goods and services along the trail or to trail users is extensive. In addition to businesses, South Lake Hospital and the National Training Center located along the trail host events for persons using the trail, bike lockers, wellness checks and amenities. Downtown businesses also provide goods and services these include: Cycling Hub, Epic Cycles, The Energy Lab, Clermont Cabana's, Lilly's on the Lake, Broom Tree, McKenley Rae, Gray Collective, Champions Barber, Erika's Tea Room, Livi Tate, Lynn S Deli, 801 City Grille, Chef O's, Yummi's, Cheeser's Palace, Urban Attic, Totally Unique, Encore, Suncreek Brewery, Savoree, Michael's Ali, Clermont Brewing Company, Montrose Market, Great Floridian Marketplace, Corelli's Pantry,

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

Chamber of Commerce

Dave Colby 620 W. Montrose St.
Clermont, FL 34711
(352) 394-4191

Visitor, Tourism or Economic Development Council

Lake County Tourism Steven Clenney Steven Clenney

scclenney@lakecountyfl.gov

352-742-3919

Mayor or City Council or City Commissioner's Office

Mayor Gail Ash 352-241-7358

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.

Epic Cycles and The Energy Lab, Roman Brana (352) 394-3009

Free air, bike tubes, discounts on refreshments, restrooms, showers and phone

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

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.**

Yes, the city has extensive bicycle racks throughout the trail, downtown, parks and it also requires bicycle parking as part of all commercial development. In addition, the city has a dock for kayaking/paddling, boat ramp and launches for rowing/canoeing.

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.

Restaurants along the South Lake Trail and Clermont Legacy Loop Trail: Lilly's on the Lake, Lynn's Deli, Chef O's, Suncreek Brewery, Savoree, Michael's Ali Pizza, Energy Lab Café, 801 City Grille, Yummi's, Cheeser's Palace and Clermont Brewing Company. Opening in late 2018 along the South Lake Trail/Clermont Legacy Loop Trail is the Montrose Street Market featuring the following eateries: Back 2 Basics, Sir Benji Donuts, More Than Cheese, Golden Hills Coffee. All prices range from \$1.00-\$20.00

Along the Hancock Extension Trail: Lucky's Market, McAllisters Deli, Tijuana Flats, Applebee's, Zaxby's, Crisper's, Panera, Taco Bell, Carraba's, Brusters Ice Cream, Little Caesar's Pizza. Prices range from \$1.00-\$30.00

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.

Clermont Cabana's, Home2 Suites, Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn. They will work with trail users for discounts depending upon the season,

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

Water-fountains for people and dogs are no more than .20 miles away from one another and all water fountains are refrigerated for cold water. Water Fountains are located on the South Lake Trail at Lake Hiawatha park in 4 locations, Victory Pointe Park in 3 locations along the South Lake Trail, at the Clermont Boat House along the South Lake Trail, at the South Lake Trail Trailhead on Minneola Ave, at Waterfront Park on the South Lake Trail, at the National Training Center along the Hancock Extension.

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

Food is readily accessible along the trail at Lucky's Market along the Hancock Extension. In addition, at The Energy Lab Café along the South Lake Trail. In addition, to all of the restaurants above who provide to-go or prepacked options.

INFORMATION

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

Yes, there is way-finding signage along the trail indicating mileage, points of interest and directional signage. There are also kiosks with event and area information. The city is also providing in late 2018 free wi-fi along the trails for trail users accessing online information.

☐ Yes ☐ No

YES Is there directional signage leading from the trail into town?

☐ Yes ☐ No

YES 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.

Yes, the South Lake Chamber of Commerce provides an area guide with location and business information. The Clermont Downtown Partnership also provides a map and local downtown business information. The Lake County Tourism also provides a visitor booklet with trail information and area information. Lake County also produces in print and online blue ways trail information and trail information.

SAFETY

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

☐ Yes ☐ No **Yes** Does your town have protected bike lanes?

☐ Yes ☐ No **Yes** Does your town have crosswalks?

☐ Yes ☐ No **Yes** Is your downtown business district well-lit?

☐ Yes ☐ No **Yes** 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.

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.

Yes, the City has Park Rangers who cycle all of the trails throughout the city to provide front line services, in addition to two- downtown waterfront police officers who cycle the downtown and trail areas. Everyday providing 7-days per week service.

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

Fire Department:

Chief Carle Bishop Tel 352-394-7662

Police Department:

Chief Charles Broadway 352-267-3163

Medical Services:

South Lake Hospital Kim Couch 1900 Don Wickham Drive | Clermont, FL 34711
Cell: 352.267.0721
Tel: 352.241.7122 |

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

South Lake Hospital is along the Hancock Extension trail, the hospital provides

60-acre health, wellness and education campus provides a complete continuum of quality care to the citizens of the South Lake community. With 170 beds and more than 1,500 employees, we are equipped to serve you.

We offer a variety of medical services including diagnostic imaging, orthopedics, robotic surgery, urology and cardiac care among others. The Centre for Women's Health offers complete care for women from maternity to maturity. South Lake Hospital is also home to the National Training Center, which provides total body fitness, advanced rehabilitative services and athletic training.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

It is the intent of _____ City of Clermont _____ (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: 8/14/18

Printed Name: Shannon Schmidt Economic Development


[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

Meet in the Middle Plaza

Shade Sail Dining

Zone: Moveable tables and chairs along western edge.

Palm Grove:

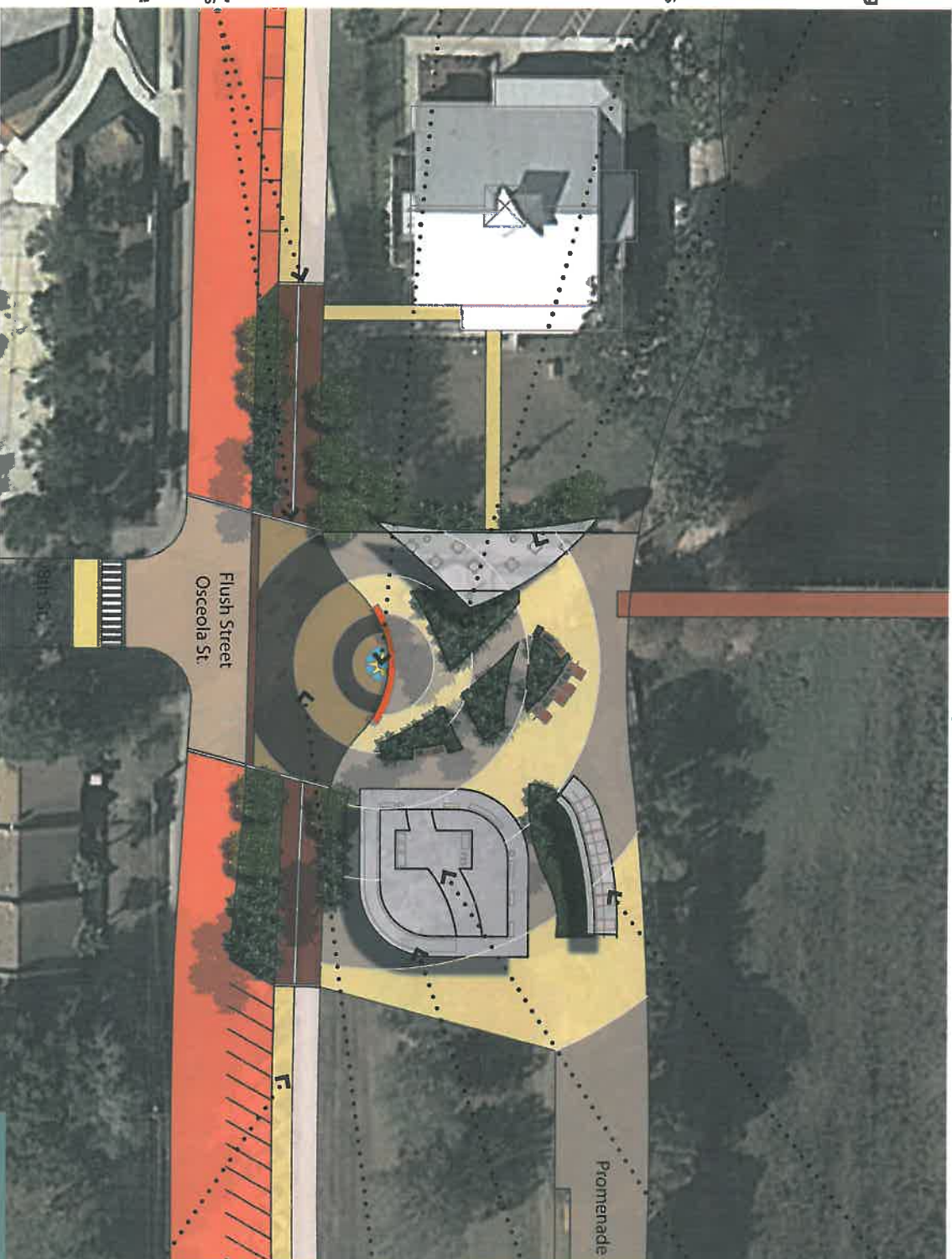
Native plant beds with grasses and perennials under a grove of Sabal Palms.

Midpoint Selfie

Spot: Pavement medallion with Meet in the Middle sculpture.

Trail Transition

Zones: Pavement texture and color changes, signage, and cobble bands to transition trail users to the plaza area.



Lake Edge

Viewing:

Moveable lounge chaise along rail lines and under shade trellis.

Mid-point Trail

Head:

Trail head building with restrooms, fix-it stand and vending machines in breezway, concessions, and digital kiosk.

High Capacity

Bike Parking:

Two-tier bike racks along trail head building.

Integral Color

Paving:

Colorful paving patterns to guide users to the mid-point and delineate areas of the plaza.

Heels and

Wheels:

Trail user separation with different paving materials for bike trail and pedestrian sidewalk.



In the beautiful rolling hills of Central Florida, surrounded by pristine lakes, the City of Clermont is the white-hot destination for investors, fitness buffs and elite athletes training in the epicenter of a health-and-fitness culture known around the world. On the shoreline of Lake Minneola, Clermont has it all — from the crown-jewel lakefront and downtown district with two miles of white sandy beaches and lakeview land primed for development, to year-round performing arts, to a fitness community anchored by a 300-acre National Training Center open to residents and Olympians alike.

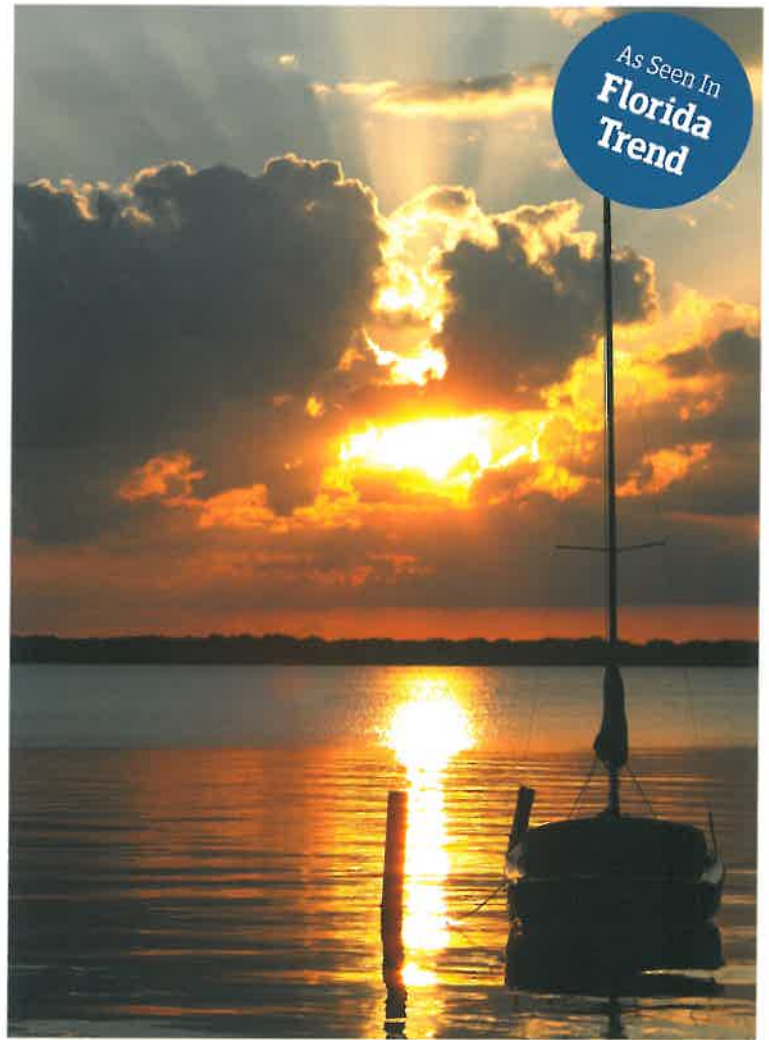
"Clermont is a phenomenal community in which to live," says Clermont City Manager Darren Gray. "Now we're set to be one of Florida's hottest investment opportunities."

Gray is referring to the city's award-winning master plan and the city's location. Just 20 miles west of Orlando and the theme parks, Clermont is bookended by the center of the Coast-to-Coast Trail (C2C) on the north and Wellness Way, the largest undeveloped tract in Central Florida, to the south.

Excitement is rippling throughout Central Florida and beyond, generated by an unconventional process that started with Gray's arrival as city manager. A visioning process conducted by CEO coaches that drew



Above: Clermont is at the center of the Coast-to-Coast Trail. Below: Clermont's triathlons draw thousands.



Sunset over Lake Minneola at Clermont's Waterfront Park

more than 1,000 residents led to the city's "Choice of Champions®" brand and a visionary master plan focused on Clermont's downtown waterfront district. Investors from as far away as Brazil have taken notice.

But the city knows there is plenty of competition in the Sunshine State. City officials are taking aggressive steps to make the downtown waterfront core even more attractive to investors, developers, new business owners and millennials looking for the enviable mix of recreation and a walkable urban environment.





**Meet us
in the
MIDDLE!**



SOUTH LAKE TRAILS SYSTEM

The South Lake Trail also connects directly to the 19-mile West Orange Trail. The trail system features six access points spanning from the Lake Haworth Preserve Trailhead near County Road 561, to Kilhamer Station located on State Road 438 in Oakland along the Lake and Orange County lines. All of the trailheads feature parking and restrooms. The trailhead in Minneola is located at Trailhead Park on Madison Street. The park features ball fields, a basketball court, a playground and a covered pavilion near the trail.

The trailhead at Clermont's Waterfront Park includes access to the lakeside beach and playground, perfect for sunbathing or picnicking, and is considered a popular destination for families, casual bikers, walkers and inline skaters. With a beautiful new pavilion, it is also the site for many fun community events, major triathlons and races. The Hancock Trail is a favorite among professional athletes as it connects to the National Training Center, a renowned training facility where national and international athletes prepare for competition.

