

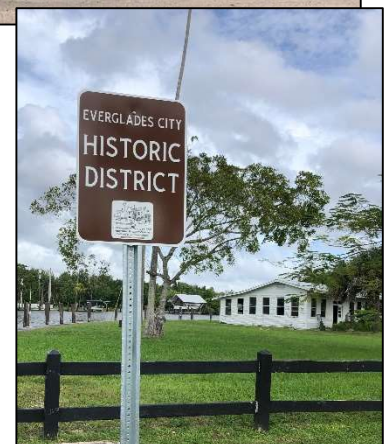
EVERGLADES CITY TRAIL TOWN – Two Year Update – January 12, 2021

Everglades City was designated a Trail Town in January 2019 and a one-year update was submitted on February 12, 2020, with the announcement of the Grand Opening of our new Visitor Information Center / Trail Town Headquarters. After welcoming over 1,600 visitors, the Center had to close in mid-March due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has yet to re-open as positive cases have not declined in Florida. However, Everglades City continues to make great progress in improving the community and at the same time welcoming tourists who come to enjoy the outdoors and the Everglades.



During the past year the following improvements, many listed as goals in our original application, have been completed:

- Businesses are adding landscaping; many restaurants were initially closed during the pandemic but all have since re-opened for the season, primarily with outdoor seating and/or takeout lunches/dinners. Kathy Brock organized several “free plant” sales with the Naples Botanical Gardens; residents and business donated funds which were then given to the Everglades City School. People have been encouraged to plant native trees.
- The City has continued to install new LED solar lighting to replace the historic lampposts that were damaged during Hurricane Irma in 2017. Almost all the lights have been installed which has improved night-time walking and biking conditions.
- The Everglades City Bike/Ped Committee completed an Everglades City Master Plan in August 2020 which was approved by the Everglades City Council and subsequently added to the Collier MPO Bike / Ped Master Plan. The Committee identified immediate bike/ped needs in the City and presented its findings to the City Council which submitted an application to the MPO for the work.
- The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation installed four “Historic District” signs in town to help visitors identify designated historic areas.



- Two new “Visitor Information” signs were installed, one above the map at McLeod Community Park and the other at the kiosk on CR29 approaching town. An “i” for Information was attached to the entrance sign on CR29 directing visitors to the kiosk.



- The County installed new *Share the Road* signs along CR29.
- The Trail Town Committee continues to provide bicycle racks to businesses that request them. More residents and visitors have been biking through town and using the bicycle facilities, including the Bike Repair Station at the Park.



- The local Lions Club has made significant improvements at the Community Park including new playground equipment for the children and new benches. They also refurbished four of the original historic streetlamps and situated them throughout the Park.

