

River to Sea TPO BPAC Meeting

March 13, 2024 2:00 p.m.



I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Determination of Quorum/ Pledge of Allegiance







II. Public Comment/Participation



III. ACTION ITEMS

A. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2024 BPAC MEETING MINUTES



III. ACTION ITEMS

B. REVIEW AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2024-## SUPPORTING THE ST. JOHNS RIVER TO SEA LOOP TRAIL

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION 2024-##

RESOLUTION OF THE RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE ST. JOHNS RIVER TO SEA LOOP TRAIL

WHEREAS, the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the duly designated and constituted body responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning and programming process for Volusia County and portions of Flagler County inclusive of the cities of Flagler Beach, Beverly Beach, and portions of Palm Coast and Bunnell; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 339.175; 23 U.S.C. 134; and 49 U.S.C. 5303 require that the urbanized area, as a condition to the receipt of federal capital or operating assistance, have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans and programs consistent with the comprehensively planned development of the urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan establishes the vision for implementing a connected statewide system of greenways and trails for recreation, conservation, alternative transportation, healthy lifestyles, a vibrant economy, a high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop is a 260-mile Shared-Use, Non-Motorized (SUN) Trail traversing Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, Putnam, and St. Johns Counties; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail is one of fourteen regionally significant trails in the FGTS Plan that cross multiple counties, attract national and international visitors, and serve as an opportunity for economic and ecotourism development; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail showcases the natural value of Florida's wildlife areas, ecology, natural resources, and serves as a main corridor for critical links and trail connectedness across the state; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail is the second leading regional trail priority in the State of Florida, behind the Coast-to-Coast Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Greenways and Trails Council will be developing a prioritized/reprioritized list of the current FGTS regional trails at their March 27-28, 2024 meeting in Winter Haven, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the River to Sea TPO is a strong proponent of the provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the River to Sea TPO that the:

- 1. River to Sea TPO supports the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail as one of the leading regional trail priorities in the State of Florida; and the
- 2. Chairperson of the River to Sea TPO (or his designee) is hereby authorized and directed to submit this resolution to the following:
 - a. Florida Department of Transportation;
 - b. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) (through the Florida Department of Transportation);
 - c. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) (through the Florida Department of Transportation);
 - d. Florida Greenways and Trails Council;
 - e. East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC);
 - f. Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC);
 - g. Members of the Central Florida MPO Alliance; and
 - h. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT);

DONE AND RESOLVED at the regular meeting of the River to Sea TPO held on the 27^{TH} day of March, 2024.

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

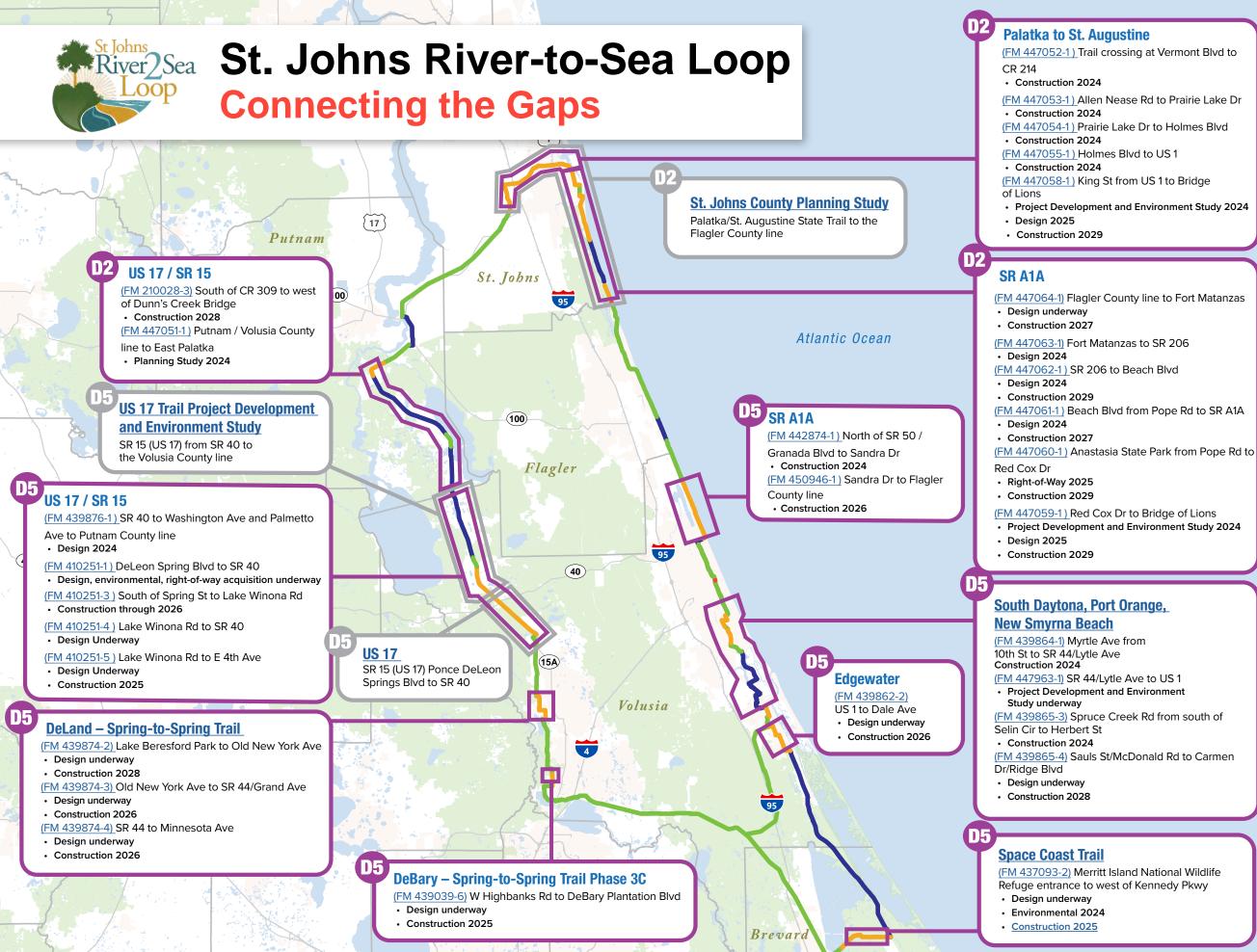
DELAND MAYOR CHRISTOPHER M. CLOUDMAN CHAIRPERSON, RIVER TO SEA TPO

CERTIFICATE:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Recording Secretary of the River to Sea TPO certified that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution, adopted at a legally convened meeting of the River to Sea TPO held on <u>March 27, 2024</u>.

ATTEST:

Donna King, Recording Secretary
RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION



LEGEND



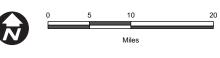


County Boundaries

Florida Wildlife Corridor

02 District 2

O5 District 5



NOTES

No Warranties: This map and its content is made available by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on an "as is", "as available" basis without warranties of any kind, expressed or implied. This product is for reference purposes only and is not to be construed as a legal document or survey instrument. Information is subject to change.

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Additional trail information may be obtained by contacting your local government

Work Program (WP): Financial Management (FM) numbers correspond to WP information. Development of the five-year WP is in accordance with Section 339.135 Florida Statutes. FDOT has based this WP on sound, multi-modal transportation concepts and the best available forecasts of costs and funding. As such, FDOT has the financial capacity to embark on projects as they are planned. However, any diversion of state revenues presently dedicated to transportation-related purposes could limit FDOT's ability to finance and deliver this WP. Circumstances, which are beyond the control of FDOT, may significantly influence the stability of this WP. See: www.fdot.gov/workprogram/aboutowp.sht



February 2024



LEGEND

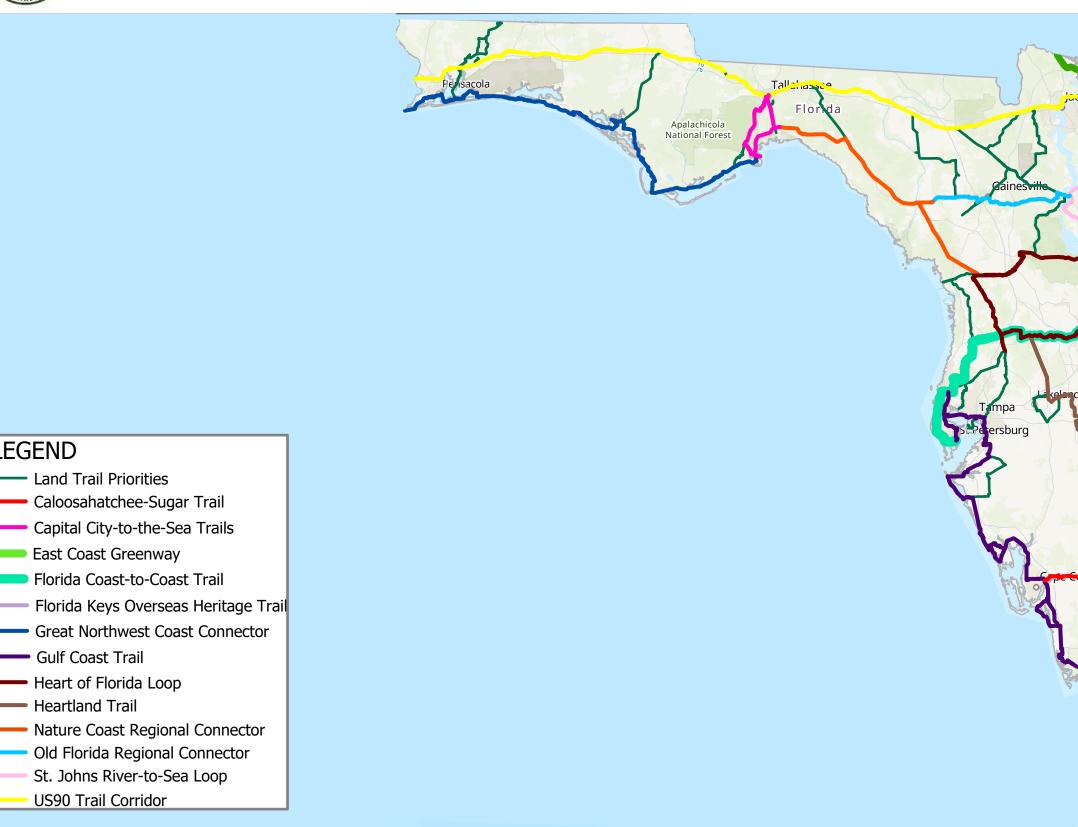
- Land Trail Priorities

— Gulf Coast Trail

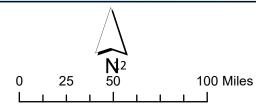
Heartland Trail

US90 Trail Corridor

Identified Multi-Use Regional Trails



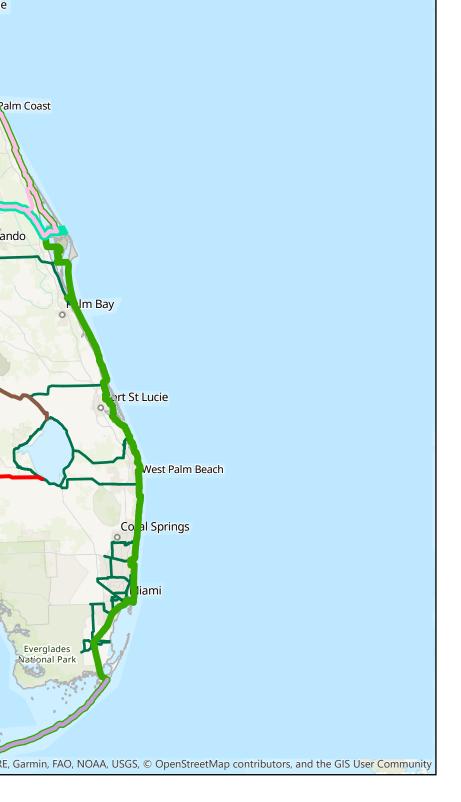
Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community, Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks

nville







IV. PRESENTATION, STATUS REPORTS, AND DISCUSSION ITEMS A. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS PROGRAM FOR TRAIL TOWNS AND TRAIL DESIGNATION



Office of Greenways and Trails Trail Towns & Designations

Anna Hopkins Office of Greenways and Trails Florida Department of Environmental Protection

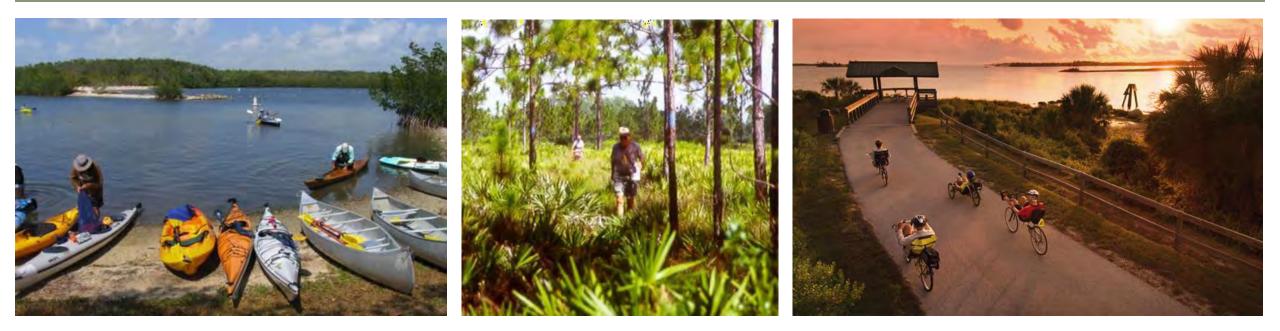
BPAC Meeting | March 13, 2024



The Office of Greenways and Trails was established to fulfill the Florida Greenways and Trails Act...

To ... "conserve, develop and use the natural resources of this state for healthful and recreational purposes".

Florida Greenways and Trails Act, Chapter 260, Florida Statutes (F.S.)





Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC)

- Established in Chapter 260.0142, F.S.
- Advises the department on greenway and trail related issues.
- Promotes intergovernmental cooperation and private partnerships for developing the greenways and trails system.
- Recommends **priorities** for critical links in developing and managing the system.







Florida's Greenways and Trails System Includes:

- 1,500-mile Florida National Scenic Trail.
- 1,515-mile Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail.
- 250-mile Florida Coast-to-Coast Trail.
- 260-mile St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop.
- 270-mile Gulf Coast Trail.

... And much more.





Florida's Designated

Trail Towns

- Dunedin
- Titusville
- Malabar
- Vilano Beach
- Clermont
- Palatka
- Inverness

- Deltona
- Everglades City
- Winter Garden
- Depot Park, Gainesville
- DeBary
- Winter Haven

- Mount Dora
- Brooksville
- Capital Cascades
 Corridor, Tallahassee

Manateo

Handee

DeSotr

Manrà

Palm Beach

Broward

Miami-Dade

- Milton
- Sopchoppy
- White Springs



Trail Town Goals:

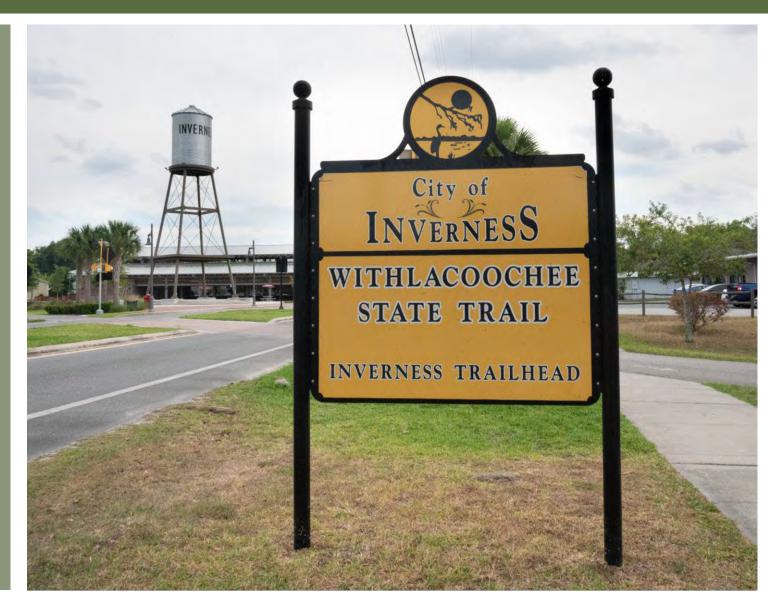
- Enhance the quality of Florida's trail experience.
- Promote tourism and growth of Florida's trails and throughway towns.
- Increase the amount and frequency of trail users in Florida.
- Engage citizens with Florida's trail system through active community participation.





What Makes a Trail Town?

• A portal, gateway or hub to a regional or priority trail or trail system.





- Trails and greenway action plan.
- Shared vision.
- Local business support Trail Town business pledge.
- Social infrastructure.





- Trail-related services and businesses such as:
 - Shuttles.
 - Supplies and gear for hiking, biking, paddling or horseback riding.
 - Rentals of canoes, kayaks or bikes.







- Amenities for trail users that are safe and easily accessible such as:
 - Lodging.
 - Restaurants.
 - Points of Interestmuseums, retail shops, etc.





What Makes a Trail Town?

Clear directional signage on and to the trail.







- "Trail friendly" experience with knowledgeable citizens who interact with visitors.
- Business owners and employees who can answer trail questions.





What Makes a Trail Town?

• A variety of community events/competitions that promote the outdoors or involve local trails.









- Provides a "sense of place"
 - Local citizens willing to share culture, history, and stories.
- Local trail users and local trail promotion.
- "Trail Champions" standout citizen supporters.

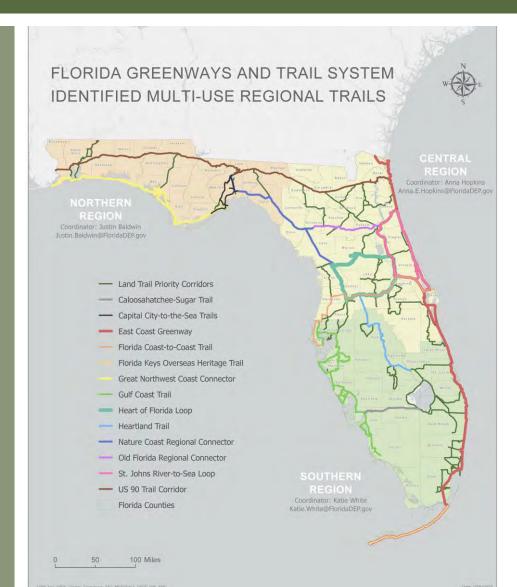




Interested in becoming a Trail Town?

• Interested communities should contact their OGT Regional Coordinator and complete the Trail Town Self-Assessment found at <u>www.floridadep.gov/ogt.</u>







The Trail Town Process:

Trail Town Questionnaire	è
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Use the Self-Assessment to assist with completing the questionnaire

What types of trails connect to or are located near your town? (hiking, biking, paddling, shared use nonmotorized, multi-use, equestrian, etc.)

any neighboring trails and their proximity to your town.	
o maintains your trail(s)? Please identify each trail and the manager.	

 Interested communities review the Trail Town Self-Assessment and complete the Questionnaire.



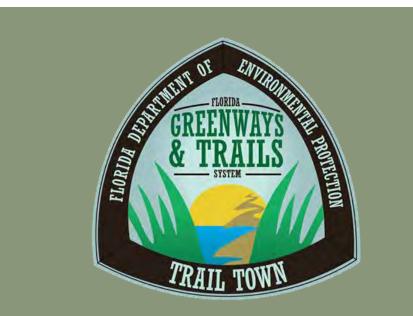
2. OGT staff conduct a site visit with local trail advocates and planners after receiving an application.



3. After a town is approved, the Designation is presented to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council for official recognition.



The Trail Town Process



 Designated Trail Towns receive signage, stickers, website presence and publicity/promotion.



Brooksville: a Florida Trail Town

Equal parts historic & scenic, Brooksville offers trails with historic sites and adventure amongst the Spanish-moss draped oak streets.

5. Story Map tours are developed for each Trail Town and posted on the OGT website.



Trail Town celebration events are great for publicity and community involvement.





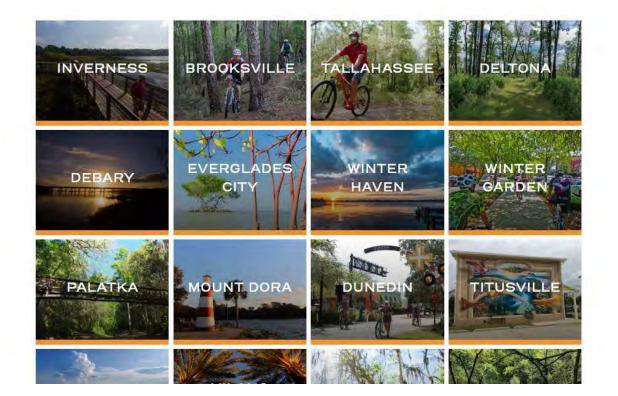


Legislation passed in 2023 directed Visit Florida to increase promotion of trails and Trail Towns.

Webpage Link

VISIT FLORIDA BEACHES PLACES TO GO THINGS TO DO DEALS MORE SHARE

Trail Towns are friendly, vibrant communities located near long-distance recreational trails. When passing through, trail users can venture off the main path and become immersed into the different amenities and heritages of each town.





Choose your adventure- there is a Trail Town for everyone!













And So Much More!

Land & Paddling Trail Designation Program



Designation Program

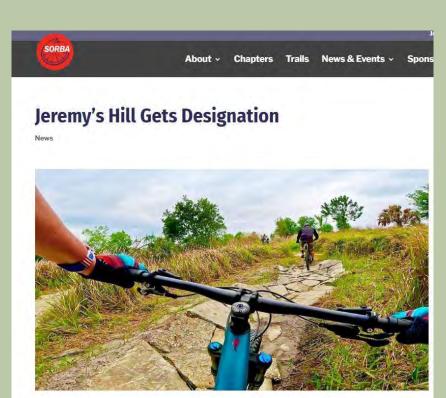
- Land trails, greenways, blueways, and sites across the state can be designated as part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) through an application process and voluntary landowner agreement.
- Lands may be public or private.
- Paddling trails are included.





Purpose of Designation

- Further the goals and objectives of the FGTS, creating an **interconnected system**.
- Encourage **voluntary partnerships** in conservation, development, and management of the system's many pieces.
- Provide **recognition** for individual pieces of the system and partners involved.
- Raise public awareness of the conservation and recreation benefits of the system.



On April 13, a representative for SORBA Jax along with one of the landowner/ representatives of Jeremy's Hill at Attero Park went to Tallahassee to petition for Attero Park to be included in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Greenways and Trails designation. Attero Park is a 100-acre former landfill boasting 60+ ft of elevation and is located just south of downtown Jacksonville. The vote was unanimous for the designation. This is the first time private land has received this designation in Jacksonville. And is only the eighth project in the



Basic Criteria

 A designated land or waterway must protect and/or enhance natural, recreational, cultural or historic resources.

AND

• Provide linear open space, a hub or a site.

OR

• Promote connectivity between or among conservation lands, communities, parks, other recreational facilities, cultural sites, or historic sites.



Paddling Trail Criteria

- Local, regional or state entity agrees to be the **manager** of the trail in terms of development and long-term maintenance. The manager must agree to monitor the trail at least once a year.
- At least **three miles** in length.
- Adequate **public access**.
- Adequate **information** is provided in terms of difficulty, mileage, safety considerations and environmental conditions.
- **Campsites** and **overnight stops** are only required when public access points are further than **20 miles** apart so that paddlers can complete day trips in a reasonable amount of time.





THE OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Benefits of Designation

- Gives **public recognition** to local greenway and trail projects.
- Private landowners receive **liability protection**.
- Lands and waterways receive additional consideration in some acquisition and grant programs, such as the Florida Communities Trust Land Acquisition Program, the Recreational Trails Grant

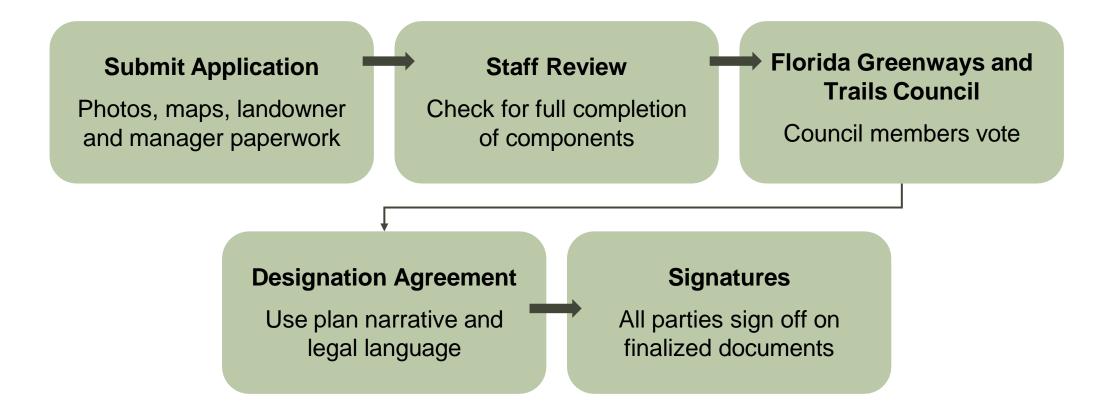
Name	Guide	Story Map
Putnam County Blueways	External Link	
Pellicer Creek	Paddling Guide	See this trail
Bulow Creek	Paddling Guide	See this trail
Tomoka River	Paddling Guide	See this trail
Spruce Creek	Paddling Guide	See this trail
St. Johns River Blueway	Paddling Guide and Data Book	See this trail
Wekiva River/Rock Springs Run	Paddling Guide	See this trail
Econlockhatchee River	Paddling Guide	See this trail
Shingle Creek	External Link - Launch/park info	External link - paddling guide

- Program (RTP), and the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP).
- Paddling trails included in OGT regional story maps. Paddling guides created as needed/able.



THE OFFICE OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Designation Process





THANK YOU

Anna Hopkins Office of Greenways and Trails Division of Recreation & Parks Florida Department of Environmental Protection

(850) 245-3069



IV. PRESENTATION, STATUS REPORTS, AND DISCUSSION ITEMS B. UPDATE ON BIKE/WALK CENTRAL FLORIDA'S OPERATION BEST FOOT FORWARD FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM

Best Foot Forward for pedestrian safety

Volusia County Program Updates

THE PROBLEM:

Central Florida is consistently ranked one of the most dangerous metro regions for pedestrians in the United States.



THE MISSION:

To increase the number of drivers stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks, as Florida law requires, through community **education**, low-cost **engineering**, highvisibility **enforcement**, and data-driven **evaluation**.

THE PROGRAM:



Best Foot Forward is a grassroots pedestrian safety program that brings together government, law enforcement, and advocacy partners to work toward increasing pedestrian safety at crosswalks.







Expected Benefits of the BFF Program:



- Reduced Pedestrian Incidents
- Community Engagement
- Improved Walkability















Data Collection Spotlight: Comparing 4-lane, 35 mph roads



Ponce Inlet: S. Atlantic Ave. & Winterhaven Park

Baseline data from January shows that drivers yield to pedestrians at this crosswalk 83% of the time, which shows that the combination of flags and in-street signs can be an inexpensive countermeasure to improve driver yield rates if the right conditions are present.



Daytona Beach: S. Atlantic Ave. & Poinsettia Rd.

Despite good countermeasures such as stop bars, "Stop Here for Peds" signs, and yellow pedestrian signs on both sides of the road, only 25% of drivers are yielding here. Context such as land use, daily traffic, & pedestrian visibility are important factors.





SITE DETAILS			YIELD RATE	
Juris.	Speed Limit (Wave)	Travel Lanes (Wave)	JAN 2024	
Daytona Beach	30	2	34%	
Daytona Beach	35	4	25%	
Daytona Beach	30	2	16%	N
Daytona Beach Shores	35	4	43%	St
Daytona Beach Shores	35	4	70%	bo
DeBary	45	3	19%	
DeBary	40	2	59%	Fl
Holly Hill	25	2	97%	4-
New Smyrna Beach	35	3	39%	
New Smyrna Beach	35	2	78%	In
Ormond Beach	35	4	38%	
Ormond Beach	40	2	19%	
Ponce Inlet	35	4	83%	In
	Juris. Juris. Juris. Juris. Juris. I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Juris. Speed Linxit. Image: System of the syste	Juris.Speed Limit (Wave)Travel Lanes (Wave)ImitImitImitImitImitImitDaytona Beach302Daytona Beach334Daytona Beach Shores3354Daytona Beach Shores3354DeBary453DeBary402New Smyrna Beach3353New Smyrna Beach353Mathematic353Mew Smyrna Beach353Mew Smyrna Beach352Ormond Beach354Ormond Beach354	Juris.Speed Limit (Wave)Travel Lanes

BFF Crosswalk Data in Volusia County

*Crosswalks enforced during Operation Best Foot Forward

No pedestrian signage at crosswalk

Stop bars compared to no stop bars on the same road both midblock crossings with "Stop Here for Peds" signs

Flashing lights not functioning during data collection

4-way stop

In-street state law sign in center

n-street sign present & flags provided at crosswalk





Operation Best Foot Forward



Daytona Beach Shores



DeBary



Ormond Beach



6

Holly Hill







<u>Operation Best Foot Forward</u> - February 6 – 16, 2024 *Theme: Crossing Guard Appreciation*

Operation-Wide:

Crosswalk Details in Volusia County:

• 6 Central Florida Cour	nties
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- 14 Law Enforcement Agencies
- 25 Crosswalk Details
- 48 Media Placements reaching an audience over 646,000 people, including WESH 2, WKMG 6, WFTV 9, CW 18, & TV-27
- 366 Crosswalk Warnings & Citations
- **14 Partners and 3 Elected Officials** in attendance at crosswalk locations

Date	Location	Warnings	Citations
Volusia County Sheriff's O	ffice		
Tuesday, February 6	Dirksen Dr. & Mansion Blvd.	0	13
Tuesday, February 13	Ocean Shore Blvd & Tom Renick Park	6	31
Daytona Beach Shores De	partment of Public Safety		
Friday, February 9	S. Atlantic Ave. & Bellemead Dr.	12	22
Holly Hill Police Departme	nt		
Wednesday, February 14	Walker St. & Center Ave.	6	0
New Smyrna Beach Police	Department		
Thursday, February 15	S. Atlantic Ave & Ocean Ave.	0	28



Operation BFF recap article available on our website with additional photos at BestFootCFL.org



Scan to View

Best Foot Forward for pedestrian safety



Crossing Guards See Crosswalk Enforcement Ramping Up in Six Central Florida Counties

O February 18, 2024

Brevard County, Enforcement, Marion County, Orange County, Osceola County, Seminole County, Volusia County

Operation Best Foot Forward wrapped up its most expansive enforcement to date last Friday, with 14 law enforcement agencies across six counties issuing 366 warnings and citations to drivers that failed to yield to pedestrians. Many of the crosswalk locations chosen for enforcement were located within one mile of a school where students walk, in recognition of Crossing Guard Appreciation Day earlier this month. In total, there were 25 enforcement details conducted at 22 crosswalk locations.







ARTICLES

C Brevard County

Education
 Enforcement
 Engineering

Evaluation
 Marion County
 Orange County

Osceola County
 Seminole County
 Statewide/Nationa
 Volusia County

MEDIA



Recent BFF Outreach Events in Volusia County

- 908 community interactions at Volusia County events
- 887 BFF & FDOT educational materials distributed
- 653 BFF & FDOT promotional materials distributed



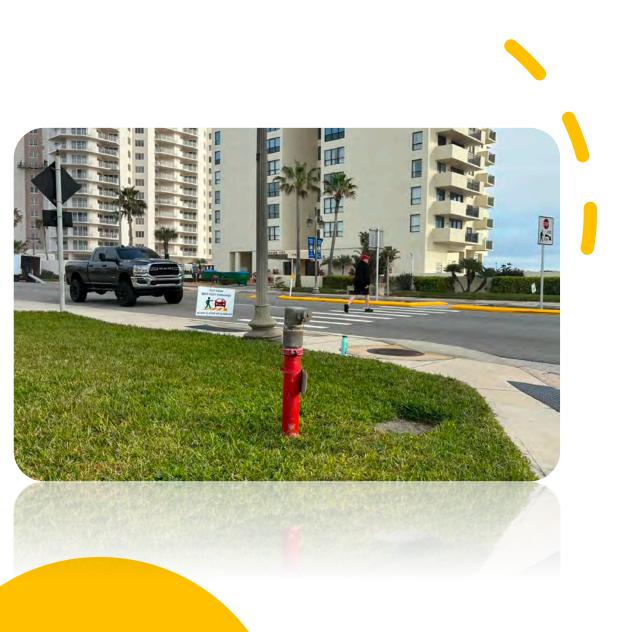
Event: Blue Spring Manatee Festival Scoped Partner: Volusia County Date: January 27 – 28, 2024 Location: 2100 W. French Ave. Orange City FL 32763



Event: Families and Communities Together (FACT) Fair **Scoped Partner:** Volusia County **Date:** Thursday, February 15th, 2024 **Location:** Heritage Middle School GYM - 1001 Parnell Ct







Upcoming BFF Schedule

Next high-visibility enforcements:

- April 30-May 10
- Late July (Back to School)

Next BFF Stakeholder meeting:

• May 30, 2024





Questions?











IV. PRESENTATION, STATUS REPORTS, AND DISCUSSION ITEMS C. UPDATE ON THE RIVER TO SEA TPO'S 2024 ANNUAL CALL FOR PROJECTS



V. STAFF COMMENTS



VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- \rightarrow BPAC Attendance Record
- \rightarrow Spring to the Springs Event
- \rightarrow TPO Board Report
- \rightarrow TPO Outreach & Activities
- \rightarrow Upcoming Events Flyer



2024 Spring to the Springs

Family Fun Ride and Trail Celebration Bikes and BBQ in the Park

Saturday, March 23, 2024 at Gemini Springs Park 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM 37 Dirksen Drive, DeBary, FL 32713



5-Mile Casual Ride 10-Mile Explorer Ride 18-Mile Blue Spring Ride 28-Mile Lake Monroe Loop A Casual, Family-Oriented Event, Fun For All Ages and Abilities, Games, Prizes & BBQ!

All participants must register as **Trail Alliance Friends**

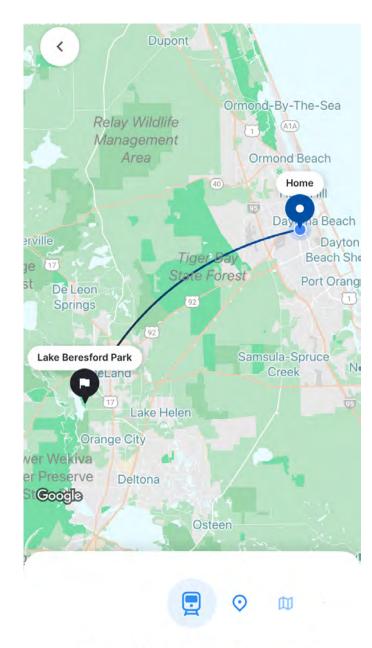


Friend's Event Registration: River2SeaLoop.Org/SpringRide Become a Trail Friend: River2SeaLoop.Org/TrailAllianceFriend Info@River2SeaLoop.org



VII. BPAC MEMBER COMMENTS

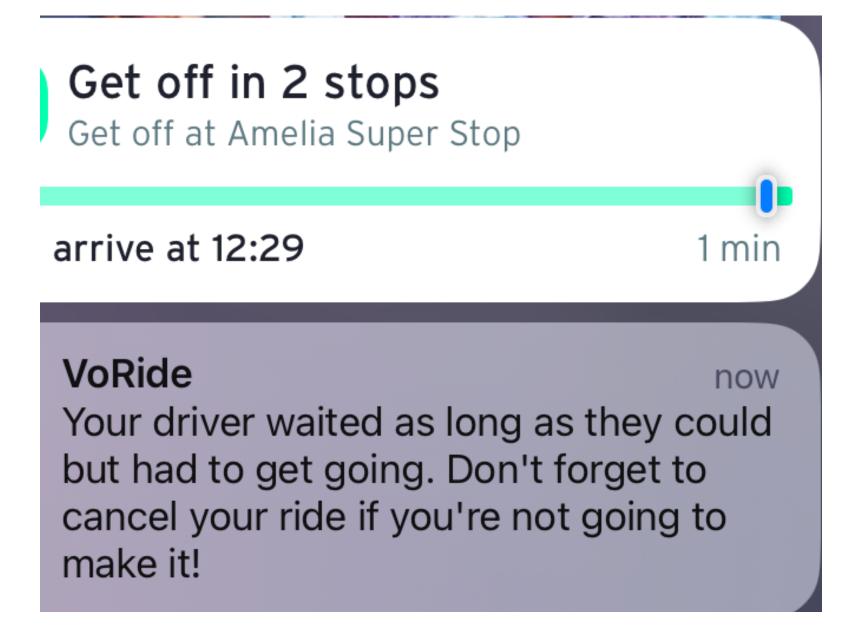
Votran + VoRide: My house in Daytona Beach to Lake Beresford Park: Duration: 1 hr 20 minutes; Cost: \$3.75



Finding you the perfect ride!



Route 60 was unexpectedly late. I missed my VoRide connection! No problem. Booked the another VoRide, came in 4 minutes.

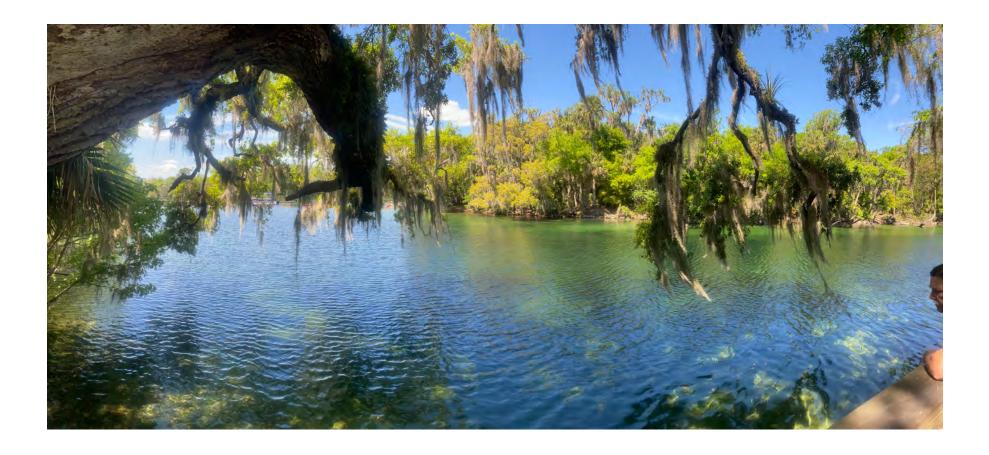


When I hopped into VoRide there was another passenger. She was dropped off on the way to the park.

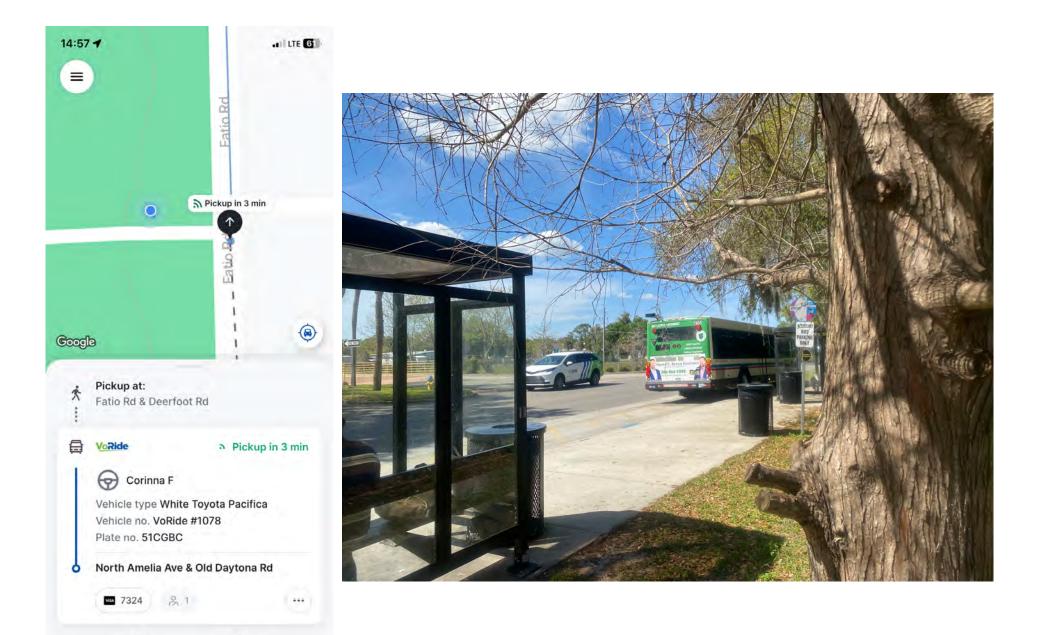


VoRide car at Lake Beresford Park entrance.

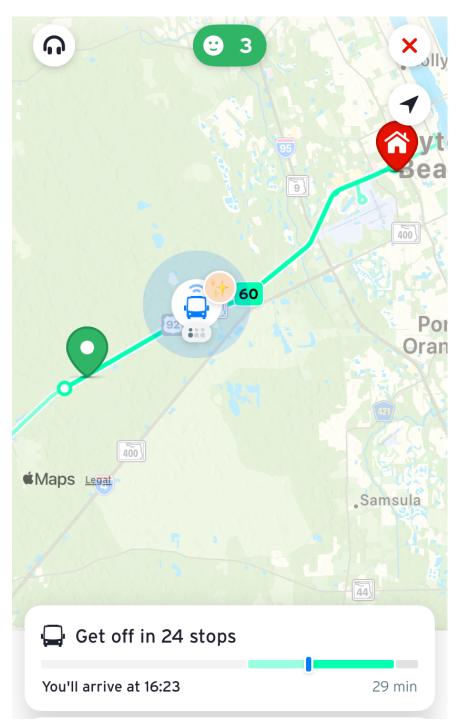
I biked fromLake Beresford Park to Blue Springs State Park and back.



I was the only passenger on VoRide back to Amelia Super Stop. Only waited few minutes for Route 60 bus.



The Transit App is quite useful when taking the bus. With headphones the app speaks when you are two stops way.





VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next BPAC meeting will be on April 10, 2024