OUTDOOR RECREATION & TRAILS
Connecting the dots between Trails & tourism

OUTDOOR RECREATION
GENERATES BIG ECONOMIC IMPACTS
FOR FLORIDA

Recreation has long served as an economic driver in Florida, as the state remains a major destination for national and international tourism.


The Big Picture

> $58.6 Billion in Annual Consumer Spending
> 485,000 Direct Jobs
> $3.5 Billion In State & Local Taxes
> $17.9 Billion In Wages

FLORIDA STATE PARK VISITATION GENERATES $3 BILLION TO LOCAL ECONOMIES

With more than 1,600 miles of multi-use trails, Florida State Parks receive over 32 million visitors annually, creating 48,622 jobs.

The Cross Florida Greenway had the greatest local economic impact totaling $277 million.

"The West Orange, Little Econ, and Cady Way trails in Orange County supported 516 jobs and an estimated economic impact of $42.6 million in 2010."

East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (2011)

Trail Facts

> Every $1 spent on walking paths and programs could save approximately $3 in medical expenses (American Heart Association)
> Every $1 million spent on trails yields 9.6 jobs (University of Massachusetts, 2011)

Updated 1/2018, Florida Office of Greenways and Trails
Trails add value to new homes and are consistently among the top 4 community amenities sought by prospective homeowners of all ages (National Association of Homebuilders, 2016).

A 2011 study by the University of Cincinnati found that homes within 1000 ft. access to the Little Miami Scenic Trail increased in value by $9K. The scenic, multipurpose trail beckons walkers, hikers, skaters and bicycle enthusiasts and also has horseback riding paths.

**WHAT ARE FLORIDA VISITORS & RESIDENTS DOING OUTDOORS?**

**VIEWING WILDLIFE**

The second most popular outdoor activity for both residents and visitors (SCORP 2017) and brings in almost $5 billion annually to the state's economy.

Florida's rich diversity of wildlife attracts millions of visitors to public lands such as Florida's 175 State Parks, of which 96 are included as sites on the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Viewing Trail.

**TRAILS**

A record 5,775,175 residents and visitors enjoyed healthy outdoor activities on Florida's eight state trails and Cross Florida Greenway in 2016/17.

**EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES**

According to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the equestrian industry's economic impact on the gross state product is $6.5 billion. Florida's State Parks offer 1,889 miles of equestrian trails.

**BIKING**

Bicycle riding on paved roads and trails brings in more than $6 billion in Florida annually and riding on unpaved trails brings in almost $2 billion (Balmoral 2017).

Outdoor fitness walking/jogging brings in $13.5 billion annually and paddling activities bring in almost $3 billion annually.

The 2017 Outdoor Recreation Participation study highlights the tight link between recreation and tourism in Florida, determining:

- 98% of Florida's tourists believe that outdoor recreation is important to them.
- 97% of tourists are satisfied with outdoor recreation opportunities in the state.
- 75% of all Florida visitors participate in nature-based activities during their visit (Visit Florida, 2012).

Trails boost fitness and well-being, a connection with the outdoors and economic growth.

Visit www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/ to find trail near you.
Role of the River to Sea TPO

To coordinate transportation planning and foster cooperation and communication among members. The TPO is responsible for prioritizing the expenditure of state and federal funding.

Activities include:

- Long Range Transportation Plan
- Transportation Improvement Plan
- Annual Development of Project Priority Lists

The TPO sets aside 30% of annual federal funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects (approx. $1.8 million/year) and $100,000/year for bicycle and pedestrian feasibility studies.

- Created by the Florida Legislature in 2015 to provide funding for a statewide system of paved, multi-use trails. It is the paved component of the Florida Greenways & Trails System Priority Land Trail Network.
History

March 1998
The first FGTS Plan is adopted by the Florida Greenways & Trails Council

December 2007
Florida Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) purchased the former Florida East Coast Railway Corridor

December 2009
PD&E Study for East Central Regional Rail Trail (ECRRT) completed

September 2012
Memorandum of Understanding to develop the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail signed by Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia Counties

January 2013
First update to the FGTS Plan

January 2014
Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation launches a statewide “Close the Gaps” campaign to promote a regionally connected trail system
History

March 2015
SUN Trail Network created by the Florida Legislature. FDOT receives $25 million/year to construct paved multi-use trails

May 2015
Regional Trails Corridor Assessment adopted by R2CTPO

March 2016
Florida Greenways and Trails Council prioritizes regional SUN Trail funding: (1) Coast to Coast Trail, (2) St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail

October 2016
FDOT awards $44.4 million to 45 SUN Trail projects in FY 2016/17

November 2017
Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dale Avenue Trail in Edgewater, the first project constructed with SUN Trail funds
Trail Amenities-Logo, Signs, etc.

Proposed Wayfinding Signage: Final Recommendation
# Economic Impact of Trails

## Total Number of Trail Visitors in 2015

*Sources: Participating Counties, RPC calculations*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total Visitors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brevard</td>
<td>9,600</td>
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<td>608,405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>278,816</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sumter</td>
<td>15,380</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volusia</td>
<td>52,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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## Total Visitor Expenditures in 2015

*Source: Various county governments and RPC calculations.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Resident Visitors</th>
<th>Annual Spending</th>
<th>Non-Resident Visitors</th>
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Regional Trails

- Coast to Coast Connector
- Heart of Florida
- River to Sea Loop Trail
- East Coast Greenway
- East Central Regional Rail Trail
- Spring to Spring Trail
- East Coast Greenway (Alt Route)
- Florida Black Bear Scenic Trail (SR 40 Trail)
- SR 415 Trail
Status of Regional Trails

- 200+ miles of trails in R2CTPO planning area
- $6,225,000 SUN Trail funds programmed on Volusia County trails in FY 2018/19
- $32,864,532 SUN Trail funds programmed on Volusia County trails in FY 2018/19 – 2022/23
- SR A1A Trail in Flagler Beach postponed until roadway is reconstructed
SUN Trail Network
Coast to Coast Trail
Where are we headed?

- 2019: completion of trail wayfinding signs
- 2019: completion of the Coast to Coast Trail in Volusia County
- 2026: completion of the St. Johns River to Sea Loop Trail