

# St. Johns

## RIVER-TO-SEA LOOP

2013 SUMMIT

May 30th

9am - 2pm

9505 Oceanshore Bv.

Marineland, Florida

RSVP: 386-313-4040



THE WHITNEY LABORATORY  
for MARINE BIOSCIENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



## Background

On September 17, 2008 officials from Brevard, Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns and Volusia counties met in St. Augustine and signed a memorandum of understanding to confirm their commitment to build the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop, a 260 mile long paved, off-road trail for bicyclists and non-motorized transportation activities. The signing ceremony took place on the front lawn of the Castillo de San Marcos.

The proposed loop trail passes through the heart of Florida's wildflower region. It was the wildflowers sighted by Ponce de Leon in 1513 that inspired him to name his discovery La Florida. The trail traverses Florida's entire history from the 16<sup>th</sup> century conquistadors of St. Augustine to the 21<sup>st</sup> century astronauts of the Titusville area. A conquistador and astronaut were at the signing ceremony to symbolize this historic route.

The original goal was to complete the loop by 2013, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ponce de Leon's discovery of Florida. Although this goal has not been met, the momentum behind the development of the loop trail is continually growing, as is the spirit of cooperation between the various stakeholders (non-profits, municipalities, counties, state agencies and private sector entities) that are advocates for the trail. The vision of completing the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop is alive and well in today's summit and throughout Florida.

## **St. Johns River to the Sea Loop Trail Summit**

### **Agenda**

Whitney Laboratory Auditorium @ Marineland  
9505 Oceanshore Boulevard  
St. Augustine, Florida 32080

May 30, 2013  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

#### **Breakfast (Provided by Reynolds, Smith & Hills, Inc.)**

- |      |   |            |
|------|---|------------|
| I.   | Welcome/Introductions (Barbara Revels, Flagler County Commission)                   | 9:00 a.m.  |
| II.  | Background (Herb Hiller, East Coast Greenway Alliance)                              | 9:10 a.m.  |
| III. | Current status of the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop Trail                         | 9:30 a.m.  |
|      | a) St. Johns County segment (Wil Smith, St. Johns County Recreation & Parks)        |            |
|      | b) Flagler County segment (Barbara Revels, Flagler County Commission)               |            |
|      | c) Putnam County segment (B. Kraig McLane, AICP, Putnam County Trails Council)      |            |
|      | d) Volusia County segment (Tim Baylie, Volusia County Parks, Rec. & Culture)        |            |
|      | e) Brevard County segment (Leigh Holt, Space Coast TPO)                             |            |
| IV.  | Connecting Trails Projects  | 10:30 a.m. |
|      | a) Coast to Coast/First Coast Conn. (Dale Allen, Fl. Greenways & Trails Foundation) |            |
|      | b) East Coast/Halifax River Greenway (James Nelson, City of Daytona Beach)          |            |
| V.   | Trails Funding  | 11:00 a.m. |

#### **Lunch (Provided by Florida Hospital-Flagler)**

- |       |  |            |
|-------|--|------------|
|       |  | 11:30 p.m. |
| VI.   | Florida Trails and Greenways Plan (Robin Birdsong, Fl. Office of Greenways & Trails)     | 12:30 p.m. |
| VII.  | Bike Florida's St. Johns River to the Sea Loop Tour (Ron Cunningham, Bike Florida, Inc.) | 12:40 p.m. |
| VIII. | Next Steps for the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop Trail                                 | 12:50 p.m. |
| IX.   | Tour of the Flagler County segment of the St. Johns River to the Sea Loop Trail          | 1:00 p.m.  |
| X.    | Closing Remarks (Patricia Northey, Volusia County Council)                               | 1:40 p.m.  |
| XI.   | Adjournment  | 2:00 p.m.  |

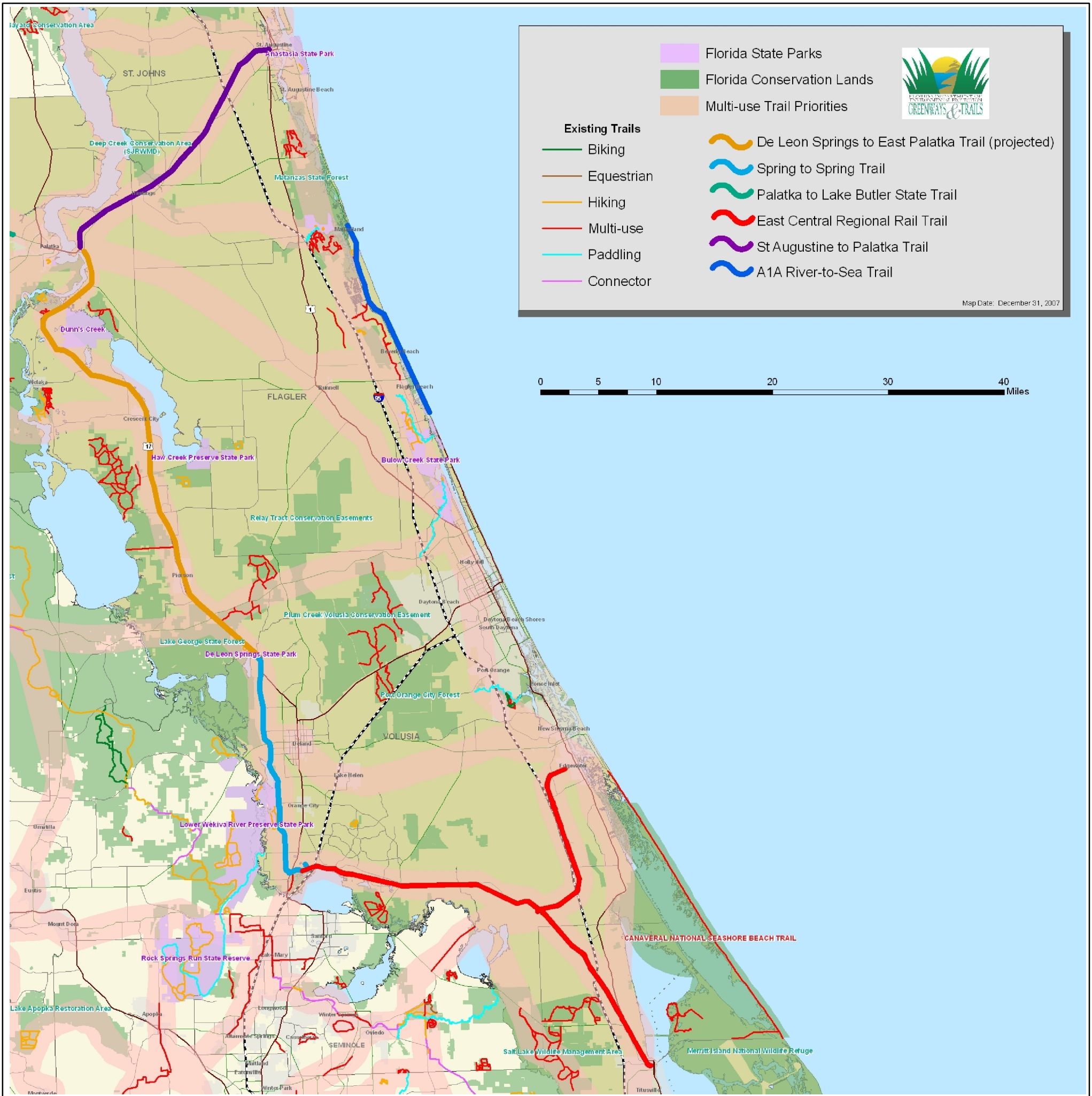
## Description

The St. Johns River to the Sea Loop is forming through a five-county upper east-central region bounded north and south by St. Augustine, America's oldest continuous city, and Titusville, gateway to the Kennedy Space Center, although the route itself is chiefly rural. The Loop further historically connects a St. Johns River site once visited by John James Audubon, and country museums with their collections of steamboats, lighthouse keeping, and catch-all Florida memorabilia.

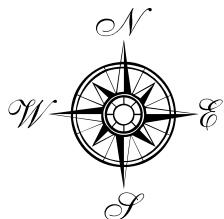
Of the route's 260 miles, 51 are currently paved and traffic free and are already popular. One woodland section in Volusia County links springs along its namesake Spring-to-Spring Trail, including Gemini Springs County Park and DeLeon Springs State Park. Connecting to the Spring-to-Spring Trail is the first completed section of the East Central Regional Rail Trail. Passing directly along the beaches is the Flagler County A1A Bike Path. Another section, the Palatka to St. Augustine State Trail, traverses agricultural countryside.

Additional highlights of the route include a restaurant in DeLeon Springs where guests prepare their own pancakes at griddles built into their tables, and the main campus of Stetson University in downtown DeLand, which, also like Palatka, is a small-town county seat accessible by Amtrak. The route is also wildflower profuse in spring and fall.

# St. John's River to the Sea Loop Trail



A Five County - 230 mile cycling loop thru  
The Heart of Florida



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