



ECG Talking Points

What is the East Coast Greenway?

- A continuous path connecting 25 major cities along the East Coast in 15 states and DC.
- The goal is for it to be 100% off-road
- 3000 miles from the Canadian border in Calais, ME to Key West, FL
- Currently 21% off-road with safe on-road connections, making a continuous route for people to cycle or walk
- The ECG is one of America's most ambitious trails projects
- The ECG showcases a new way to explore the East Coast's rich history, culture, and natural resources
- An "urban Appalachian Trail"
- One of the United States' 16 National Millennium Trails
- All paths will have a firm surface, either paved or stone dust
- The ECG will provide connections between town centers, transit stations, parks, open spaces, and visitor attractions.

What is the East Coast Greenway Alliance?

- Non-profit based in Wakefield, RI, spearheading establishment of the East Coast Greenway
- Mission: To partner with local, state, and national agencies and organizations to promote the establishment, stewardship, and public enjoyment of a traffic-free, multi-user trail linking cities from Maine to Florida.
- Sets the vision for the ECG trail system, defines clear criteria, and provides the coordination to see that it happens
- Promotes local trails to close gaps in the Greenway route
- Works through 16 volunteer state committees with scores of local citizen advocates
- Creates maps, cue sheets, user guides and signage to enable the public to use the Greenway

Who can benefit from the East Coast Greenway

People

- The vision is for a trail accessible to all non-motorized users: walkers, cyclists, inline skaters, skiers and equestrians. The phase 1 route will be accessible to walkers and cyclists.
- The route is flat, firm, and smooth and thus appropriate for wheelchairs and the elderly.
- Provides a safe place for children to learn to ride a bike and to travel to school and other locations, or to join family outings.
- It provides a means of transportation for those who don't drive, thereby increasing their independence
- Provides something for every type of traveler: nature lovers will enjoy scores of nearby natural wonders, including wetlands, forests and coastal regions; heritage tourists can visit the six National Heritage Areas and many historic sites, museums, botanic gardens, and other sites along the Greenway
- The Greenway is easily accessible by over 35 million people living in the counties it passes through – plus millions of visitors to the region.
- Improves physical and mental health through recreation and exercise

- Increases safety for non-motorized travelers by giving them a traffic-free travel option

Communities

- Enhances communities and areas, improves quality of life, increases property values
- Increases tourism dollars to towns and cities along the route; local economic development
- Attracts eco-tourists and adventure travelers
- Increases transportation options
- Reduces roadway congestion
- Connects people and communities - provides opportunities to socialize and meet people
- Creates new public space.
- Makes communities more livable and enjoyable for residents and tourists

Environment

- Reduced dependence on fossil fuels
- Cleaner air
- Preserved open space
- Makes use of abandoned lands (e.g. rail corridors)