

## ECGA Glossary

*The definitions in this glossary are based on how the term is used within the ECGA organization.*

- **Advocacy (advocate):** public support of something, often involving influencing the government or public to take action. *Volunteers advocated for funds to build a local trail.*
- **Alliance:** Occasionally used as shorthand East Coast Greenway Alliance.
- **Alternate Route:** In some places the ECG splits into two or more directions for a long or short distance. Often, one of the routes is the main, or spine route, while the other is the alternate route. For instance, VA will have a main route and a Historic Coastal Route.
- **Ambassador:** An ECG “super volunteer”. Ambassadors promote the ECG in their state or region by attending events and distributing information about the ECG.
- **Amenities:** A feature or facility that improves the quality or comfort of the trail experience. Examples include restrooms, water fountains, and accommodations.
- **Benchmark:** Documents developed for each state along the ECG. Benchmarks list all available information about each trail segment in a state, including a status assessment. Benchmarks are then used to develop state *Blueprints for Action*.
- **Bike lane:** A portion of a road that has been designated for cyclists by striping, pavement markings and/or signage.
- **Bike route:** A route for bicycles located on roadways and marked with signage and directional indicators.
- **Blueprint for Action:** A state trail development plan. These documents are part of the ECGA’s five-year Close the Gaps Campaign. Trail status in each state is assessed through the *Benchmarks*, and then step-by-step actions for completing the trail are developed.
- **Board of Trustees:** This ECGA governing body creates the policies, budgets and work plans to run the Alliance and ensure the success of the ECG.
- **Bylaws:** A set of regulations adopted by the ECGA Board of Trustees to govern the way the ECGA operates.
- **Car-free:** Term used to describe a segment of the ECG that is not on-road, or to describe the vision of the ECG as a whole. E.g., “We added 2.5 miles of car-free trail to the ECG route this month”...or “The ECG eventually will consist entirely of car-free path.” Synonyms include: non-motorized, traffic-free, or off-road.

- **Chamber of Commerce:** The group of businesses that sponsor the ECG through advertising on the website and other materials. They can be trail development businesses (planning and design, bridge building, trail surfacing, etc) or trail user businesses (accommodations, restaurants, bike shops, convenience stores, etc).
- **Close the Gaps:** A Campaign initiated in 2005 to substantially complete the ECG by 2010. Components of the campaign include: developing state trail development plans called “Blueprints for Action”, implementing the Blueprints to get more trail developed, and increasing organizational capacity to complete the trail.
- **Close the Gaps Club:** ECGA members who support the Close the Gaps campaign by donating \$1000 or more to the ECGA between 2005-2010. Club members can join the ECGA on special tours and events.
- **Completed Route:** Any section of the ECG that is not on the road. They are firm-surfaced, multi-use paths that are of such high quality that they are permanent sections of the ECG.
- **Continuous Route:** The combination of on and off road segments that make up the entire ECG. Synonyms: Current Travel Route or Travel Route.
- **Council of Governments (COG):** Regional bodies that generally serve an area of several towns or counties. They address issues such as planning, economic and community planning, and transportation. COGs are involved in the planning of regional trail systems such as the ECG.
- **Cue sheet:** A turn-by-turn set of written directions for following the ECG. Cue sheets are broken into town-to-town segments. They list distances, trail and street names, turns, and amenities.
- **Current Travel Route (CTR):** The ECG’s combination of on- and off-road route that a traveler could use today to get all the way from Maine to Florida. The CTR is continuously changing as new traffic-free paths are added to the route and on-road routing is altered to maximize user safety.
- **Cycle track:** a part of a road which is reserved for the use of bicycles and from which all motorized vehicles (other than motorized wheelchairs) are prohibited from entering except for the purpose of access.
- **Designation:** The term referring to a trail that is an official part of the ECG. *“The trail was granted designation as part of the ECG.”*
- **Designation process:** the process by which a trail becomes an official part of the ECG. If a trail is deemed of high quality and is geographically appropriate, it will be nominated for designation. Trail advocates, managers, volunteers or ECG staff can nominate a trail for designation. The application goes before the ECGA Trail Council, which votes whether or

not to designate the trail. The designation must be endorsed by the town through which the trail travels.

- **Designated trail:** a trail that is officially part of the ECG route. The trail must meet ECG standards, apply for designation, be endorsed as ECG by the town it which it is located, and be approved by the ECG Trail Council.
- **Directional sign:** An arrow placed below an ECG trail marker that shows the traveler which way to go at an intersection.
- **ECG:** East Coast Greenway
- **ECGA:** East Coast Greenway Alliance
- **Eco-tourism:** Tourism that has minimal impact on the environment. Eco-tourism often focuses on recreation or visiting natural, historic, or cultural sites on foot, bicycle, or other alternate means of transportation.
- **End-to-ender:** An ECG traveler who has traversed the entire ECG in any direction. The traveler need not complete the route in one trip to be an end-to-ender.
- **Enhancement Funds:** Federal funds available to states for non-motorized transportation programs including bicycling and walking facilities. These funds became available through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991, which included the Transportation Enhancement Program, requiring each state to set aside 10% of its Surface Transportation Program funds for transportation enhancement projects. The program continued with enactment of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) in 1998 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in 2005.
- **Friends Group or Organization:** A non-profit group formed to advocate for a trail or trail system. They often assist the managing public agency by helping to maintain and/or raise funds for the trail.
- **Gap:** A segment of the ECG where no potential off-road routing has been identified.
- **Google map:** A map of the ECG created using Google Earth. The map shows trail status and information such as public transit. These state-by-state, online maps are useful for trip planning but are not efficient for trail navigation.
- **Greenway:** A linear open space established along a natural corridor or manmade corridor such as a railroad or highway right-of-way or canal. Used for conservation, recreation, and non-motorized transportation.
- **Inspection:** A formal inspection is performed and the results included in a trail's application for designation as ECG.

- **Interim Route:** Any on-road section of the ECG. Since the goal of the ECG is to be entirely off the road, any section that is on-road is considered to be temporary.
- **Kiosk:** a structure, usually wooden, on an ECG trail that holds posters, maps, and other trail information. ECG mile sponsors are posted on kiosks.
- **Letter of endorsement:** A letter given from a trail managing agency or town official to the ECGA, accepting that their local trail is a part of the ECG.
- **Manager:** Refers to a trail manager – usually a local agency or employee of a local agency who is directly responsible for management of a trail.
- **Mile Sponsor:** A person who sponsors a mile or more of ECG in the state of their choice. Mile sponsor’s names or other inscription are placed on posters in kiosks along the trail, as well as on the ECG website.
- **Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding (MOA/MOU):** A legal document describing an agreement between parties. For the ECG, MOAs are signed between the ECGA and its State Committees as way of defining their relationship and the responsibilities of each.
- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO):** A transportation policy-making organization made up of representatives from local government and transportation authorities.
- **Millennium Trail:** A national trail designation created by Hillary Rodham Clinton and then Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater in 2000. There are 16 National Millennium Trails, including the ECG. These long-distance trails reflect defining aspects of America’s history and culture and help create a positive vision for the future.
- **Multi-use trail/path/pathway:** A trail that accommodates different types of trail users at the same time, including walkers, cyclists, skaters, equestrians, and wheelchair users.
- **Non-motorized:** Term used to describe a segment of the ECG that is not on-road, or to describe the vision of the ECG as a whole. E.g., “We added 2.5 miles of non-motorized trail to the ECG route this month”...or “The ECG eventually will consist entirely of non-motorized path. Synonyms: car-free, traffic-free, or off-road.
- **Off road:** Any section of ECG that is not on the road. Off road sections are multi-use paths that paved or stone-dust or other firm surface. This term is not used often as it can be misconstrued as rugged trail.
- **Off the road:** This term is used to define the process of moving the trail or a segment of trail from an on-road route to a traffic-free path. For instance, “We moved a 10-mile segment in Virginia off the road”
- **On road:** A segment of ECG that is on a road.

- **Owner:** An agency that owns a local trail.
- **Permanent Route:** A segment of ECG that is off of the road and permanently designated as ECG.
- **Provisional designation:** status given to a trail that is designated as ECG but is not quite up to standards. The Trail Council grants designation on the provision that the trail must be brought up to standard. Deficiencies may include a lack of safety signage or inadequate surfacing. This is common for recently constructed trails.
- **Phased designation:** the process of designating an entire trail as ECG when only part of the trail is complete. For example, a 10-mile trail may be built in phases over several years. If the ECGA knows that the entire trail, when complete, will be a part of the ECG, the completed portions of the trail can be designated before the entire trail is complete. When further sections are completed, they will become part of the ECG without having to go through a formal designation application process.
- **Rail-Trail:** A multi-use trail created along an inactive rail corridor
- **Rail-with-Trail:** A multi-use trail located on or adjacent to an active railroad.
- **Regional Trail Liaison:** ECGA regional staff who are focused on advancing the trail in their region. There are four regional staff: New England (ME, NH, MA, RI, CT); Mid Atlantic (NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC); South Atlantic (VA, NC, SC); Southeast (GA, FL)
- **Right-of-Way (ROW):** A strip of land adjacent to a state or federal road or along a utility corridor, and owned by the managing authority. Permission is often given to local agencies for building trails within a right-of-way.
- **Route marker:** sign along an ECG trail, bearing the ECG logo, which lets travelers know they are still on the trail
- **Shared-use lane:** A lane that used by bicycles as well as motorists. Used when the road is not wide enough to accommodate a bike lane or a separate bike lane cannot be marked for various reasons.
- **Sharrow:** shared lane pavement marking. Intended to help bicyclists better position themselves on roadways where bicycle lanes are recommended but cannot be added, and to let motorists know to be aware of bicyclists. They are part of a federal experiment to monitor their effectiveness.
- **Spine Route:** A term referring to the main route of the ECG. In several places the ECG branches of into two or more alternatives. The *spine route* is the originally planned or more substantially complete or the alternatives.

- **Stakeholder:** A person, agency or organization with an interest in the development of a trail.
- **State Committee:** Every state has a volunteer-led committee to implement and promote the ECG at the state level. They work with regional ECGA staff, local and state governments, design and planning firms, and volunteers.
- **State of the Trail Report/STR/SOTR:** An annual ECGA report on trail progress throughout the year.
- **Stone dust:** A material used for surfacing trails. It is finely crushed stone that creates a firm yet permeable surface.
- **Traffic-separated path:** (also shared use path, bike/bicycle path, multi-use path/trail). A path that is separated from the road by a barrier or open space in a manner that gives trail users safety from traffic.
- **Traffic-free:** Term used to describe a segment of the ECG that is not on-road, or to describe the vision of the ECG as a whole. E.g., “We added 2.5 miles of traffic-free trail to the ECG route this month”...or “The ECG eventually will consist entirely of traffic-free path. Synonyms: car-free, non-motorized, or off-road.
- **Trail Blaze:** A type of trail marker. Usually a rectangle, triangle, or diamond. Can be plastic, metal, or painted on the surface of a tree or pole.
- **Trail Council:** This governing body deals specifically with getting the ECG built. They designate trails and develop policies and standards for creating the ECG.
- **Travel Route:** Also known as the *current travel route* or *continuous route*. This is the combination of on and off road segments that make up the entire ECG route. The route changes as trail is moved off road or to safer, more scenic roads.
- **Wayfinding:** term used to describe the process of finding one’s way on the trail. ECG signs and directional markers are used to help travelers know which way to go at intersections.