

Month Day, Year

Name of Trail Contact

Title

Address 1

Address 2

Dear _____:

I am writing to seek the endorsement of (name of local agency) for designating the (name of local trail) as important part of the East Coast Greenway trail system.

The East Coast Greenway is a path that takes you along the Atlantic Ocean, through countryside and into cities and towns, on a journey that celebrates the diversity, the beauty and the history of America. Walkers, cyclists, and other trail users are beginning to do just this on the East Coast Greenway. This route will be composed of locally owned and managed trail segments, like yours, which are being knit together to form a continuous firm surfaced route of consistent quality, linking cities from Canada to the Caribbean. Our objective is a route that is 80% off-road using waterfront esplanades, rail trails, canal towpaths, park paths, and parkway corridors.

Each local trail will retain its identity as an independent facility with a distinct local name and will continue to function primarily locally for recreation, exercise and transportation. However, by becoming part of the East Coast Greenway each trail assumes an additional identity and role as a long distance route for touring. The East Coast Greenway promises to become the pre-eminent route on the eastern seaboard for adventure touring by bicycle and foot, and an ideal facility for heritage tourism.

We believe that the East Coast Greenway will have an enormously positive impact on (name of state or community). It has been clearly demonstrated that community trails enhance our quality of life, improve our environment, ease traffic congestion, promote wellness, and provide unique recreational opportunities for our citizens, close to home where they can easily be accessed. All of these benefits are multiplied when local trails are aligned with a national system. The added value of becoming part of the East Coast Greenway will be the substantial economic impact from trail-related tourism for trailside businesses and the community at large.

In 1999, the White House Millennium Council designated the East Coast Greenway as a National Millennium Trail. As one of 16 nationally recognized trails we are striving to "honor the past and imagine the future" as we complete the route from Maine to Florida. The (name of trail) plays a key role in the success of this national project. I am enclosing a draft letter of acknowledgment, which we are asking you to sign to indicate your approval of this designation. Also attached is an outline detailing the benefits we can provide to the (name of trail) and our simple expectations for signage, maps and promotion of the trail.

Please take a few moments to review the attached letter. If appropriate you may sign and return it or copy it to your agency letterhead. In either case, please call me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

(signature)

Name

State Committee Chair

East Coast Greenway Alliance

BENEFITS OF JOINING THE EAST COAST GREENWAY TRAIL SYSTEM

ADVOCACY

If the (name of trail) is designated part of the East Coast Greenway trail system both the national and local East Coast Greenway Alliance committees will, if requested, provide support for the trail in seeking funding from national, state or local governments, foundations or other funding sources. We will support your efforts to secure funds for general operations, trail improvements, trail maintenance, visitor services, signage, and other appropriate trail expenses.

PROMOTION

If the (name of trail) is designated part of the East Coast Greenway trail system, the East Coast Greenway Alliance will promote the (name of trail) nationally as a part of the East Coast Greenway trail system by:

- * developing a user map of the (name of trail) provided that funding becomes available as part of a map series being produced to facilitate public use of the East Coast Greenway.
- * including the trail in the GIS database/mapping system being developed for the network, and when appropriate, promoting it in other East Coast Greenway Alliance publications and in articles in local and national media
- * providing for the use of the East Coast Greenway logo to mark the trail at mutually agreed upon location(s)
- * promoting you as an important partner and your trail as a vital link in a National Millennium Trail

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The East Coast Greenway Alliance will provide information and guidance, if requested, on trail issues including but not limited to the following areas:

- * safe trail design
- * visitor safety
- * general public relations and maintaining good relations with trail neighbors
- * economic benefits of trails and greenways
- * management and use of community volunteers, including youth group service projects, historical research efforts, flower bed and beautification projects, and citizen patrol programs

Please Reply on Letterhead if Appropriate