The **Office of Greenways and Trails** within the Division of Recreation and Parks provides statewide leadership and coordination to establish, expand and promote the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) pursuant to the [Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Ch. 260, F.S.)](https://www.fldocs.gov/document/20694).
OGT is the leading statewide trail planning entity

**Implement** the Florida Greenways and Trails System
- Identify, evaluate, prioritize and coordinate development of trail corridors

**Provide** Community Assistance
- Project support, and greenways and trails master planning

**Represent** trails on various Boards, Committees and Councils
- Florida Greenways and Trails Council, Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, ETC.

**Administer** Florida Greenways and Trails programs (Acquisition and Designation)
Why Greenways and Trails?

- Health
- Tourism
- Economy
- Conservation
- Transportation
- Recreation

Quality of Life
The 2013-2017 FGTS Plan was the first update to system since Connecting Florida’s Communities laid the groundwork in 1998.

We are currently in the process of updating the plan which will be finalized in January 2018.
The FGTS plan complements other statewide planning efforts and programs

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Identify and Prioritize

Level 1 - The Vision: Land and Paddling Trails, and the Ecological Greenway Opportunities

Level 2 - The Priorities: Priority Trails and Ecological Greenway Critical Linkages

Level 3 - The Gaps: Priority Trail Gaps and Ecological Greenway Strategic Protection Areas
The **Opportunity** Maps represent *corridors* of “existing, planned and conceptual non-motorized trails that form a land based trail network of state and regional importance.”

- Map updated every 3 years
- Last updated in December 2015
Opportunity Corridors

- Cross or have the potential to cross county boundaries
- Documented evidence of local or regional government support
- Connect to a destination which provide diverse experiences
- Provide access to conservation lands, historic, recreational or cultural sites
- Supports the Florida Ecological Greenway Network
OGT worked with planning partners and trail users to document existing, planned and conceptual land and paddling trails.
The **Opportunity Corridors** are used as the basis of the **Priority Trails Map**. The Priority Map helps us decide where to focus resources.
Priority Trails Indicators

- Support and further establish national, state or regional trail projects, plans and initiatives
- Include long-distance trails or connect long-distance trails and/or loop corridors to link multiple counties and population centers
- Enhance connections to state parks, trails and greenways
- Demonstrate regional and community support, especially those willing to commit to trail management and maintenance
- Build on past and programmed state and federal investments in trails, particularly when matched by funding from local and private sources
- Coincide with the FEGN priorities
- Enhance access to nature-based tourism and economic development by connecting natural, recreational, cultural and historic sites
- Provide public safety by offering non-motorized use that is separated from highways
The Priority Trails Map identifies the most important corridors and connections within the Florida Trail and National Trails Systems. Completion of this map in late 2012, the trail tools inventory and plan in 2013, the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNTT) corridor included on this Priority Trails Map reflects the route currently proposed for designation by the US Forest Service. Whenever a route results from the current designation process, it will be included on the Priority Trails Map.
Funding Resources

• Federal Highway Administration
  • Transportation Alternative
  • Recreational Trail Program
• Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program
• Land and Water Conservation
• Florida Forever
  • Florida Communities Trust – 21%
  • Greenways and Trails Acquisition – 1.5%
• Shared Use Non-motorized Trail (SUNTrail) Program
In 2015, the Shared Use Non-motorized Trail funding program was established to assist with the design and construction of the paved components of the Florida Greenways and Trails Priority System. The Florida Department of Transportation is mandated to allocate a minimum of $25 million annually to the program.
St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop

2nd Priority regional trail for Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail funding
Goal: Connecting community parks and state parks to the Florida Greenways and Trails System
Potential Connection

.5 miles

San Marco de Apalache Historic State Park to City of St. Marks
Create a designation program for Florida Trail Towns

- Biking
- Hiking
- Paddling
- Shared Use Non-Motorized
- Multi-Use
- Equestrian
Promote and Communicate
Questions?

www.floridagreenwaysandtrails.com