

Program Name: Florida Greenways and Trails
Project Name: Florida Greenways and Trails Program
Project ID: 3202
Lead Agency: FDEP-Florida Office of Greenways and Trails
Authority: Acquisition: Florida Forever Act, Section 259.105, Florida Statutes
Designation: Chapter 260, F.S.; 62S-1.400, 62S-1.450, F.A.C
Funding Source: Florida Forever

Strategic Plan Goals(s) Addressed: 3.A.1

Measurable Output(s): Target 10,000 acres (Designation)

Project Synopsis: The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT), within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s Division of Recreation and Parks, provides leadership and coordination to establish and expand the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

OGT implements the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan to establish priorities and define the role of the FGTS in advancing Florida's economy, tourism, health, alternative transportation, recreation, conservation and quality of life. OGT oversees the priority and opportunity maps that define the FGTS, and works in partnership with communities, agencies and organizations to close gaps in the system.

The Florida Forever Act authorizes a land acquisition program for the statewide trail system. This is a competitive program that provides funding for local and regional land acquisition projects that will facilitate the establishment of a statewide system of greenways and trails. The primary mission of this program is to facilitate the establishment of a statewide system of greenways and trails for recreation and conservation purposes. Once acquired, the property is owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Governor and Cabinet) and managed by the state, regional and local governments.

The Office of Greenways and Trails Designation Program encourages voluntary partnerships in conservation, development, and management of greenways and trails, provides recognition for individual components of the system and the partners involved, and raises public awareness of the conservation and recreation benefits of greenways and trails. The criteria for a designated land or waterway are that it must (1) protect and/or enhance natural, recreational, cultural or historic resources and (2) either provide linear open space or a hub or site, or promote connectivity between or among conservation lands, communities, parks, other recreational facilities, cultural sites, or historic sites.

Current Status:

Cost: Total: \$4.5 million of Florida Forever funding for land acquisition (statewide)
No direct cost to the state for designation

Project Schedule: Start Date: 2000
Finish Date: Ongoing

South Florida Acres

Through Fiscal Year 2003:

227,094 acres plus 75 linear miles

Through Fiscal Year 2004:

298,774 acres plus 147 linear miles (add 71,680 acres & 72 linear miles)

In 06/07, an additional 179 acres and 24 miles of designated greenways & trails in South Florida

Through Fiscal Year 2008:

2 Blueway systems were designated in South Florida. One in Lee County and one in Charlotte County. The estimated "acreage" for these Blueway systems is 79,400 acres or 440 miles of paddling trails.

Through Fiscal Year 2009:

Designation: The Shingle Creek Paddling Trail (35 miles long, approx 21 acres) and the Shingle Creek Regional Park (1028 acres), which are both located in Osceola County, were designated in 2009.

Acquisition: 5.22 acres acquired with Florida Forever funding (\$412,000) in Orange County as part of the Cady Way Trail system.

Through Fiscal Year 2010:

Designation: The Pine Creek located in Broward County (.275 miles long, approx 1.5 acres), the Montverde Greenway Trail located in Lake County (.5 miles long, approx 5.4 acres), the Lake Wales Rails to Trails in Polk County (2.1 miles long, approx 18 acres) and the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (110 miles long, approx 226.67 acres), were designated in 2010. Acquisition: Nothing acquired in the 16 counties.

Through Fiscal Year 2011:

Designation: The Lake Wales Rails to Trail located in Polk County (2.1 miles long, 18 acres), the Pine Glades Natural Area located in Palm Beach County (6,642 acres), the Peace River Extension located in Polk County (18 miles long, 832 acres). Acquisition: Nothing acquired in the 16 counties.

Through Fiscal Year 2012:

Designation: Apalachicola River Blueway (116 miles long, 7296 acres).

Through Fiscal Year 2013:

Designation: John Yarbrough Linear Park in Lee County (6 miles, 817 acres), Big Talbot State Park in Duval County (1708.34 acres), Winding Waters Natural Area in Palm Beach County (534 acres), North Jupiter Natural Area in Palm Beach County (154 acres) and Jupiter Waterway Trail in Palm Beach County (39.19 miles, 23.51 acres).

Through Fiscal Year 2014:

Cypress Creek Natural Area in Palm Beach County (2,083.1 acres), St. Johns River Blueway in Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam, Flagler, Marion, Lake, Volusia, Orange, Seminole, Brevard, Osceola and Indian River counties (310 miles), and Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve in Levy County (1.5 miles).

| Florida Greenways and Trails Program | | | | | | | | |
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| Detailed Project Budget Information (\$1000s) | | | | | | | | |
| | FY 04-05 | FY 05-06 | FY 06-07 | FY 07-08 | FY 08-09 | FY 09-13 | Balance | Total |
| State | 174 | 497.372 | 280 | 0 | 412 | 0 | | |
| Total | 174 | 497.372 | 280 | 0 | 412 | 0 | 3,136.6 | 4,500 |

Hyperlink: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/>

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