

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Office of Greenways & Trails

Establishing the Florida Greenways and Trails System to advance Florida's economy, tourism, health, alternative transportation, recreation, conservation and quality of life.



The Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT), within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks, works with local, state and federal agencies to establish and expand a connected system of hiking, biking, paddling, equestrian and multi-use trails throughout Florida. These trails make up the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS).

To fulfill its mission under the Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Chapter 260, F. S), OGT does the following:

The Florida Greenways and Trails System

OGT maintains the priority and opportunity trail corridor maps that define the FGTS, establishes and implements a five-year plan, and works in partnership with communities, agencies and organizations to complete gaps in the system.

Trail Towns

OGT developed the Florida Trail Town program in 2018 to recognize trail friendly communities connected by long distance trails. The towns provide places where trail users, residents and visitors can find goods and services they need and easily access both the trail and the town. There are dozens of official Trail Towns throughout the state, including Dunedin, Clermont, Palatka, Deltona, and many more to explore.

Supporting Communities and Projects

OGT coordinates with local communities and provides technical assistance regarding the development, designation and management of greenways and trails projects that fulfill the FGTS plan and vision.

Serving the Public

OGT provides information to the public about greenways, trails and outdoor recreation and their many benefits through publications, webinars, presentations and FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com.

OGT's Functions and Responsibilities at a glance...

- Implement the Plan for the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS)
- Evaluate and prioritize greenway and trail corridors in the FGTS
- Organize and host meetings and events to help facilitate connected regional systems of local and state trails
- Provide statewide coordination of the FGTS through planning and community assistance
- Facilitate and provide support to FGTS priority and opportunity projects
- Facilitate the FGTS through representation on various boards, committees and councils
- Serve as staff to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council
- Administer the Florida Greenways and Trails Designation Program
- Administer the Florida Trail Town Program
- Coordinate Florida's designated paddling trails, including the 1,515-mile Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail
- Publicize and promote greenways and trails, the FGTS, and the benefits of outdoor recreation
- Coordinate and produce the five-year Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Why Outdoor Recreation and the Florida Greenways and Trails System?

Trails and greenways fuel our future by...

Attracting Tourists Improving Quality of Life
Increasing Property Values Stimulating Business Development
Providing Healthy Recreation Providing Alternative Transportation

- In downtown Dunedin, Florida's first designated trail town, private business occupancy rates increased from 30% to 100% following the establishment of the Pinellas Trail.
- A study by the East Coast Greenway Association found that 17 jobs are created for every \$1 million invested in trails.
- Trails add value to new homes and are consistently among the top four community amenities sought by prospective homeowners of all ages.
- According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation in Florida generates \$58.6 billion in annual consumer spending, resulting in 485,000 direct jobs.
- Trails and outdoor recreation inspire people to lead healthier and happier lives, benefits that are widely acknowledged in numerous studies.

