



Creating a World-Class Trail and Greenway System For Florida

Close the Gaps

9/22/2015





Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.

FGTF Mission

The mission of the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation is to advocate for, and create a state-wide system of trails and greenways.





Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.

About the Foundation

The Florida Greenways & Trails (FGT) Foundation is Florida's chief advocacy organization for non-motorized trails & greenways. The foundation supports greater use of trails for recreation, for fitness and health, for attracting leisure travelers, and for a larger role in evolving multi-modal transportation policy.

The FGT Foundation supports expanding public access for all Florida residents and visitors.

The FGT Foundation supports non-motorized trails that promote safe transportation routes for pedestrians and bicyclists, equestrians and paddlers, runners and fitness walkers, and provides connections to public parks and conservation lands.

We welcome your interest, your financial support and your active participation.

www.FGTF.org



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Florida is at Threshold of Regional Trails

- ❑ *200 miles of the proposed 250 miles Coast-to-Coast (C2C) Connector are already in place.*
- ❑ Almost six hundred miles of the 2000 mile of state trail network has been built and needs to be connected.
- ❑ The economic impact of trails on rural and midsize communities will be dramatic. Go visit Winter Garden on the West Orange Trail, and Dunedin on the Pinellas Trail. Beautiful downtowns with 100% occupancy in the core. Both of these vibrant communities will soon be joined by the Coast to Coast and from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico. Imagine the impact this will have!
- ❑ The State of Florida has purchased well over **one billion** worth of conservation land in every county in Florida. If Florida can connect our priority trail system in even one third of these lands, the public health benefits and tourist economic benefits are significant.



Connected Trails Across North America

- **Great Allegheny Passage** — 400 mile trail connecting downtown Pittsburgh with Washington D.C.





Connected Trails Across North America

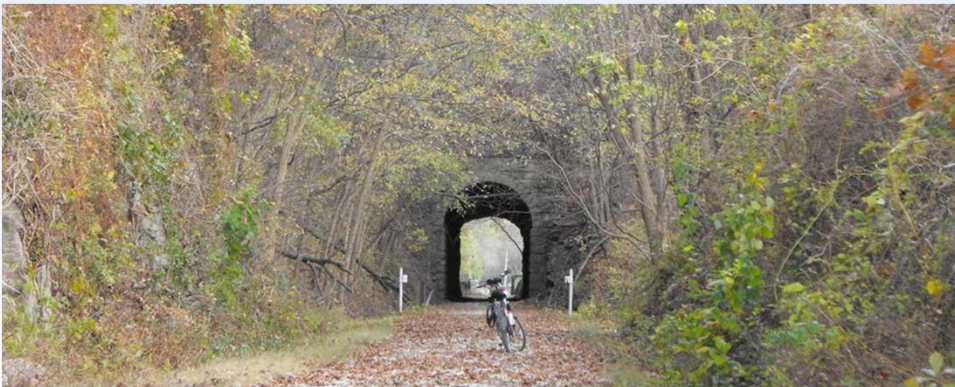
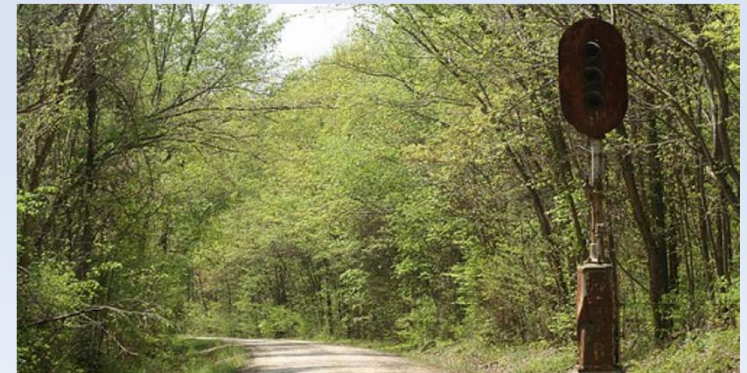
- **Confederation Trail (Canada)** — 275 km trail connecting Prince Edward Island entirely from tip to tip.





Connected Trails Across North America

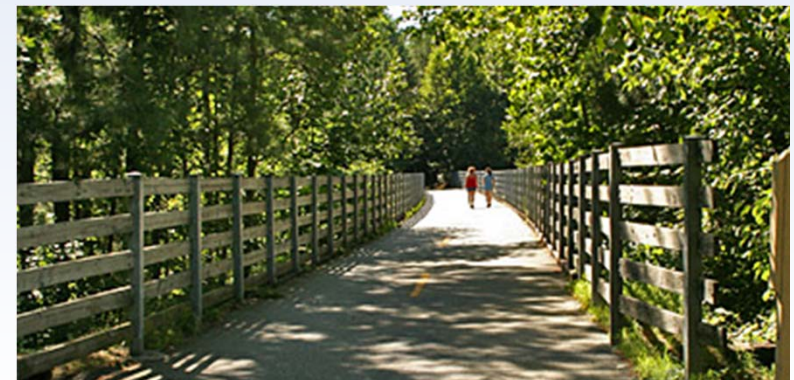
- **KATY Trail** (*Former Kansas, Arkansas & Texas RR*)
250 mile trail connecting St. Louis to Kansas City, Missouri.





Connected Trails Across North America

- **Silver Comet Trail** — 94 mile trail connecting Smyrna Georgia to Anniston Alabama.





Connected Trails Across North America

- **Coeurd'Alene Trail** — 71 mile trail following the Union Pacific RR connecting Mullan to Plummer Idaho.





Connected Trails Across North America

- **The High Line** — 1.45 mile trail utilizing the disused West Side Line elevated railroad trestle in New York City .

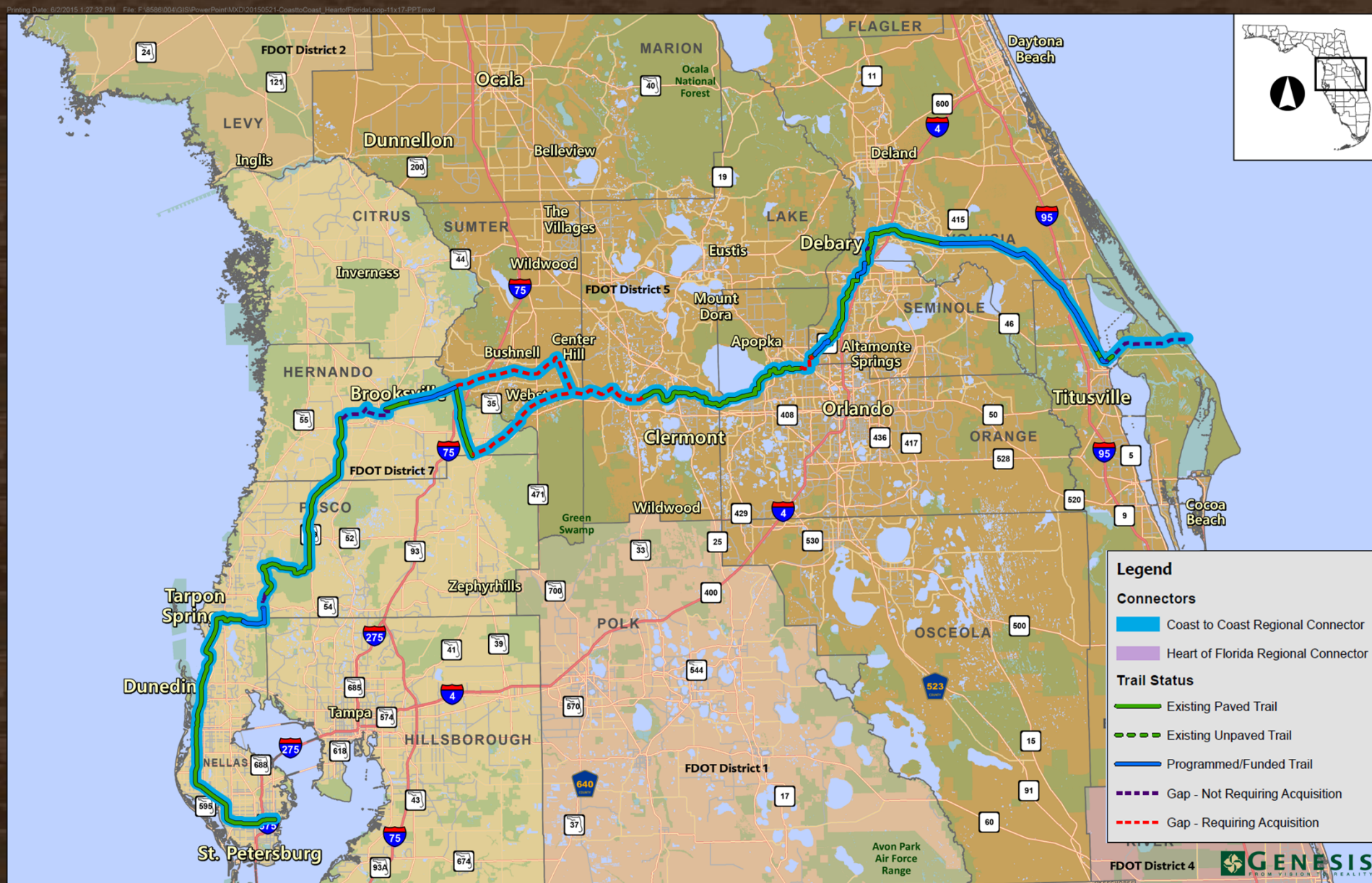




Connected Trails Across North America

Walk Over the Hudson — 1.28 mile trail spanning the Hudson River on the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge.





Coast to Coast Regional Connector

9/22/2015





Great Northwest Coast Regional Connector

9/22/2015





Nature Coast & Old Florida Regional Connectors

9/22/2015





Top 10 Regional Connectors

9/22/2015





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Future Trail Funding Opportunities

- **Strong support exists in Florida Legislature for Regionally Connected Trails**
- **Pursuant to Section 335.065(4) F.S., the Department shall give funding priority to projects that:**
 - Are identified by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council as a priority within the Florida Greenways and Trails System under Chapter 260, F.S.
 - Support the transportation needs of bicyclists and pedestrians
 - Have national, statewide, or regional importance
 - Facilitate an interconnected system of trails by completing gaps between existing trails
- **SB 2514-A approved by the 2015 Florida Legislature called these regional connectors “SUN Trails Network.” SUN is an acronym for “Shared Used Non-motorized” Trails. This legislation included an annual appropriation of \$25 Million to complete this system.**



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Future Trail Funding Opportunities

➤ **Constitutional Amendment One passed overwhelmingly by Florida voters (75% -- Yes) on November 4, 2014.**

SECTION 28. Land Acquisition Trust Fund. -- a) Effective on July 1 of the year following passage of this amendment by the voters, and for a period of 20 years after that effective date, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall receive no less than 33 percent of net revenues derived from the existing excise tax on documents, as defined in the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, as amended from time to time, or any successor or replacement tax, after the Department of Revenue first deducts a service charge to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of the excise tax on documents. b) Funds in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall be expended only for the following purposes: 1) As provided by law, to finance or refinance: the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements, and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife management areas; lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Article II, Section 7(b); beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including **recreational trails**, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic or geologic sites; together with management, restoration of natural systems, and **the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands**. 2) To pay the debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Article VII, Section 11(e). c) The moneys deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, as defined by the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, shall not be or become commingled with the General Revenue Fund of the state



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OGT Opportunity Maps

The Office of Greenways and Trails--OGT-- is currently updating its entry-level maps--or Opportunity Maps--this summer and fall.

- Every city and county must include their local priority trails and spurs to these maps in order for these trails to be considered during the next round of priority ranking.
- Eventual ranking on the OGT "Priority Trail Maps" is the critical step in order to qualify for funding under current and future acquisition and trail development programs.
- All MPOs, TPOs, as well as city and county recreation and transportation planners, should make this a TOP transportation priority. Once funding becomes available, local connections to the proposed SUN Trails system will depend on these trails being on the OGT Opportunity Maps.



The Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation would also like to thank our Partners in this effort

- **GENESIS “From Vision to Reality”**
- **Florida Rail-to-Trails Conservancy**
- **Florida Bicycle Association**
- **Bike Walk Central Florida**
- **Ocala Mountain Biking Association (OMBA)**
- **Friends of Florida State Parks**
- **DAY Communication**
- **Crash&Annie Studios**
- **ALTA Planning & Design**
- **East Coast Greenway Alliance**
- **ASLA, American Society of Landscape Architects—Florida Chapter**
- **Office of Greenways & Trails**
- **Florida Department of Transportation**
- **Cross Florida Greenway State Park**
- **MetroPlan of Central Florida**
- **Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)**
- **Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**
- **Pasco County MPO**
- **River-to-Sea TPO**
- **Ocala/Marion County TPO**
- **Lake-Sumter MPO**
- **Hernando/Citrus MPO**



FGT Foundation Funders and Sponsors

- The Felburn Foundation
- Elizabeth Ordway Dunn Foundation
- Winter Park Health Foundation
- Space Coast Health Foundation
- Florida Blue Foundation
- Blandina Rojek Charitable Lead Trust
- GENESIS "From Vision to Reality"
- Travel Country Outfitters
- The Board of Directors of the Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation

**And the thousands of friends and supporters across
Florida and around the world!**



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