Trails Towns & Trees

Panelists

- Brian Smith - Panel Moderator
- Samantha Browne - Florida Office of Greenways and Trails
- Elisabeth Manley - Landscape Architect and Trails Planner
- Bob Ironsmith - Dunedin Economic Development Director

A Trail – in Urban Setting

A Trail – in Community Setting

A Trail – Experience Culture

A Trail – Safe Experience

A Trail - Unique

A Trail – In Nature

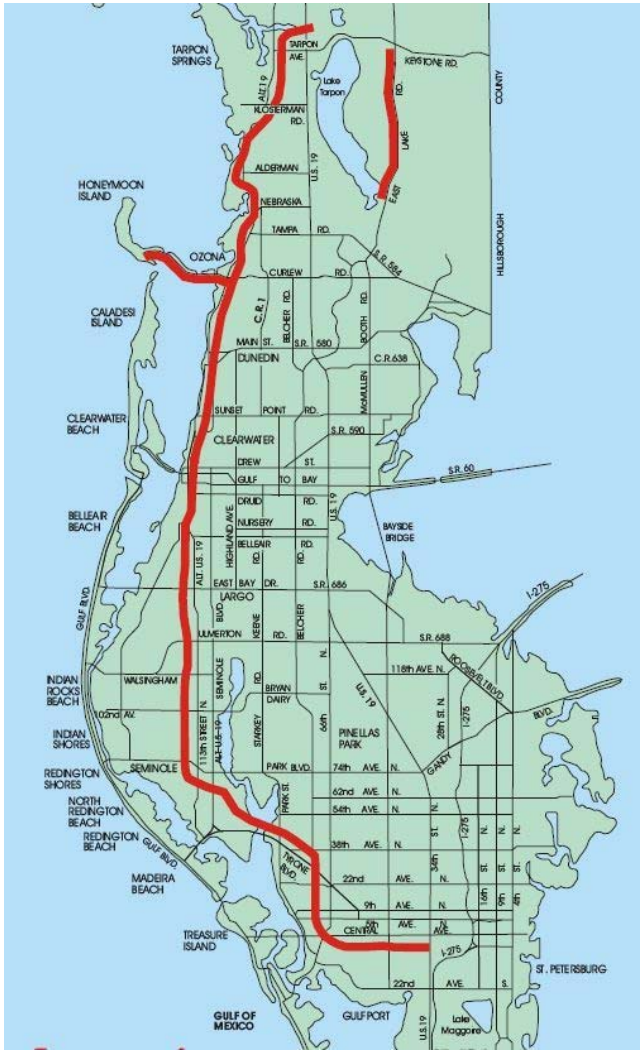
A Trail – in Context

Trails defined

- separated from motor vehicle traffic
- a minimum of 12 feet wide
- paved surface
- connecting to destinations
- multipurpose - bikes, pedestrians, skaters, and strollers
- preferred links to parking, restrooms, etc.
- context sensitive design

Pinellas Trail

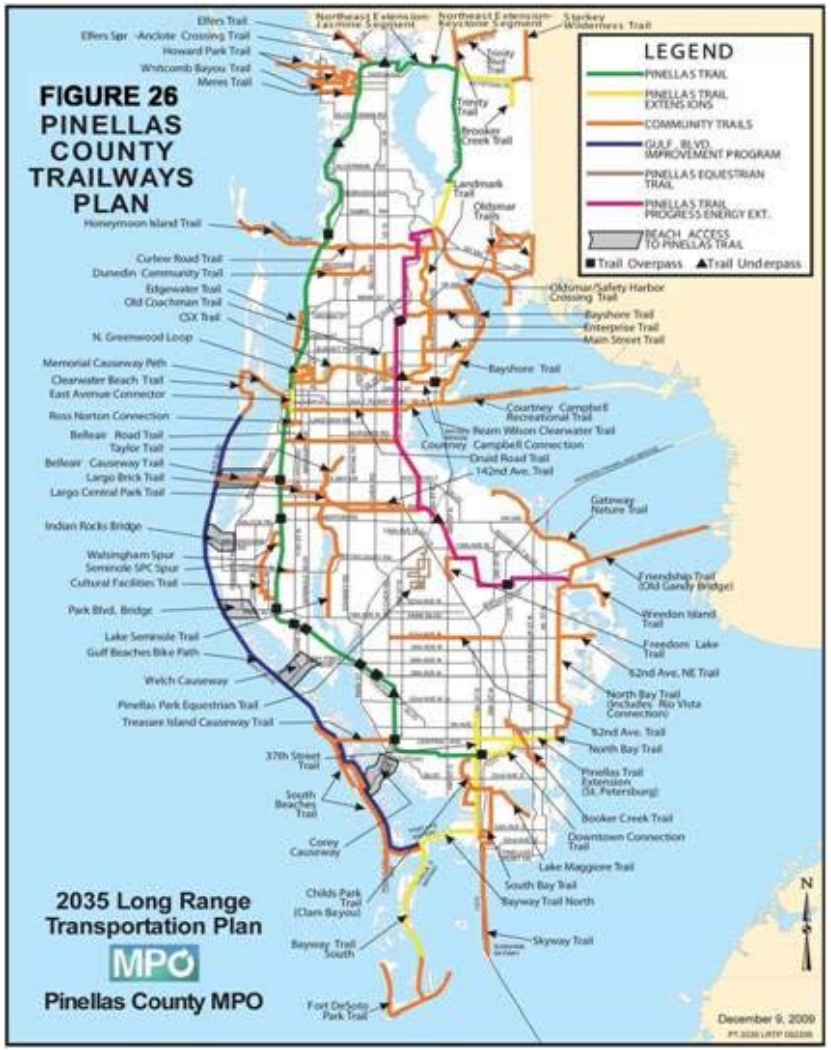
Pinellas Trail



Pinellas Trail

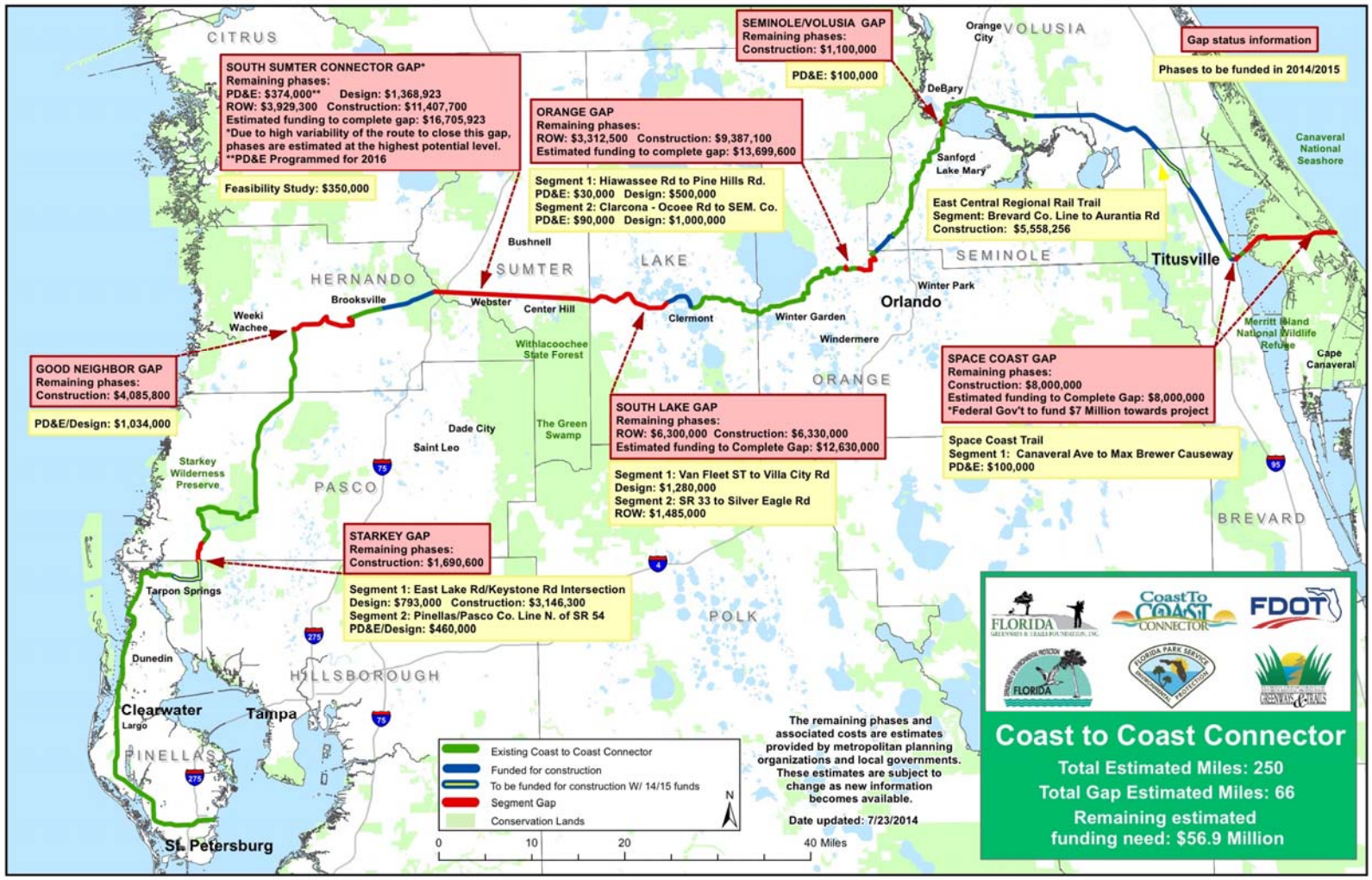
- rail corridor acquisition
- safety initiative for bicycles and pedestrians
- Penny for Pinellas referendum
- started as a recreation trail
- transportation facility - survey
- comprehensive trail system
- communities/ the environment
- a vision and a model

Pinellas Trail Loop



A Regional Vision

Coast-to-Coast Trail



Coast-to-Coast Trail

- regional vision
- universal support
- building on existing facilities
- filling in gaps
- foundation for statewide support for trails
- linking communities and the environment
- model for regional trails program

Trails Towns & Trees
A Complete Trails Program

Regional Partnerships creating Florida's Priority System of Greenways and Trails

Office of Greenways and Trails

Florida Department of

Environmental Protection

Focused on FLORIDA'S FUTURE

Office of Greenways and Trails

The **Office of Greenways and Trails** was established to fulfill the Florida Greenways and Trails Act…

To … "***conserve***, ***develop***, and ***use the natural resources*** of this state for healthful and recreational purposes"

[Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Ch. 260, F.S.)]

Office of Greenways and Trails - Purpose

Coordinate and Advance the Florida Greenways and Trails System to support Florida's:

Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan Goals

Goal 1

Delineate Regional Systems

Goal 2

Strategic Investment of Resources to Advance System Completion

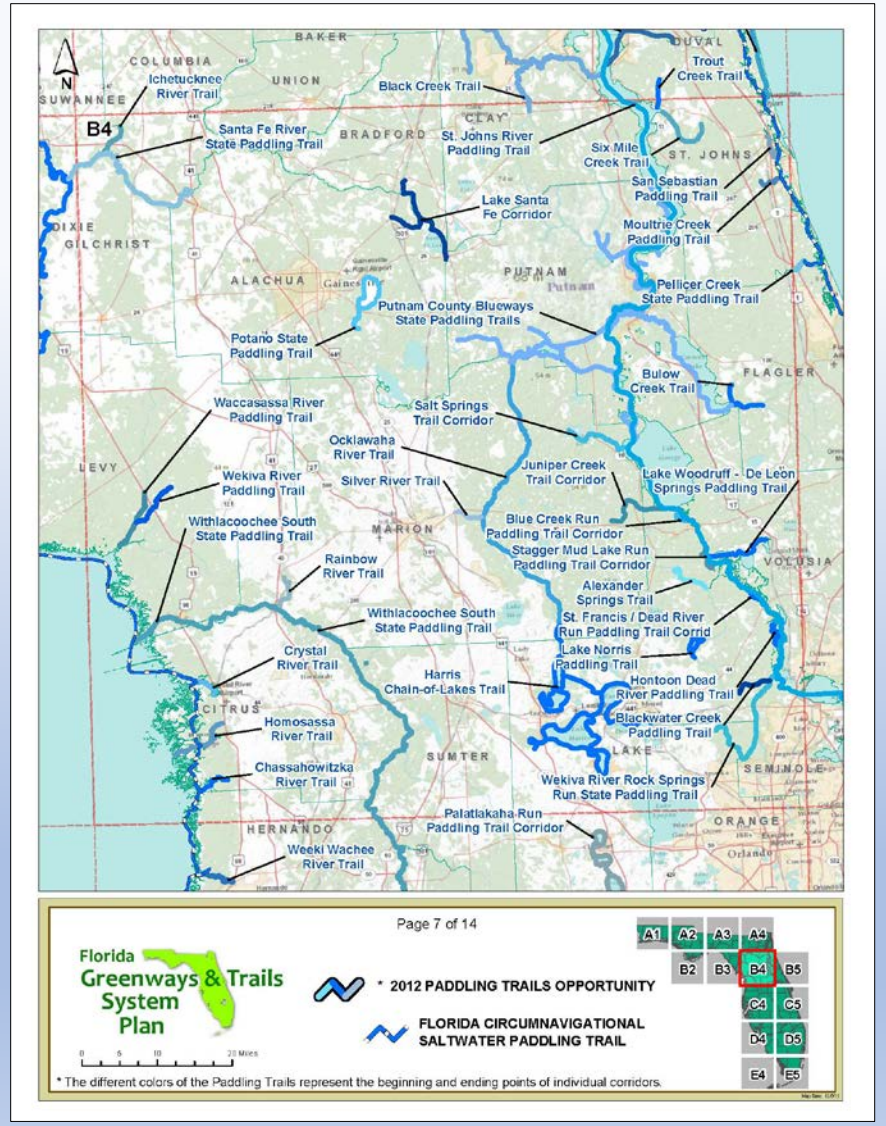
Goal 3

Promote and Market the Florida Greenways and Trails System to Residents and Visitors

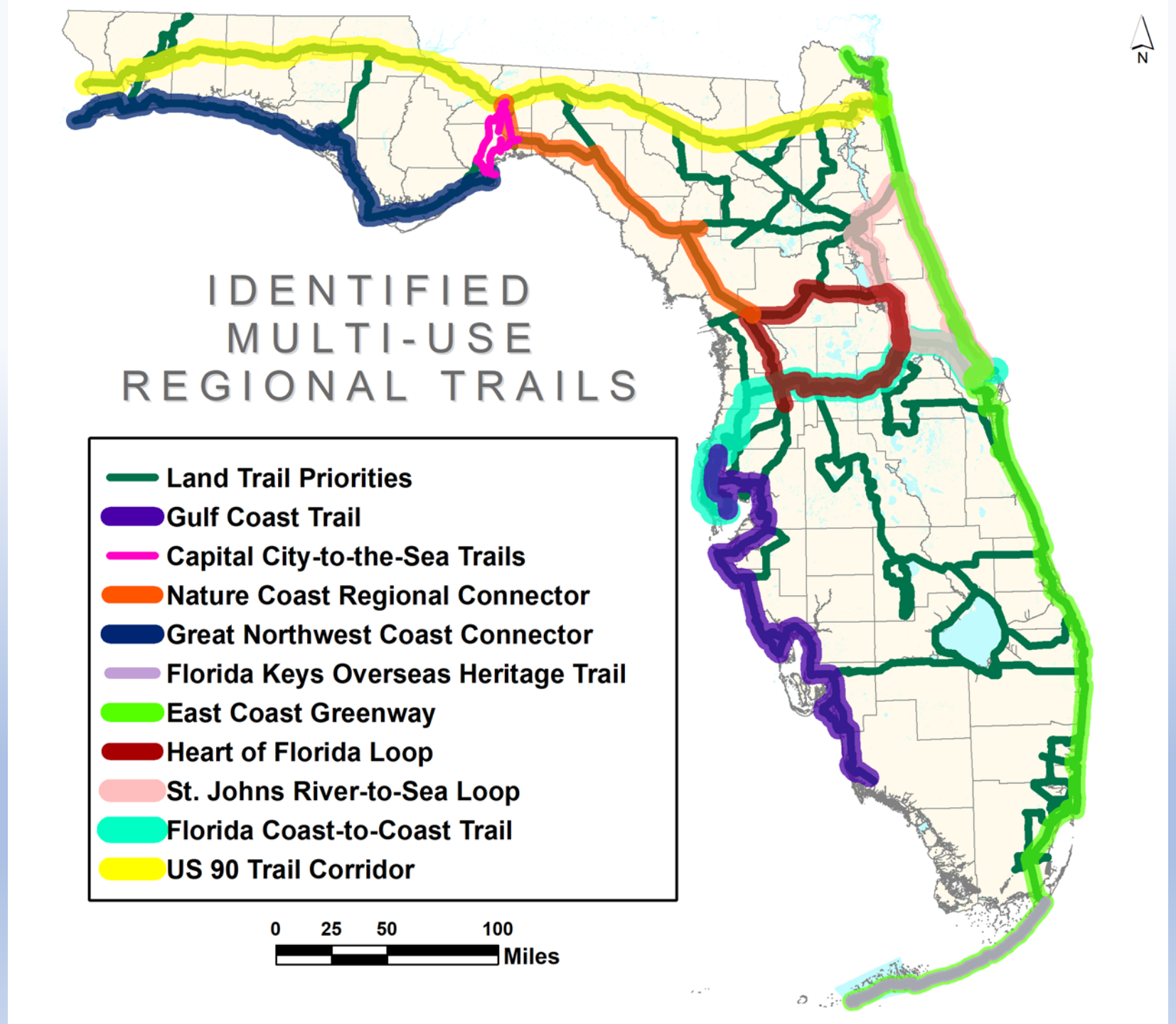
Goal 4

Establish Partnerships and Engage Stakeholders

Florida Greenways and Trails System - Opportunities



Florida
Greenways & Trails
System
Plan
2018
PRIORITY TRAILS
Land Trail Priorities
Florida National Scenic Trail - Priority
Paddling Trail Priorities
Existing Trails in Priority Network
Conservation Lands
0 25 50 100
Miles
N


IDENTIFIED
MULTI-USE
REGIONAL TRAILS
Land Trail Priorities
Gulf Coast Trail
Capital City-to-the-Sea Trails
Nature Coast Regional Connector
Great Northwest Coast Connector
Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail
East Coast Greenway
Heart of Florida Loop
St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop
Florida Coast-to-Coast Trail
US 90 Trail Corridor
0 25 50 100
Miles
N

Florida
Greenways & Trails
System
Plan
2018
SUN TRAIL-ELIGIBLE
PRIORITY TRAILS
Sun Trail-Eligible FGTS Land Trail Priorities
Existing Trails in Priority Network
Conservation Lands
0
25
50
100
Miles
N

Shared Use Non-motorized (SUN) Trail Network

Chs 335.065 and 339.81, Florida Statutes

- The Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network is established as a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System in chapter 260
- Florida Department of Transportation given the authority to fund the statewide system of interconnected multiuse trails
- Planning, Acquisition, Design and Construction of priority multi-use trails identified within the Florida Greenways and Trails System under chapter 260

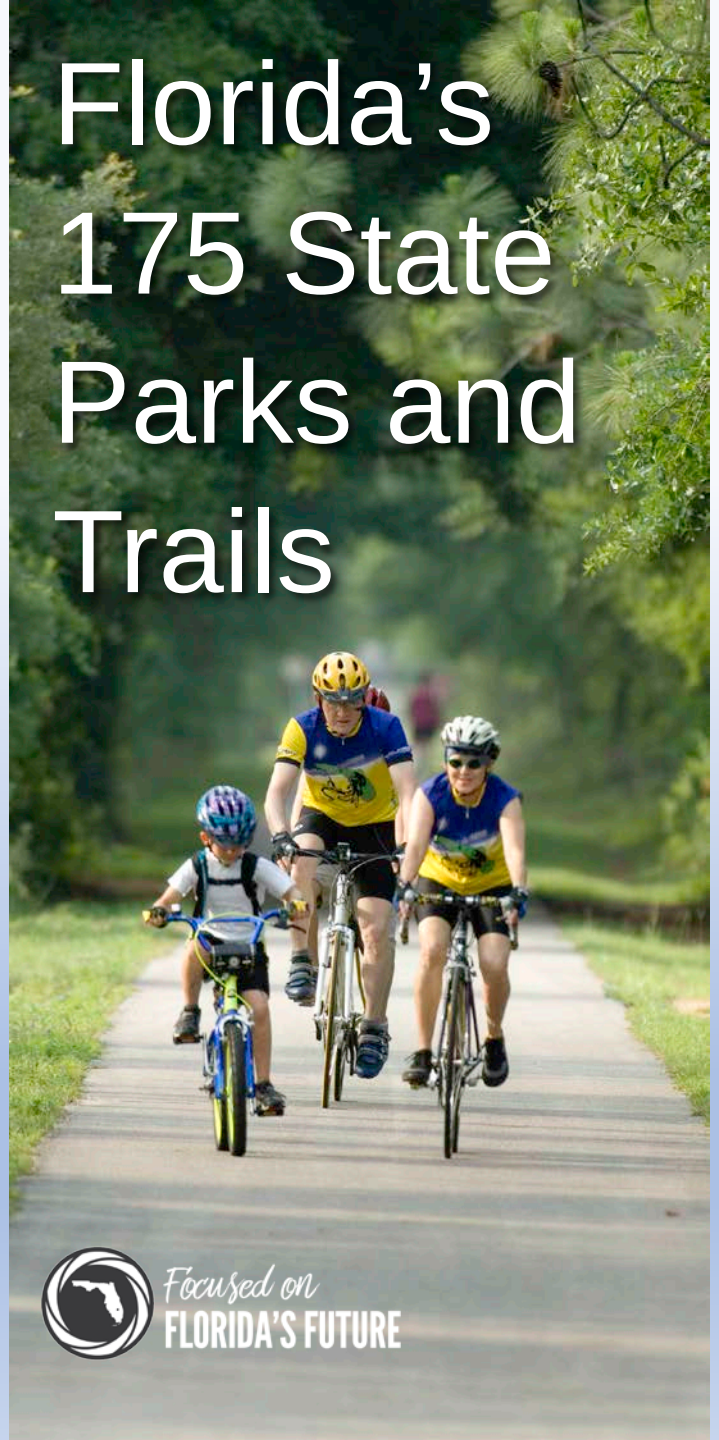
Outdoor Recreation in Florida

The Big Picture

$58.6 Billion in Annual Consumer Spending

- 485,00 Direct Jobs
- $3.5 Billion in State and Local Taxes
- $17.9 Billion in Wages

Florida's 175 State Parks and Trails



Fiscal Year 16/17

$3 Billion Direct Economic Impact

Attendance:
32 Million

Sales Tax Revenue
$205 million

Jobs Supported
48,622

Cross Florida Greenway and Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail has greatest direct economic impact

2017 Economic Study of Florida Recreational Pursuits

Bicycling on paved roads and trails	Bicycling on unpaved trails	Fitness walking and jogging
$6 Billion	**$2 Billion**	**$13.5 Billion**

Paddling
$3 Billion

Every dollar spent on walking paths saves $3 in medical expenses.

American Heart Association

Trails are among the top 4 community amenities sought by homeowners of all ages

National Association of Homebuilders, 2016

West Orange, Little Econ and Cady Way Trails in Orange County

Regional Trail Study

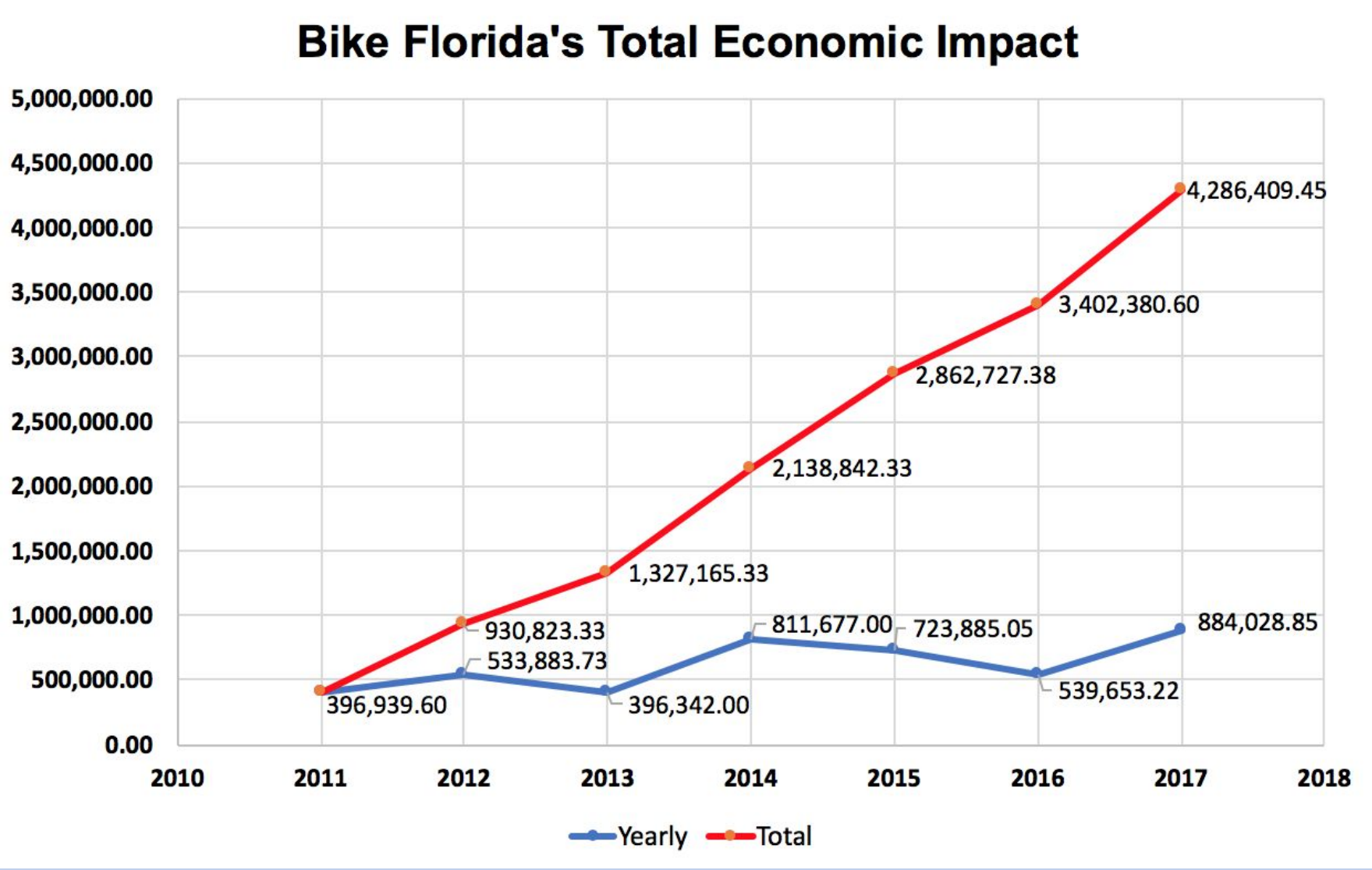
- **516 jobs**
- **Annual economic impact of $42.6 million**
- **Supported 61 jobs in downtown Winter Garden**

Trail Events Boost Local Areas

Photos courtesy of Bike Florida

Bike Florida's 2017 Gullah Geechee 7-day Spring Tour economic impact was calculated at **$884,028**, the largest of any year

Trail Events Boost Local Areas



Designated trail towns receive signs, stickers, website presence and publicity

Trail Town Program Goals

- Enhance the quality of the trail experience
- Promote tourism and growth of Florida's trails
- Increase the amount and frequency of trail users
- Boost economy via purchases from trail users
- Engage citizens through community participation

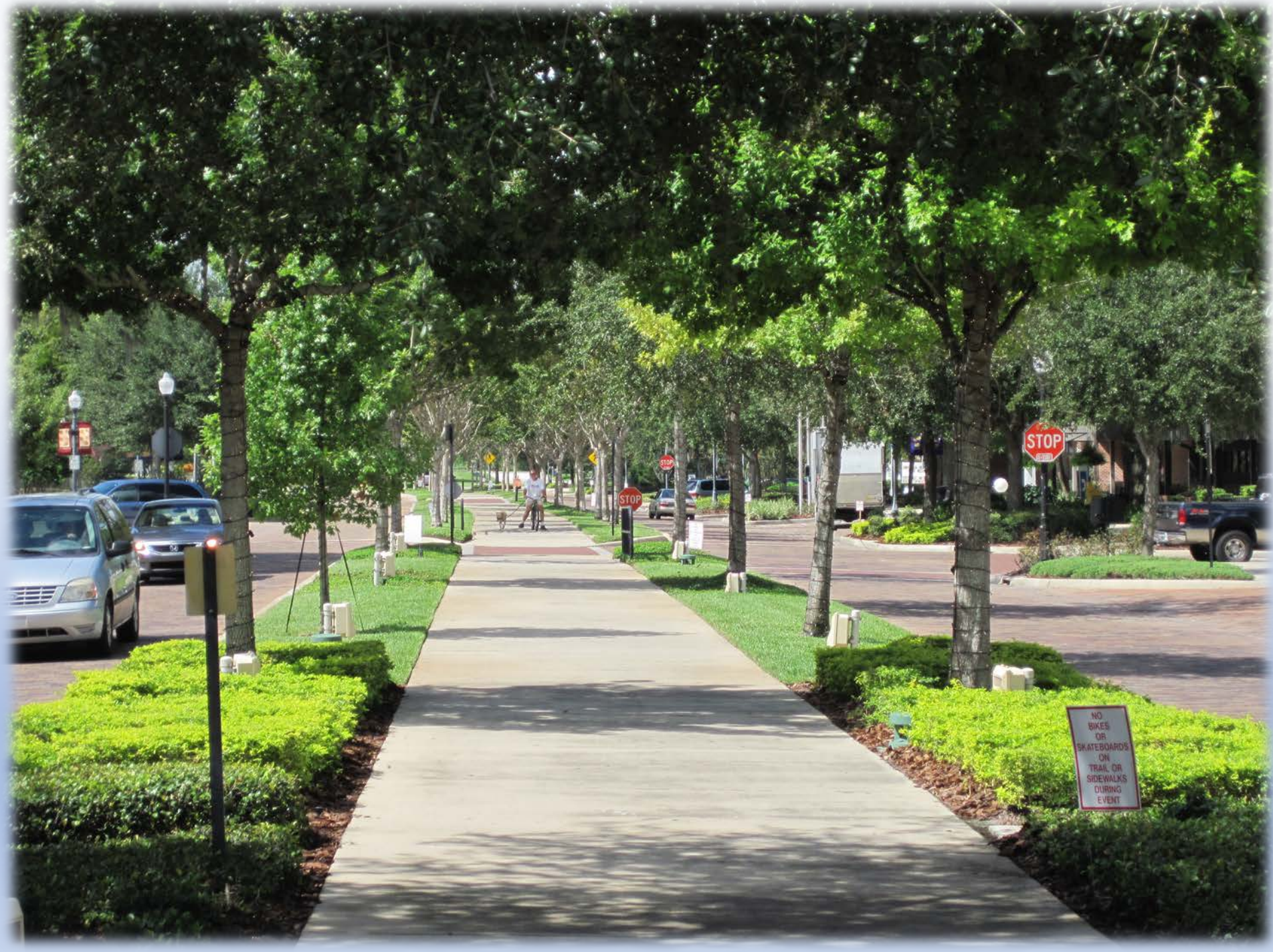
Trail Towns are a Win-Win for Both the Towns and Trail Users

Dunedin: Florida’s Inaugural Trail Town

“We couldn’t be more proud. Our downtown has thrived around the trail and attracted folks of all ages and abilities. We like to think of the trail as the main artery of our community.”

Dunedin Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski

There are many more prospective trail towns. A trail town needs to ask: What do we want to showcase to the world?



Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation

FTGF.org • © Florida Greenways & Trail Foundation, Inc.

The Trail Experience

C. Elisabeth Manley, PLA – Board Member and Florida ASLA Representative to FGTF

Trails offer many benefits…

- Close to Home Recreation
- Long Distance Recreation
- Alternative Transportation
- Safe Routes to Schools
- Environmental Health
- Ecological Corridors
- Ecotourism
- Significant Economic Development

PINELLAS TRAIL

PINELLAS SCHOOL CROSSING

PINELLAS TRAIL, DUNEDIN

Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation

Benefits result from many users experiencing the trail…

SUNCOAST TRAIL

WITHLACOOCHEE STATE TRAIL

PINELLAS TRAIL

CASSELBERRY TRAIL

How do we create the best experience for the most users?

Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation
FTGF.org • © Florida Greenways & Trail Foundation, Inc.

Shift In Thinking

Trails are not simply mini-roads…

Trails are Alternative Transportation Networks

- Diverse users & needs
- Different design approach
- Network to various destinations

Trails are Linear Parks

- Destination in itself
- Have entry points & connections
- Have their own spaces & experiences

SEMINOLE-WEKIVA TRAIL

WEST ORANGE TRAIL

Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation
FTGF.org • © Florida Greenways & Trail Foundation, Inc.

Trails as High Performance Public Spaces

Research of Dr. David Barth, David Barth, PhD
PLA, AICP, CPRP

The best performing public spaces address:

Social

- Improves the neighborhood
- Improves social and physical mobility
- Encourages health and fitness
- Provides relief from urban congestion, stressors
- Provides places for formal and informal social gathering, art, performances, events
- Provides opportunities for individual, group, passive and active recreation
- Facilitates shared experiences among different groups
- Attracts diverse populations
- Promotes creative and constructive social interaction

Environmental

- Uses energy, water, and resources efficiently
- Improves water quality of both surface and ground water
- Serves as a net carbon sink
- Enhances, preserves, promotes, or contributes to biological diversity
- Hardscape materials selected for longevity of service, social/ cultural/ historical sustainability, regional availability, low carbon footprint
- Provides opportunities to enhance environmental awareness and knowledge
- Serves as an interconnected node within larger scale ecological corridors and natural habitat

Economic

- Creates and facilitates revenue-generating opportunities for the public and/or the private sectors
- Creates meaningful and desirable employment
- Indirectly creates or sustains good, living wage jobs
- Sustains or increases property values
- Catalyzes infill development and/or the re-use of obsolete or under-used buildings or spaces
- Attracts new residents
- Attracts new businesses
- Generates increased business and tax revenues
- Optimizes operations and maintenance costs

The High Line

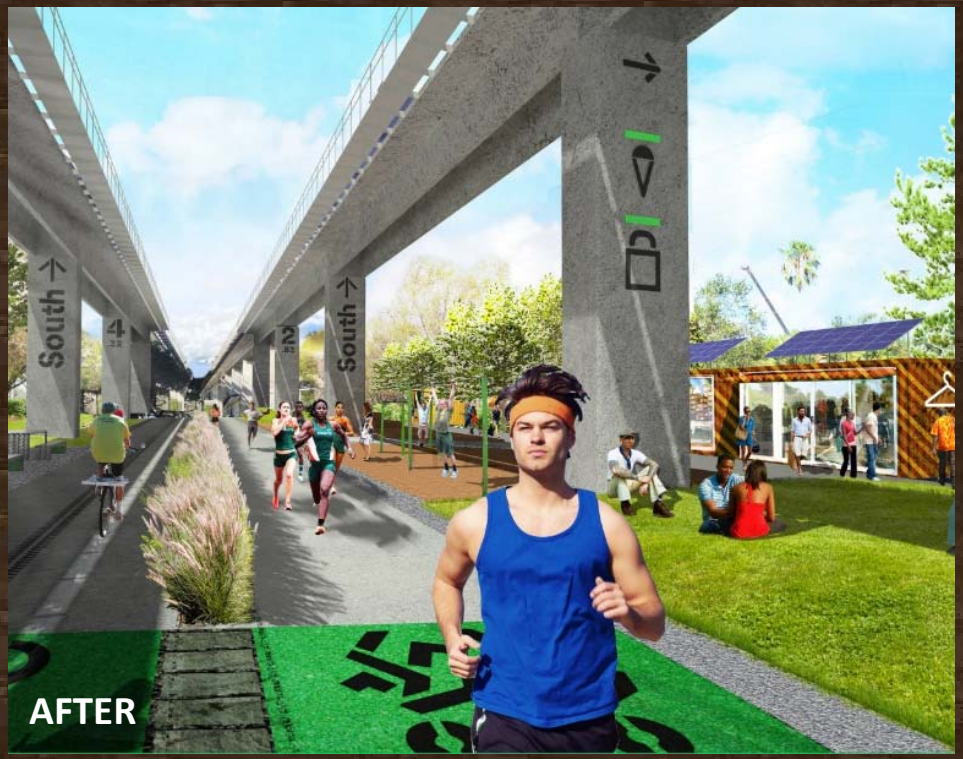
23 city block/ 1.5 mile reclaimed elevated rail line on Manhattan's West Side

www.thehighline.org/

James Corner Field Operations, Diller Scofidio + Renfro, and Piet Oudolf

The Underline

10-mile linear park below Miami Metrorail
www.theunderline.org/
James Corner Field Operations



Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation
FTGF.org • © Florida Greenways & Trail Foundation, Inc.

What makes a great trail experience?

The Draw

- **Connect communities with special places**
- Offer **exciting amenities and spaces** within trail corridor

Comfort

- Provide an **inviting environment**
- Offer **support elements** for easier use & welcome
- Provide **shade**
- **Buffer** with natural areas or landscaping

Safety

- Design to **protect the user**
- **Separate from roads**
- **Crossings** are bridged or consistently marked
- **Follow best practices** regarding design

WITHLACOOCHEE BAY TRAIL

ST. MARKS TRAIL

The Trail Draw

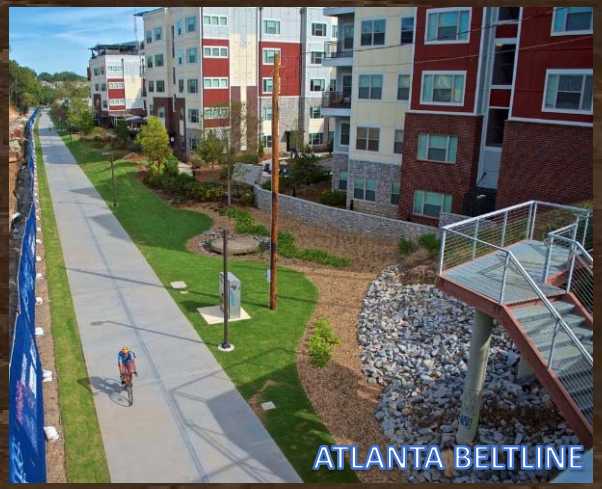
Connections between Live – Work – Play

- Restaurants & Retail
- Parks & Natural Areas
- Schools & Work
- Neighborhoods & Downtown

The Trail Draw

Activities for Live – Work – Play

- Recreation & Wellness
- Community Development
- Event Spaces
- Parks



Comfort - Welcome

Art as Branding & Wayfinding

WEST ORANGE TRAIL

ATLANTA BELTLINE

FORT FRASER

WEST ORANGE TRAIL

PINELLAS TRAIL

Comfort - Trailheads

Entry Point into Trail

- Parking
- Entry Sign & Wayfinding
- Restrooms
- Site Furnishings
- Picnic
- Playground

Comfort - Trailheads

Other Opportunities

- Theming
- History
- Vendors
- Partnerships
- New Users

CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY

GAINESVILLE-HAWTHORNE TRAIL

KILARNEY STATION, WEST ORANGE TRAIL

GAINESVILLE-HAWTHORNE TRAIL

Comfort - Trail Experience

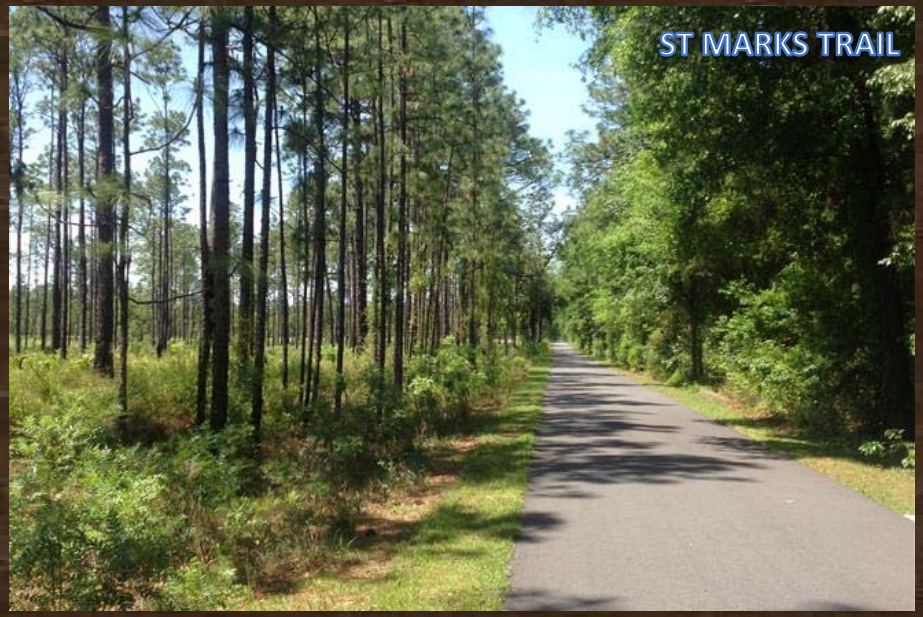
- Site Furnishings
- Wayfinding
- Rest Stops
- Theming
- Destinations

Comfort - Trail Experience

Shade, Vegetation, & Landscaping

FORT FRASER TRAIL

GAINESVILLE HAWTHORNE TRAIL


ST MARKS TRAIL

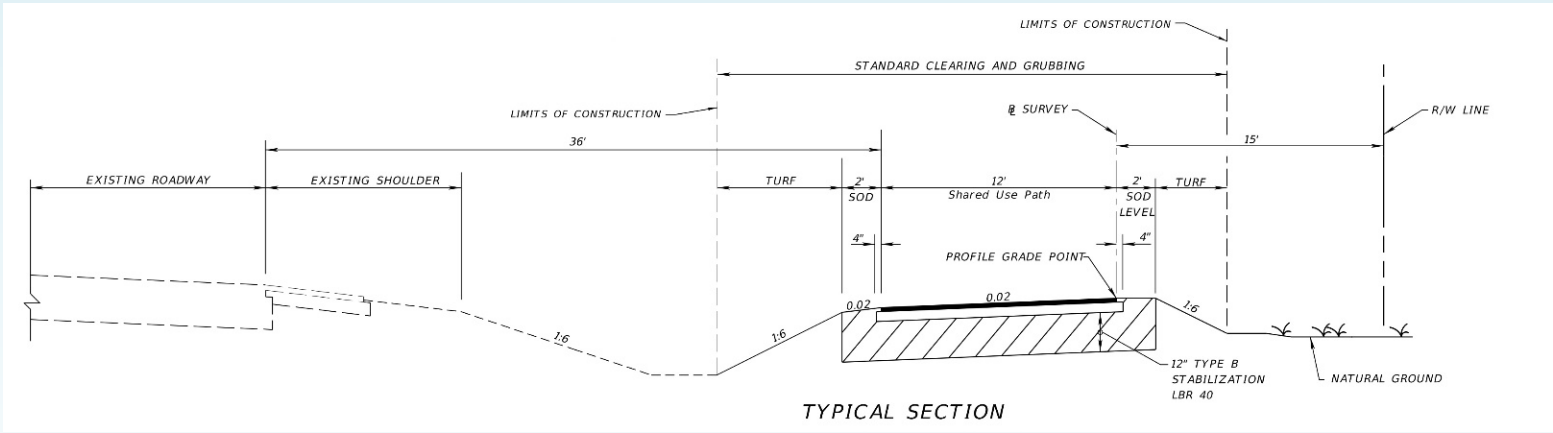
ST MARKS TRAIL

Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation
FTGF.org • © Florida Greenways & Trail Foundation, Inc.

Safe Trail Experiences

FDOT Trail Design Standards

- FDOT Design Manual
  - Chapter 224: Shared Use Paths
  - Chapter 222.4: Bridge Pedestrian Railings & Fences
  - Chapter 306: Typical Sections



TYPICAL SECTION

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

- Natural surveillance, access control, territory definition, maintenance

User Engagement – *Eyes on the Trail*

Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation
FTGF.org • © Florida Greenways & Trail Foundation, Inc.

What keeps a great Trail?

Maintenance

- **Work with Maintaining Agency** early in process
- **Understand maintenance** requirements
- **Communicate** following planning & design
- **Seek partnerships** with Friends Groups, local businesses, local non-profits, schools, etc.

Ongoing Support

- **User group & partner** support
- **Community & local businesses by-in** and support
- **Branding and marketing**
- **'Trail Town' designation**

The Little Downtown that Could……

How Dunedin captured the Pinellas Trail to revitalize its Downtown

City of Dundein

- Located on west coast of Florida
  - North of Clearwater
- 10 square miles
- 36,000 est. population
- Scottish Heritage (original founders)
- Built out – prime for redevelopment
- Estimates are a 1,000 people use the trail through Dunedin on a weekend day

City of Duneidn

Attractions

- Caladesi & Honeymoon Island Beach
- Pinellas Trail
- Quaint downtown
- Great special events
- Culture and Art Center
- Home of Toronto Blue Jays

Back in Time

- 1880's to 1950's Downtown the heart beat of the city
- A place to work and shop
- A place to be and to be seen

"The Place"

Early 1920's

Early 1940's

PUBLIX
Budweiser
RESTAURANT
LIQUORS
DRUGS
MAIN STREET DUNEDIN, FLA.
C. 1947
L-725

Downtown 1980's

- Traffic moves but not much else
- Not a special place
- Vacancy rate was at 30% - **Vacancy in 2017 1%**
- Declining tax base
- SOS-Help

Downtowns are ailing

- Infrastructure degraded
- Little private investment
- No charm or ambience
- Happening across the country

Early 1980's

Dallape's
RIGHT LANE
MUST
TURN RIGHT
TRAVE
TOURS
CRUISES
ONLY

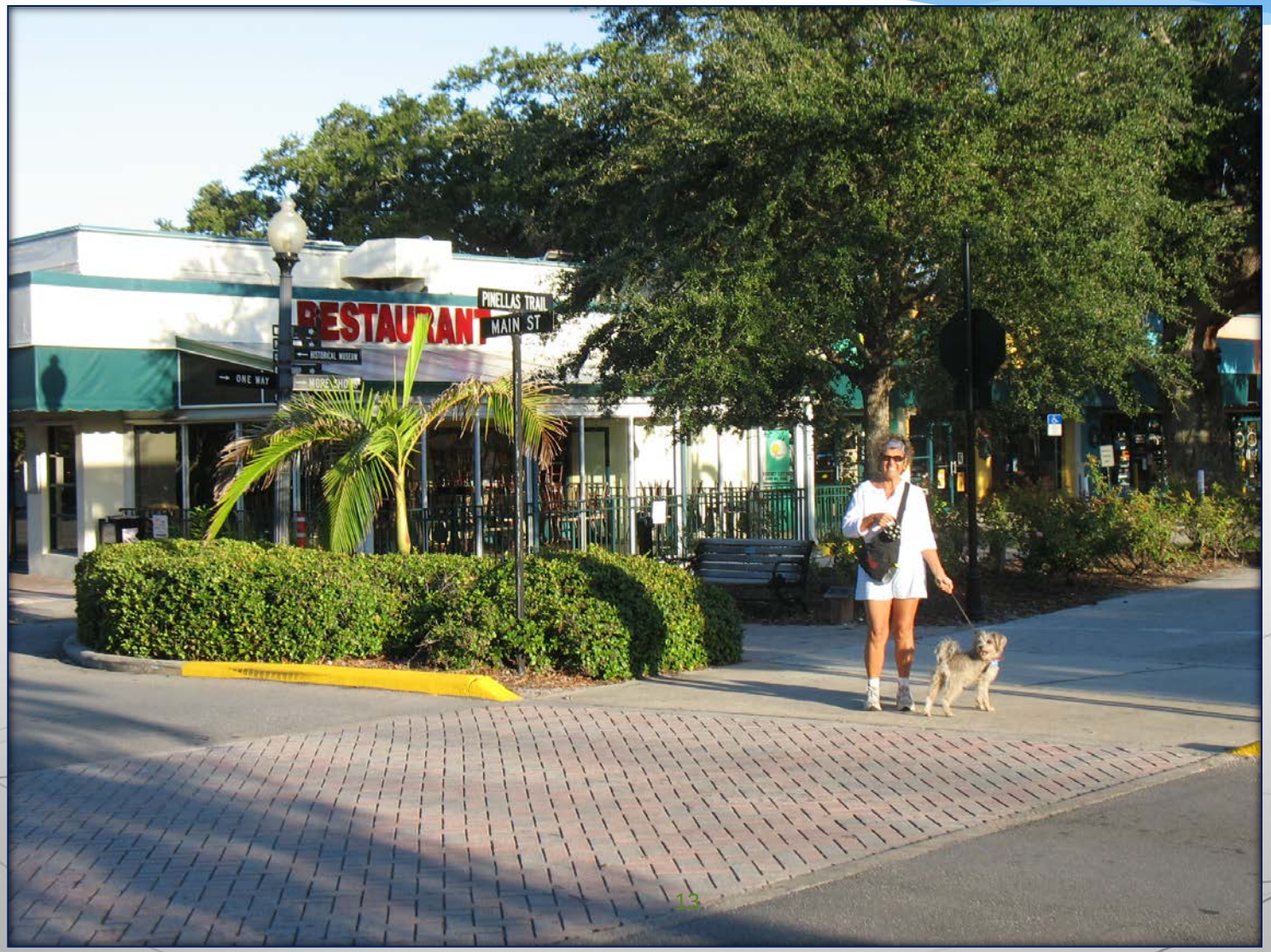
Early 1980's

Dunedin's Strategy

- **Embrace the Pinellas Trail**
- Foster adaptive reuse
- Slow traffic – pedestrian is #1
- Beautify, beautify, beautify
- Build a sense of place
- Do small projects every year

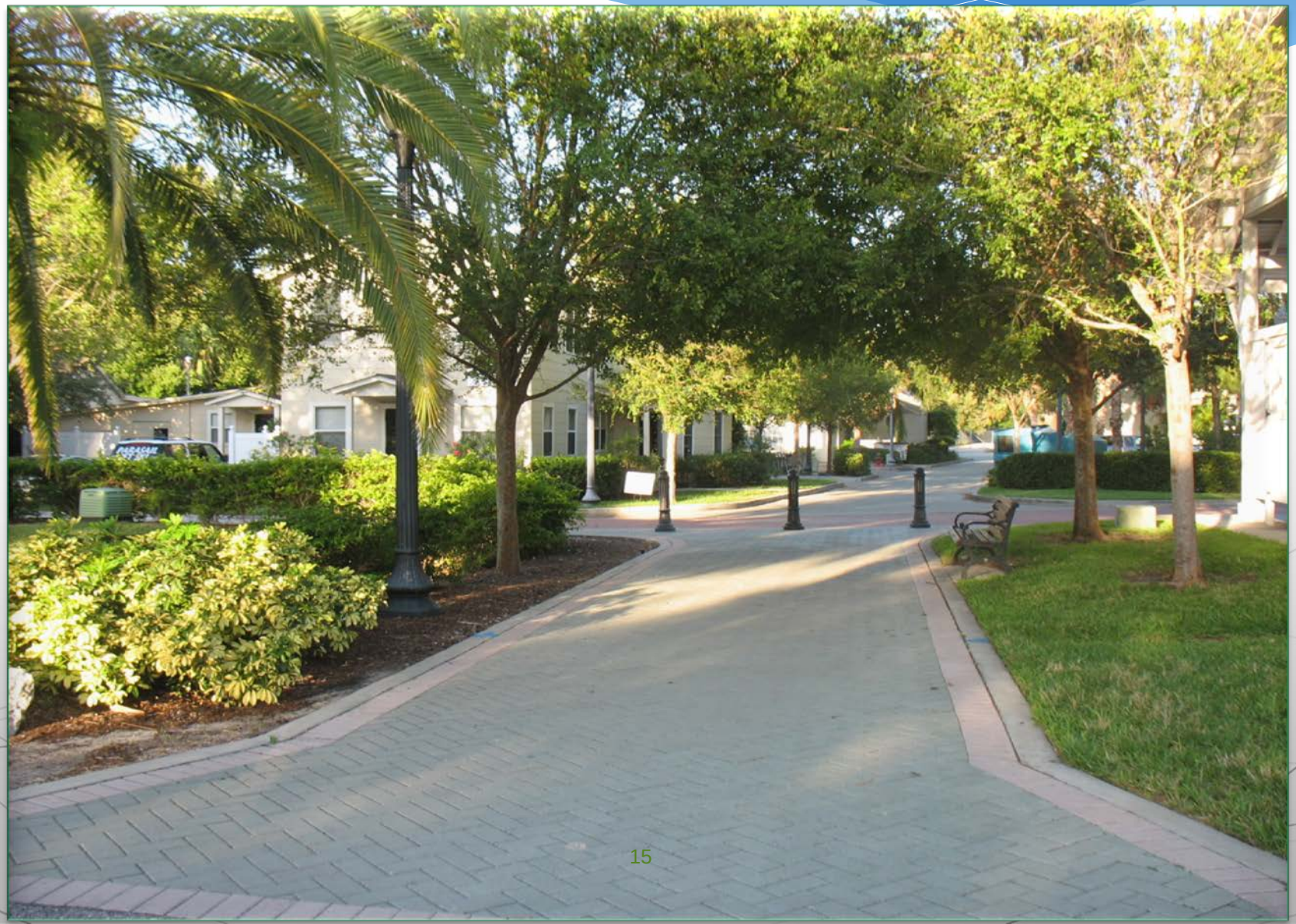
Embrace the Pinellas Trail

Café Alfresco on Pinellas Trail



Before Pinellas Trail Connection

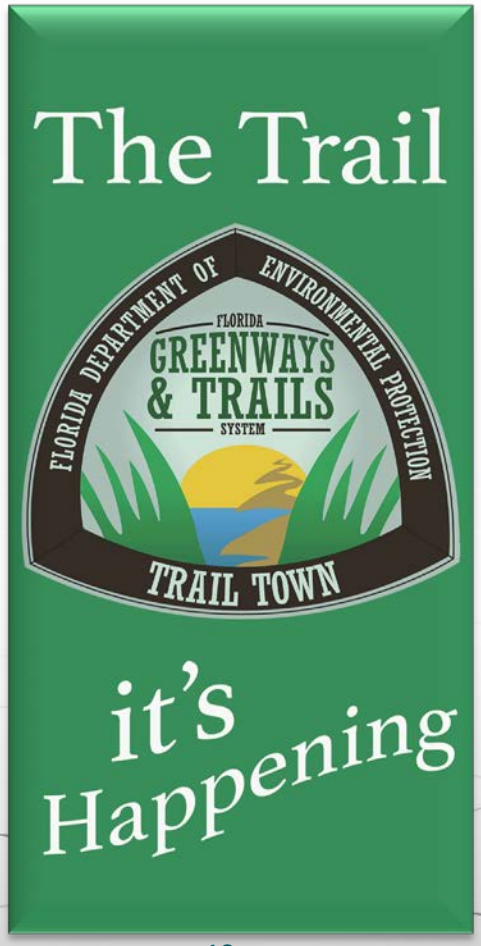
Enhanced Pinellas Trail Connection



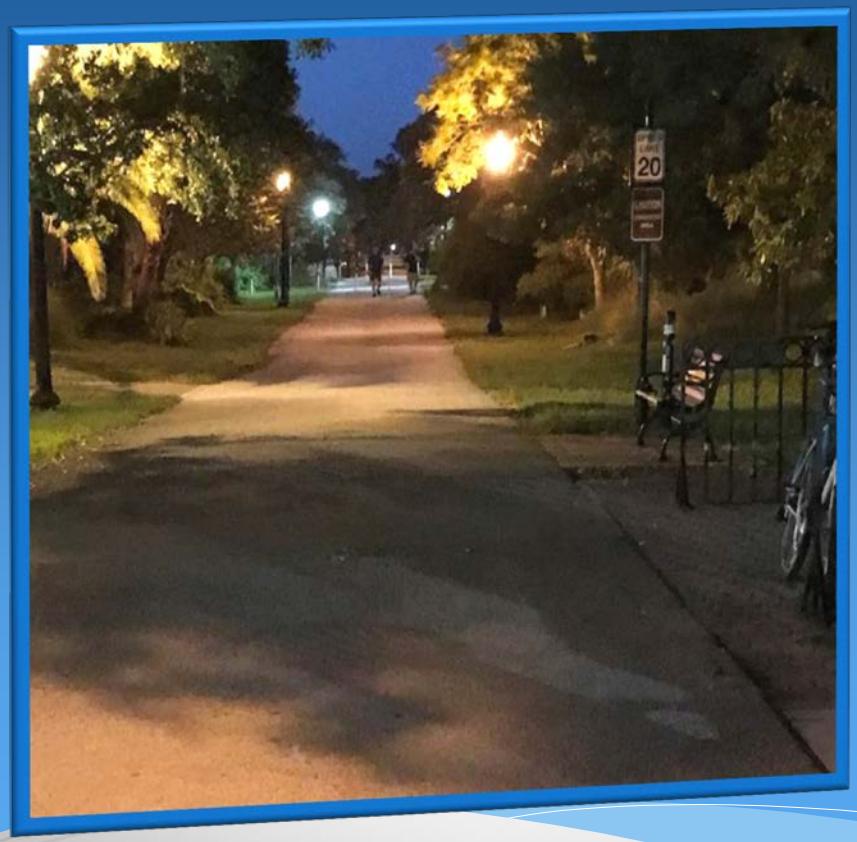
Dinning along the Trail

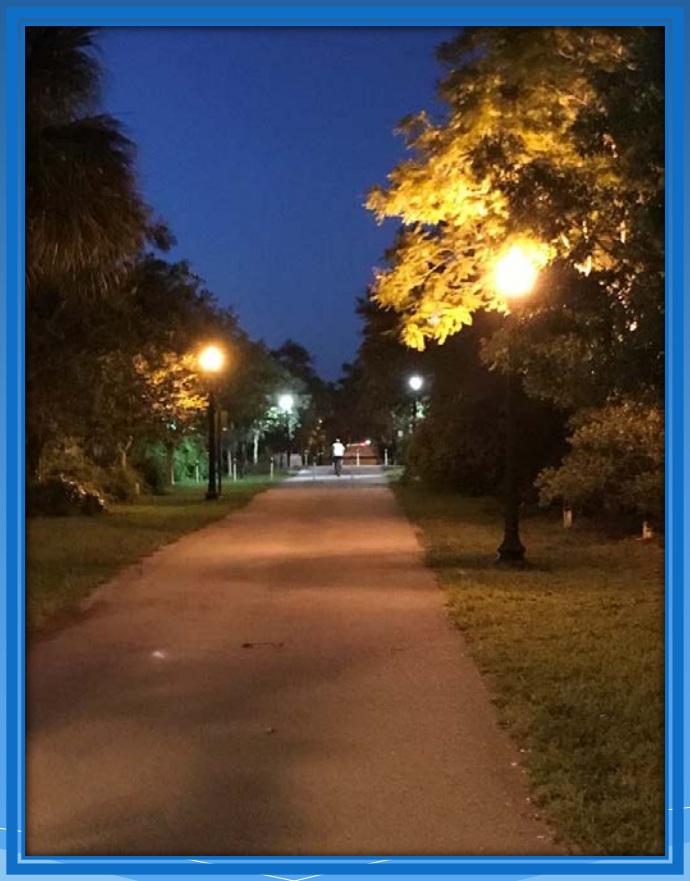
Lari White Music Pavilion on the Trail

Banners along the Trail



Pinellas Trail Enhanced Lighting





History Museum and Box Car

Artistic Arch on the Trail

Decorative Bike Racks

Steam Train Bike Rack Main Street

Doggy Bike Rack on Broadway

Downtown Special Events

- Dunedin Wines the Blues
- Mardi Gras
- St. Patty's Day
- Cinco de Mayo
- Friday Morning Green Market
- 2nd Saturday Green Market (June -October)
- Friday Night Films in Pioneer (April - October)
- Downtown Summer Theater
- Arts & Crafts Festival
- Antique Fair
- Annual Taste of Dunedin
- 2nd Friday Wine and Art Walk
- Old Fashion Christmas/Holiday Parade
- Holiday Boat Parade

Downtown Festival

Downtown Halloween Event Decorated Light Poles

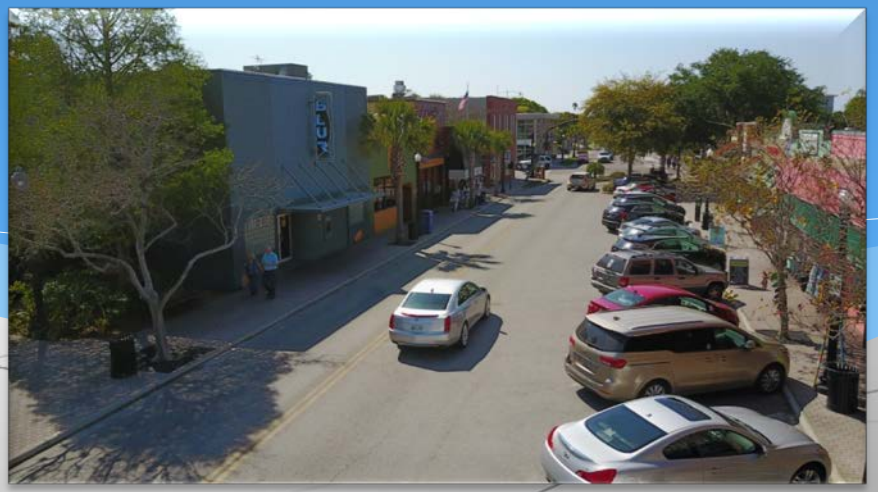
First Florida State Trail Town Designation – April 2018

- Quality of Life/Residents
- Attracts Visitors
- Economic Asset

Tremendous Positive Media

- Florida State Trail Town recognition
- Caladesi - # 1 Beach in America
- *Florida's 2008 "City of Excellence" … Florida League of Cities*
- "Best walking town in America" … *Where to Retire Magazine*
- "One of the Best Places to Live on the Coast" … *Money Magazine*
- "… Main Street ends at the glorious blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico….a laid-back Florida beach community, you never want to leave"… *Southern Living Magazine*
- *State Trail Town Designation*
- *TBRPC – Parking Garage Award*
- "Dunedin may be the Tampa Bay area's best-kept secret"… *Coastal Living Magazine*

Downtown Dunedin

Before

After