

FLORIDA RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

TRAILS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

JANUARY 2023

FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Florida Recreational Trails Program

Trails Advisory Committee

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was established pursuant to 23 U.S. Code § 206 and is tasked with providing and maintaining recreational trails. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), is designated as the State agency responsible for administering apportionments made to the State under this section.

Pursuant to 23 U.S. Code § 206 (c)(2), each state must establish a State recreational trail advisory committee that represents both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail users, which shall meet not less often than once per federal fiscal year. This committee, known as the Trails Advisory Committee (TAC), is established by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council and appointed pursuant to Section 260.0142(5), F.S., for the purpose of developing the RTP Priority List.

Among its duties, the TAC serves to advise DEP staff on matters regarding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant funds in the state, including annual application review, assistance with the interpretation of federal RTP regulation, review of application procedures, nomination of State trail projects for national trail awards, and assistance in regional and state trail planning efforts and other trail policy issues.



Motorized Representation

Rick Bitner



Appointed: 2018

Primary Interest: Motorcycling

Rick Bitner is the former President and CEO of Farm Credit of Northwest Florida. He has been an avid dirt bike enthusiast for over 45 years. Mr. Bitner is currently a member of the American Motorcycle Association, the Tallahassee Trail Riders, Florida's Great Northwest, and the Farm Credit Presidents Council. He brings an extensive background in financial plans and budget to the TAC, with experience in trail design and building. In his retirement, Mr. Bitner has enjoyed touring the U.S. on his motorcycle, with

stops throughout Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

Derick David



Appointed: 2018

Primary Interest: OHV

Derick David has been a professional in the motorcycle industry since 2001. Throughout his career he has worked with most major Japanese and European motorcycle manufacturers in one capacity or another. He has ridden and raced motorcycles in all four corners of the United States over the last 30

years. He is currently the Chairman of the OHV Advisory Committee for the Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division. Mr. David also owns the motorcycle shop, Axis Powersports, at the gate to the Croom Motorcycle Area, one of the largest OHV areas in the southeastern United States. He has a passion for the protection and expansion of public OHV areas.

Nonmotorized Representation

Brian Smith



Appointed: 2018

Primary Interest: Bicycling

Brian Smith served as the Director of Planning for Pinellas County for 30 years. Brian has established expertise in all aspects of planning with a focus on livable communities, community involvement, environmental initiatives, historic preservation, transportation planning and management, and trails development. He has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University and a Bachelor's in Physics. In 2011, Brian was recognized by the Rails to Trails Conservancy (RTC) as a National Trails

Champion. Since retiring, Brian has been a member of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council and Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation.

Jim Chard



Appointed: 2018

Primary Interest: Bicycling

Jim Chard has focused his career on business development, innovation, and information technology in both financial institutions and startup companies. He has worked at Morgan Stanley, Citibank, American Express and several early-stage tech companies. He has also worked for public agencies in Boston and New York City. For the past several years Jim has been engaged in both volunteer and electoral municipal activities in Delray Beach, including the Palm

Beach County Transportation Planning Agency, Human Powered Delray, Congress Avenue Task Force, and SquarePlay. Jim holds two graduate degrees from Harvard including an MBA from the Business School and a City Planning degree from the Design School. His undergraduate degree is a BA from Pomona College.

Alex Stigliano



Appointed: 2018

Primary Interest: Hiking

Alex Stigliano is the Executive Director of the Siddhartha School Partnership and former National Scenic Trail Program Director for the Florida Trail Association.

Obtaining his bachelor's degree from Carson Newman University in Critical Studies and Business Management, Mr. Stigliano has extensive experience in grant

writing, program coordination, and outdoor education. He has worked on hiking, biking and paddling trails across America as an outdoor educator, teaching leadership skills to high school and college students. He is currently a member of the Florida Trail Association and the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Mitchell Greenberg



Appointed: 2021

Primary Interest: Bicycling

Mitchell Greenberg is a native Floridian from the Orlando area who studied at Florida State University and went to physician assistant school at Nova Southeastern University. He is currently a physician assistant at Nemours Hospital Orlando. In 2013, Mr. Greenberg served as a founding member of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle

Association (SORBA) and has been actively involved in growing trails throughout central Florida. He is a current member of SORBA, the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), and the Florida Bicycle Association. He is passionate about expanding off-road bicycling opportunities in Florida, emphasizing the importance of outdoor recreation and exercise.

Nancy Stephens



Appointed: 2022

Primary Interest: Equestrian

Nancy Stephens brings extensive knowledge in trails planning, accessibility, and user compatibility through her experience with the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Florida Senate Natural Resource Committee, and the Suwannee River Water Management District. She is a Certified Association Executive and has been

managing non-profit trade associations for more than thirty years. Nancy has been a member of the Southern Trailriders association since its organization in the late 1980s, and currently serves as President of the North Florida Back Country Horsemen. She also volunteers with the United States Forest Service in Wyoming during the summers to plan and maintain multi-use trails.

Jeremiah Thompson



Appointed: 2022

Primary Interest: Blueways

Jeremiah Thompson is a fourth generation Floridan who earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Geography from Florida State University where he also played football for the Seminoles. Jeremiah specializes in Florida land and conservation easements, working for several years as a Senior Acquisition Agent at the Florida

Division of State Lands, where he negotiated many deals that placed thousands of acres of land in conservation for the state of Florida. He is a current member of the Apalachicola RiverKeeper, Florida Paddling Trails Association, Florida Forestry Association, and the Florida Springs Institute.



Lauren Cruz, Recreational Trails Program Coordinator

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