

Benchmarks for Council Duties

Development and Expansion of the Florida Greenways and Trails System

1. Facilitate a statewide system of interconnected landscape linkages, conservation corridors, greenbelts, recreational corridors and trails, scenic corridors, utilitarian corridors, reserves, regional parks and preserves, ecological sites, and cultural/historic/recreational sites using land-based trails that connect urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state and facilitate expansion of the statewide system of freshwater and saltwater paddling trails.
 - A. Know the Opportunity and Priority maps in the state's 5-year trail system plan—especially in your area.
 - a. Develop a Regional Trail System map (and chart) and identify the priority areas within each system.
 - b. Assign areas to Council members with corresponding Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) Regional Coordinators.
 - c. Assign trail champions.
 - B. Council members are the ambassador for the state's system of trails and as such attend local and state meetings to educate others about the maps and to encourage others involvement in trail development.
 - a. OGT develops information for Council members to access and use when going out and educating (Add a Resource Library to the Share Point page).
 - b. Attend identified public meetings or join trail advocacy groups. Members should strive to attend at least 3 per quarter.
 - Create a "log-it" page on the SharePoint site where Council member attendance at meetings can be documented with assistance from OGT.
 - c. Utilize joint SharePoint calendar on for meeting dates and locations.
 - Notify Council members of the TPO's/MPO's, County Commission and Parks & Rec. Department contacts that are active or need to be contacted aided by OGT.
 - d. Coordinate with local and agency partners in respective areas.
 - Encourage local governments to know and work with their FL Legislative contacts.
2. Recommend priorities for critical links in the Florida Greenways and Trails System.
 - A. Participate in OGT's public meetings when updating the Opportunity/Priority maps by attending at least one public workshop and engage with the public, encourage others to attend public meetings, and provide comments and feedback on drafts to OGT staff.
 - B. Review proposed changes to the maps as to be aware of any proposed additions or deletions and engage with the public on any recommended changes.
 - C. Identify and recommend the Priority Trail corridors by establishing a "gap focus" committee to emphasize critical gaps within the priority trail corridors and engage with the public and local officials to learn about regional priorities.

3. Review recommendations of the office (OGT) for acquisition funding under the Florida Greenways and Trails Program and recommend to the Secretary of Environmental Protection which projects should be acquired.
 - A. Educate local governments in your areas.
 - a. Engage/educate local officials about the gaps and needs to close the system.
 - B. Encourage acquisition applications which will help complete the state's trail system.
 - a. Identify landowners of potential acquisitions.
 - b. Encourage local officials to share acquisition opportunities with potential landowners.
 - C. Review the acquisition applications.
 - a. Review applications and submit any questions to OGT staff at least two weeks prior to the Council's acquisition meeting.
 - D. Approve/recommend projects which will help complete the system of Priority Trails.
 - a. Attend the Council's acquisition meeting.
 - b. Review projects prior to the acquisition meeting.
 - c. Approve/recommend projects based on most critical needs within the system of Priority Trails.

Partnerships and FGTS Support

1. Review designation proposals for inclusion in the Florida Greenways and Trails System.
 - A. Be familiar with OGT's Designation program and the designated trails/sites in your geographic area.
 - B. Encourage public/private designations through awareness of connections which could be accomplished through a designation and communication with OGT staff.
 - C. Develop criteria to determine designation eligibility, which should be included in the Florida Greenways and Trails System 5-year plan and present to the full Council by June 30, 2017.
 - D. Review approve designation applications and submit any questions to OGT staff at least two weeks prior to Council meetings, and approve based on the established designation criteria.
2. Encourage public-private partnerships to develop and manage greenways and trails.
 - A. Develop an "elevator speech" to quickly provide information.
 - B. Educate local governments, developers, health organizations, hotel/restaurants, TPO/MPO, visitor bureaus, schools, tourist development councils, etc.
 - C. Facilitate and attend meetings between these groups to establish partnerships and request to present information about greenways and trails.
 - D. Maintain a partnership with the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation (FGTF).
3. Promote greenways and trails support organizations.

- A. Compile a list of organizations in each geographic region of supporters of greenway and trails and engage local organizations by joining at least one local organization and attend regular meetings to share and solicit information regarding trails.
 - B. Educate organizations about the benefits of greenways and trails and encourage participation from their members through information sharing and invitations to host Council meetings.
 - C. Explore opportunities to work with the FGTF on joint ventures.
 - a. Compile a list of projects which have potential as joint projects between the Council and FGTF.
 - b. Schedule one-on-one meetings with appropriate foundation members to discuss common goals.
 - c. Attend foundation meetings when located in the Council members' region.
 - d. Present at foundation meetings to provide updates on council activities.
4. Support the Florida Greenways and Trails System through intergovernmental coordination, budget recommendations, advocacy, education, and any other appropriate way.
- A. Establish a rotational meeting cycle which will focus on specific geographic regions, topic or trails.
 - a. Develop annual calendar and identify geographic regions for meetings
 - b. Develop list of focus topics for council meetings
 - c. Develop list of regional trails to explore during council meetings
 - d. For each meeting, identify council member(s) responsible for "hosting"
 - B. Establish partnerships and coalitions.
 - a. Develop a list of potential partners.
 - b. Invite potential partners to speak at Council meetings.

Benchmarks and Implementation

1. Review progress toward meeting established benchmarks and recommend appropriate action.
 - A. Develop an annual work plan with measurable goals and objectives.
 - a. Establish goals and objectives for the following year by November of each year.
 - b. Establish working groups to accomplish identified goals in the annual work plan.
 - c. Develop strategies to accomplish annual goals by December 2016
 - B. Discuss progress at each quarterly meeting to meet the goals.
2. Make recommendations for updating and revising the implementation plan.
 - A. Provide annual workplan tasks to OGT for inclusion in each update of the state's 5-year trail system plan.
 - B. Review the draft of the written portion of the state's 5-year trail system plan prior to OGT submitting it to the public for comment.
 - a. Provide, at a minimum, one recommendation per section of the state's 5-year system plan update.

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- C. Review the draft Opportunity and Priority Trail maps in the draft state's 5-year trail system plan prior to OGT submitting it to the public for comment.
 - a. For updates to both Opportunity or Priority maps, Council members will be responsible for reviewing and providing comments specific to their geographic region.