

Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Division of Recreation and Parks

Establishing and Promoting Paddling Trails

SCORP Workshop, March 3, 2016

Liz Sparks, Paddling Trails Coordinator
Office of Greenways and Trails





Why Paddling Trails?

- Tourism Destination
- Physical Fitness Opportunity
- Environmental Awareness
- Conservation Stewardship

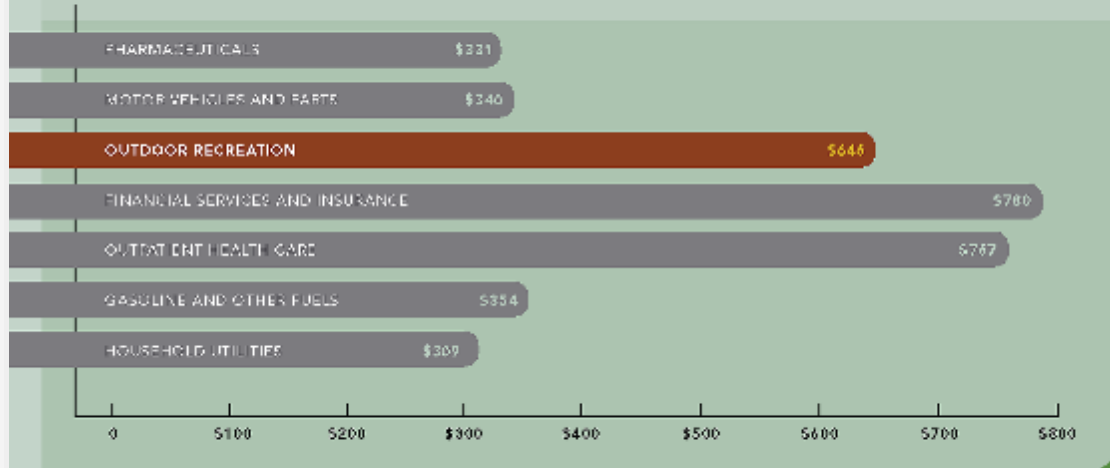




Outdoor Recreation = Economic Giant

An Overlooked Economic Giant

Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2012

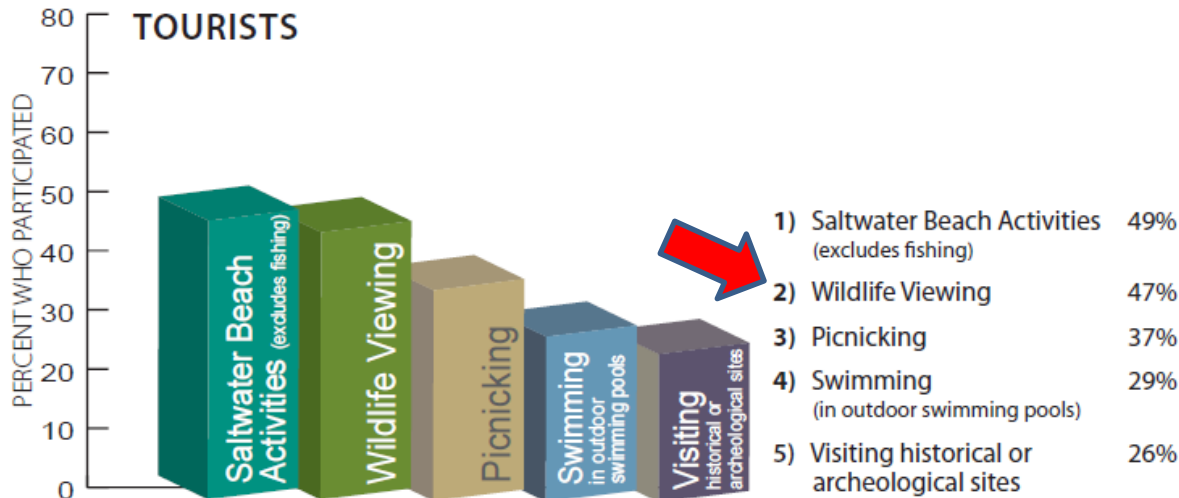
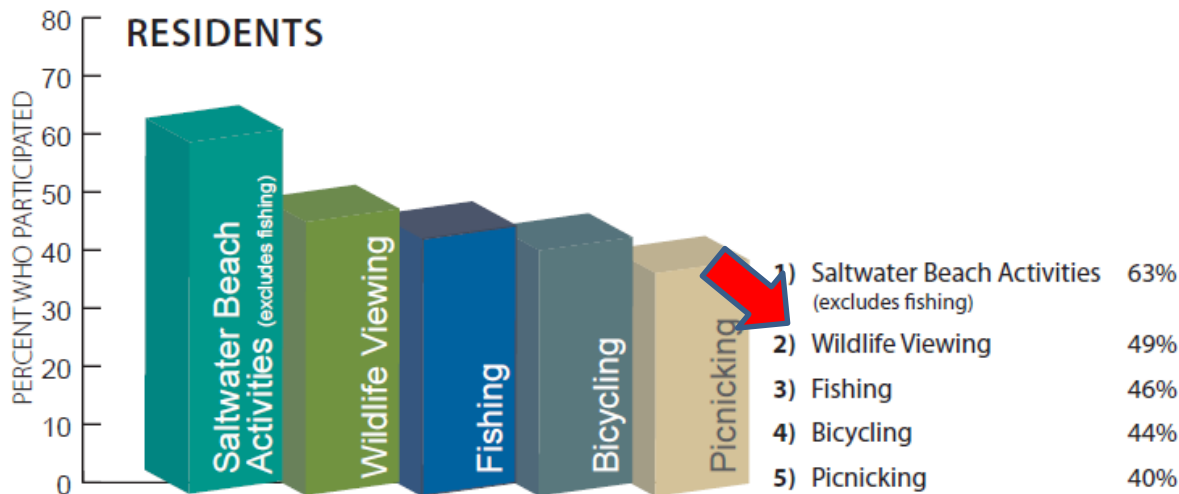
According to the 2012 Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) report, outdoor recreation generates big economic impacts for Florida:

- \$38.3 billion in consumer spending
- Nearly 330,000 jobs
- \$2.5 billion in state and local taxes
- \$10.7 billion in wages



SCORP Outdoor Recreation Profile

Top Five Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: *Residents & Tourists*



Top Desired Facilities - *Residents and Tourists*

RESIDENTS

- 1) Community parks
- 2) Biking paths
- 3) Playgrounds
- 4) Outdoor public swimming pools
- 5) Hiking/walking trails

TOURISTS

- 1) Improved amenities at existing recreation areas (bathrooms, etc.)
- 2) Community Parks
- 3) Beach Access/Parking
- 4) Waterpark
- 5) Saltwater Boat Access/Ramps



SCORP Outdoor Recreation Profile



Canoeing/Kayaking



Appendix G - Outdoor Recreation Participation by Activity

Activity	Residents		Tourists	
	% of Residents Participating	Number of Participants	% of Tourists Participating	Number of Participants
RESOURCE BASED				
Saltwater Beach Activities*	63%	11,844,825	49%	42,385,000
Wildlife Viewing	49%	9,212,642	47%	40,655,000
Bicycling - Paved Trails	40%	7,520,524	13%	10,899,000
Picnicking	40%	7,520,524	37%	32,005,000
Visiting Historical or Archaeological Sites	39%	7,332,511	26%	22,490,000
Fishing - Saltwater	38%	7,144,498	20%	17,300,000
From Boat	27%	5,001,148	14%	12,283,000
From Pier/Jetty/Catwalk	16%	2,929,244	7%	6,055,000
From Shore	14%	2,643,464	6%	4,844,000
Fishing - Freshwater	28%	5,264,367	7%	6,055,000
From Boat	16%	3,000,689	4%	3,451,350
From Pier/Jetty/Catwalk	7%	1,316,092	2%	1,755,950
From Shore	14%	2,632,183	3%	2,361,450
Canoeing or Kayaking	26%	4,888,341	10%	8,650,000

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020
Northwest	19	10	1,054,751	1,210,853
North Central	29	10	436,178	491,119
Northeast	25	10	984,414	1,145,400
Central West	30	10	2,088,352	2,394,880
Central	24	10	3,557,058	4,164,016
Central East	24	10	999,124	1,149,200
Southwest	32	10	1,469,614	1,718,848
Southeast	26	10	3,022,809	3,396,190
Statewide	26	10	13,538,341	15,584,916

* Percent of participation represents the percentage of residents and tourists who participated in activity at least one time during the year

** Total participants represents the combined number of residents and tourists who participated in activity at least one time during the year



Paddling + Wildlife Viewing = Economic Benefits



In 2011, 4.3 million people participated in some form of wildlife viewing in Florida, generating more than \$3 billion in economic impact.* Many people view wildlife from a kayak or canoe. Look for the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail in your area

**2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*





Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail



**GREAT FLORIDA
BIRDING & WILDLIFE TRAIL**

SEARCH GFBWT

SEARCH

Home

About the Trail

Trip Planning

Trail Guides

Family Friendly

Order Publications

Trip-Planning Wizard

Ready, Set, Go Wild...Orlando

Trail Locations

Birding Resources

Bird Conservation

Birding is Big Business

Kite Tales Newsletter

Support the Trail

Events

Directory of Trail Locations

There are multiple ways to find, map and obtain information about the 500-plus Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail locations. Use the section map below to get a list of sites in each Trail section. From there, click on the site you are interested in to read more about it. Or, use the Trip-Planning Wizard, which uses an interactive map (powered by Google Maps software), to search by site name, county, city, Trail section, bird species, habitat or amenity/feature. You can display those sites on a map and get GPS coordinates and driving directions. Access the Trip-Planning Wizard from the Trip Planning category on the main menu on the left, or use the Trip-Planning Wizard button under the Quick Links on each web page. You may also order or download the four Trail guidebooks (with maps) or you may download our free mobile device app entitled Nature Viewing Along the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail at iTunes.com or at play.google.com/store/ The free

Quick Links



<http://floridabirdingtrail.com/index.php/about/>



Build Conservation & Stewardship

A gateway to conservation. There are numerous ways to for boaters and paddlers to help expand our knowledge of Florida's fish and wildlife and to assist the FWC with research and management efforts. Find out more about becoming a **Citizen Scientist**.



Work with local civic groups and paddling clubs to host cleanup events

Develop Friends' group or 'CSO' to support & maintain waterway trail

Recruit knowledgeable volunteers, master naturalists to lead trips



Paddling Trails=Fitness Opportunity

Rising Obesity Rates

Spotlight

Adult Obesity Rates in Florida

Obesity Rate in 1995	Obesity Rate in 2011	Projected Obesity Rate in 2030 based on current trajectory*	Projected Obesity Rate in 2030 if BMI Decreased by 5%*
14.3%	26.6%	58.6%	51.1%

*All ages, all genders, adjusted for self-reporting bias. BMI: Body Mass Index

Source: Trust for America's Health

Lots of calories to burn on Florida's abundant waterways!

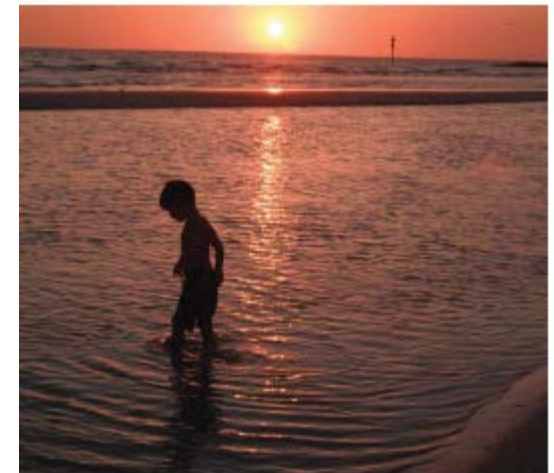
Activity, Exercise or Sport (1 hour)	130 lb	155 lb	180 lb	205 lb
Canoeing, camping trip	236	281	327	372
Canoeing, rowing, light	177	211	245	279
Canoeing, rowing, moderate	413	493	572	651
Canoeing, rowing, vigorous	708	844	981	1117
Crew, sculling, rowing, competition	708	844	981	1117
Kayaking	295	352	409	465

Calculations are based on research data from *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, the official journal of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Quick Fact

Florida has 1,350 miles of coastline, 12,650 miles of rivers and streams, and 7,700 lakes within its boundaries.

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Joneymoon Island State Park, credit Kristin Crawford



Kayak Fishing is Big Business!

Kayak fishing is extremely popular, part of Florida's \$4.6 billion recreational fishing industry*



Provide information for boat access, local freshwater or saltwater fishing through FWC

****40% increase in kayak anglers in past two years!**

*2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

** Outdoor Industries Association, 2012. The Outdoor Recreation Economy, Florida



Creating Popular Paddling Trails

A majority of casual paddlers enjoy short trips of < 3 miles that lead to an interesting destination, restaurant, etc.

Paddlers prefer a variety of distances and loop trails.

Average paddler = 2 miles of distance an hour (depending on currents, tides, wind + weather)

Long-distance trails appeal to a smaller, more experienced user group



Become a Destination

Identify opportunities to make your community an outdoor destination:

- Partner with local public land managers, tourism professionals and chamber of commerce
- Partner with local guides and hotels to certify as 'green'
- Inventory opportunities and amenities

Create Multi-day Itineraries to encourage overnight stays.

Develop Adventure Combos and mix paddling with hiking or biking. Provide secure racks to lock-up boats/bikes



Partner with Green Lodging Program



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Florida Department of Environmental Protection



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Florida Green Lodging Program



The Florida *Green Lodging* Program is a voluntary initiative of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that designates and recognizes lodging facilities that make a commitment to conserve and protect Florida's natural resources. The program's environmental guidelines allow the hospitality industry to evaluate its operations, set goals and take specific actions to continuously improve environmental performance. [Learn more about Florida Green Lodging Program.](#)

Quick Links

- » [Florida Green Lodging Home](#)
- » [About Florida Green Lodging](#)
- » [Green Lodging Guest Survey](#)
- » [Information for State Agencies](#)
- » [Green Meeting Information](#)
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Industry Information

- » [Apply for Designation](#)
- » [Designated Property Information](#)
- » [Best Management Practices](#)
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- » [Resources](#)

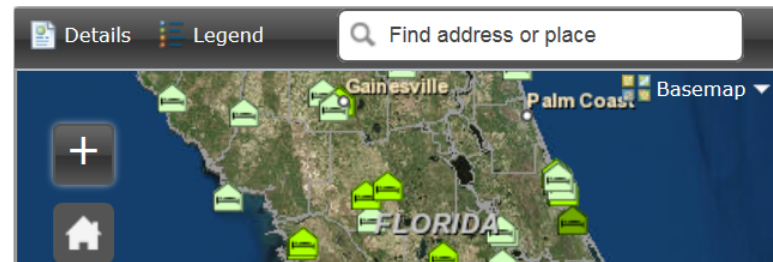
Spotlight

DEP AWARDS THE GREEN LODGING PROGRAM'S FIRST FOUR PALM DESIGNATION

On May 20, 2015, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection awarded the Hyatt Regency Coral Gables the Florida Green Lodging Program's Four Palm Designation for its remarkable conservation efforts. The hotel is the first in the program's 11-year history to receive a Four Palm Designation, the highest level possible.

Designated Lodges

Welcome to the Green Lodging Program's interactive map for locating Green Lodges throughout Florida. Click on the map image to access the Green Lodging Program's interactive map and begin exploring Florida's Green Lodges who are designated as either 1 Palm, 2 Palm, 3 Palm or 4 Palm. For additional help using this map, view the [Video Quick Start Guide](#).





Partner with FL SEE

Encourage ethical ecotourism for local guides and businesses

Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism





Paddle Florida

Username: Password: [Log-In](#)

- Home
- Ecotourism
- About Florida SEE
- Certification
- Associate Members
- Certified Providers
- Membership
- Join Florida SEE
- Education Webinars
- Events/Registration
- Board of Directors
- Newsletter
- Contact Us
- Classified Ads




Welcome

Authentic Ecotourism is:
"Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people."

Florida SEE is dedicated to maintaining a professional code of ecotourism ethics in order to encourage an awareness and stewardship of Florida's natural and cultural heritage by:

1. Endorsing compliance with federal, state, and local laws regarding the protection of natural resources and customer safety.
2. Providing environmental education and awareness which encourage behaviors that contribute to the sustainability of Florida's natural ecosystems and resources.
3. Promoting professionalism and integrity within the ecotourism industry by providing and maintaining a certification/recognition program for ecotour providers.

Florida SEE is recognized as the leading authority on authentic ecotourism in Florida!

Get involved with Florida SEE:

[Membership Brochure](#)

[JOIN Florida SEE](#)

[Certification Process](#)

[Newsletter via email](#)

Certified Ecotour Providers



[View Full Map](#)

Calendar

December 2015						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26



Planning Safe Paddling Trails

Who is your target user?
What skill level is required?

What do paddlers want?
Ask for input from local
paddling clubs and
outfitters





Planning Safe Paddling Trails

Visit proposed trail at different tide levels and seasons

Recruit experienced paddlers and boaters to share local knowledge of waterway issues

Avoid user conflict as much as possible
(Keep beginners out of the ICW and busy boating channels!)

Share simple information about 'rules of the road'



Planning Safe Paddling Trails

Accurately describe conditions:

- Tidal influences
- Wind and weather effects
- Hazardous features to avoid

Provide a float plan pdf.

****Remind paddlers to alert designated contact if they are returning later than planned to avoid unnecessary search and rescue**



Universal Accessibility



Contact the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association for input. They have volunteers throughout the state who are able to make site visits

Include universal accessibility throughout planning. Access can be simple by providing a firm surface and a small staging prop—a large rock or bench might suffice.



Management of Paddling Trails

Keep it SIMPLE.

Partner with land managers.

Are reservations/permits required for overnight camping?

Who will monitor?

- wildlife disturbance
- natural resource impacts
- cultural/historic sites
- user conflicts
- Who will clear the trail of blockages and maintain signage and facilities?





Maps & Budget

Creating a map doesn't have to be expensive. Put pdf maps on your website for users to print themselves. Keep them updated!

Paper maps should be simple, user friendly, water resistant, and easy to fit in map bag.

Draft maps need to be tested by paddlers of all abilities before publishing.

Provide digital options: pdf maps, QR codes, kmz, gpx files.

Users need a range of options to safely navigate trails.





Features to Include on a Map

Longer trails require more info

Include:

- points of interest
- historical and cultural information
- weather, tides, river levels
- Potable water, restrooms

It is a delicate balance to provide information while not making your map over crowded.



Drinking Water



Camping



Kayak Launch



Shower Facility



Restroom



Restaurant



Grocery Store



Point of Interest



Share Critical Information

Provide local EMS numbers and identify emergency facilities on land

Downloadable float plan

Give distance between access points, amenities, camping sites

Users should not solely rely on smart phones for navigation

Link to tide charts and weather info



GPS Features



Good maps and GPS coordinates can eliminate need for signage.

Make clear if you are using:

- decimal-degrees
- degrees-minutes-seconds; or
- degrees-decimal-minutes.



What to Include for Longer Trails



Identify lodging opportunities:

- Describe access & distance from the water
- Primitive or developed camping
- Link to TDC sites to keep listings current
- Avoid endorsement



Test Results

Once your draft map is ready give to paddlers of all abilities and ask to 'ground truth' or 'field verify'.

Are beginners comfortable with the guide and the trail experience? Is the access and route information accurate?

Ask for feedback to assure that all your information is clear.





Promote Local Businesses



Avoid endorsement by linking to local Chamber of Commerce or Tourism Development Council websites with information about lodging, dining, outfitters, kayak and canoe rentals, and shuttle opportunities. The updating of these website will not be your responsibility.



Promote Good Stewardship

PROMOTE LOW IMPACT PRINCIPLES

- Plan ahead
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave only what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife – keep distance and use binoculars or zoom lens
- Be considerate of other visitors



Popular Amenities for All Boaters

- Restrooms
- Fresh water for drinking and rinsing boats and gear
- Storage for kayaks
- Safe overnight parking
- Unload close to access
- Firm but soft launch surface for kayak can be as simple as rubber matting or outdoor carpeting





Marking a Waterway



A narrow waterway
May be appropriate for
painting blazes on trees

Keep signs to a minimum as they are hard to maintain, and installation can be expensive.

Signs posted in water must follow specific legal requirements and the FWC permitting process may be lengthy.

You may be eligible for FWC Boating Improvement grants for funding.



Marking a Waterway

Ask FWC About Contact News Calendar Get Involved Sign Up Home



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Google Custom Search

- Fishing
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- Hunting
- Licenses & Permits
- Wildlife Viewing
- Wildlife & Habitats
- Research
- Education
- Conservation

Home : Boating : Boating Grant Programs : FBIP

Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP)

Boating Regulations

Safety & Education

Anchoring & Mooring

Waterway Management

Boat Ramps & Access

Boating Grant Programs

FBIP

Funded Projects

BigP

Derelict Vessels

Safety & Education

Advisory Council

Application Period

February 1, 2016 through March 31, 2016 (tentative).

Related Documents

- Program Guidelines
- Annual Report
- Funded Projects
- 2015 FBIP Scores and Ranking

Application Forms

- Instructions
- Application Form A: Recreational Channel Markers
- Application Form B: Boat Access Facilities
- Application Form C: Derelict Vessel Removal
- Application Form D: Boater Education
- Application Form E: Other Local Boating-related Projects



Trail Promotion & Publicity



- FAM tours
- Social media
- Plan 'Meetup' events with local paddlers
- Celebrate designations

Make sure all promotional photos include people WEARING life jackets!



Trail Promotion & Publicity

Plan a celebration kickoff event or join an existing local festival. Highlight designation as state paddling trail, FPTA Blueway Community, other...





Events & Festivals

Large paddling events and festivals bring in revenue and expose more people to a great destination, prompting return visits.



Hidden Coast Paddling Festival
\$50,000 - \$60,000 was spent on food, lodging and miscellaneous over the course of this three day event in 2013*

*Hidden Coast Paddling Festival Committee



Florida Paddling Trail Blueway Community Program



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Connecting Paddlers to Florida's Water Trails



**Join Florida Paddling Trails Association
and apply for “Blueway Community” designation**



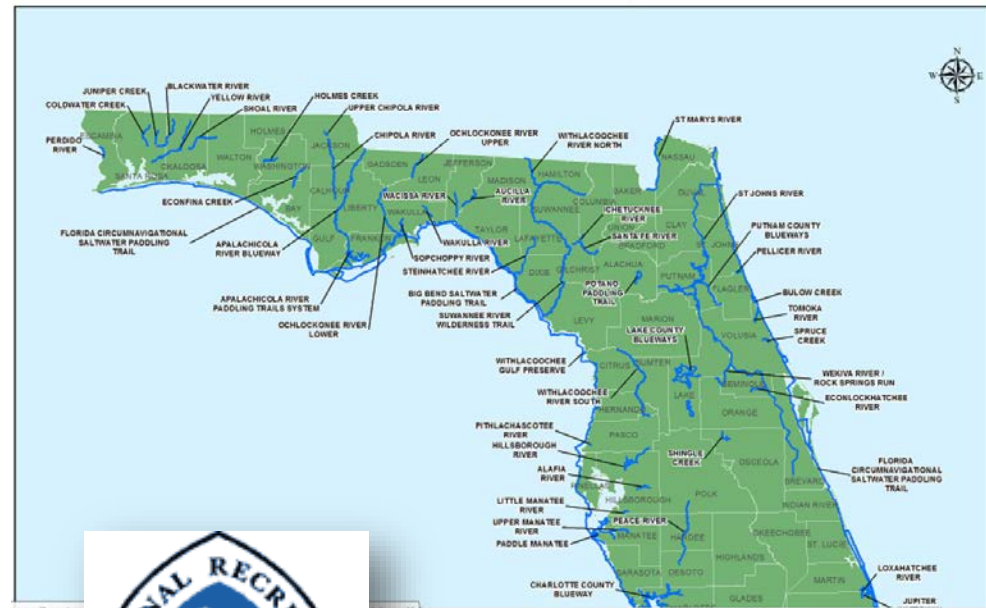
Florida's Paddling Trail System

Designating a trail in the Florida Greenways and Trails System increases exposure and can contribute to higher scores on grant applications.

Seeking National Recreation Trail designation is a logical next step.



Florida's Designated Paddling Trails





Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Assistance & Resources

The Office of Greenways and Trails coordinates and provides assistance to implement the [Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan](#). If you need assistance or are seeking useful resources to advance a greenways and trails project in Florida, please contact the appropriate [Greenways and Trails Coordinator](#). Your Coordinator can also discuss how a trail or greenway project relates to the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan.

Please also consult these resources for helpful information:

Accessibility

- » [ADA Requirements: Wheelchairs, Mobility Aids, and Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices \(OPDMD\)](#), U.S. Department of Justice
- » [Outdoor Developed Areas: A Summary of Accessibility Standards for Federal Outdoor Developed Areas](#) (by [United States Access Board](#))
- » [American Trails Accessibility Resources - American Trails Website](#)
- » [Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access](#), Federal Highway Administration
- » [Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads and Campgrounds- Chapter 11](#), US Department of Transportation
- » [National Trail Surfaces Study](#) [PDF], National Center on Accessibility



Design, Planning, Construction, Maintenance and Operation of Trails

Paved Trails/Rail-Trails/Shared Use Paths

- » [Building a Bicycle Friendly America](#) [PDF], The League of American Bicyclists
- » [Complete Streets Implementation Plan](#), Florida Department of Transportation, 2015 [PDF]
- » [Conflicts on Multiple-Use Trails](#), Federal Highway Administration
- » [Designed to Move: Active Cities](#), Nike 2015
- » [Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access](#), Federal Highway Administration

Programs

- » [Greenways & Trails Home](#)
- » [2013-2017 Plan](#)
- » [Acquisitions](#)
- » [Designations](#)
- » [Florida Greenways and Trails Council](#)

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- » [Grants \(RTP and more\)](#)

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National Recreation Trail System

National Recreation Trails
Explore America's national system of trails and greenways

Search our Website

Browse Common Topics

NRT Home | About NRT Program | Featured NRTs | What's Hot | Calendar | Training | Resources | Support Trails | Symposium

Find over 1,200 Trails



The **NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS (NRT)** program works to preserve and celebrate our nation's pathways. We invite you to explore America's great national system of trails and greenways. You'll find trails that bring our communities closer together. You'll discover nature and wildlife. You'll enjoy fitness and family fun. Celebrate America's history and future on a National Recreation Trail! Learn more about the NRT Program:

NRT Program Links



Download the NRT Brochure (PDF 3.7MB)



Featured Trail - Tent Rocks Trail, NM



Featured State - Montana

Latest News and Features



NRTs designated for 2015

On June 4, 2015, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Service Director Jonathan Jarvis designated 10 local and s National Recreation Trails

[Read more...](#)





Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Programs

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Search for Trails to Visit in Florida

The Office of Greenways & Trails within the Division of Recreation & Parks provides statewide leadership and coordination to establish, expand and promote the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) pursuant to the [Florida Greenways and Trails Act \(Ch. 260, FS\)](#).



Florida Greenways & Trails System Plan

The Florida Greenways and Trails Opportunity Maps are being updated in 2015! [Click here to get involved](#)

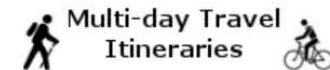
[2015 OGT Acquisition Cycle July 1 - August 31](#)

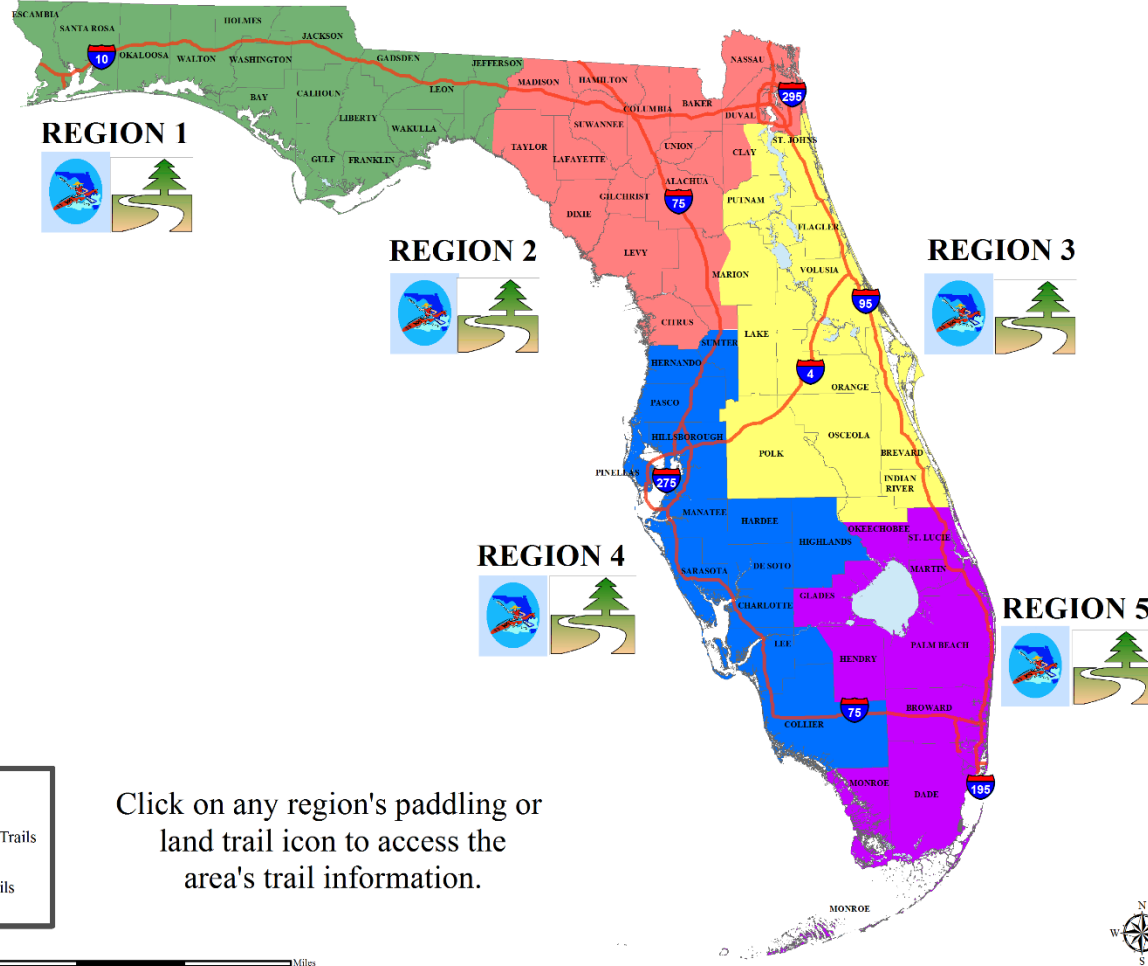


[New flyer about the Economics of Florida Outdoor Recreation & Trails!](#)

See [Office Overview](#) for more information.

Sign up for our Email Newsletter







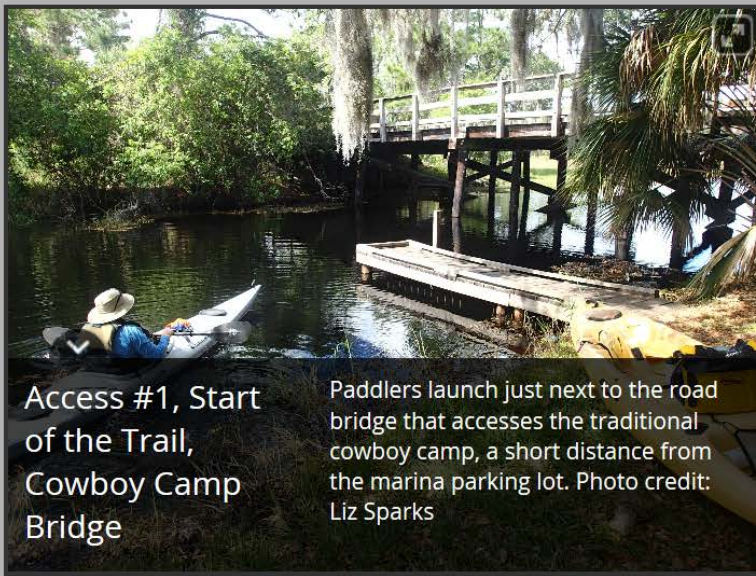
Story Maps for Designated Paddling Trails

Lake Kissimmee State Park: Buster Island Paddling Trail

.pdf guide

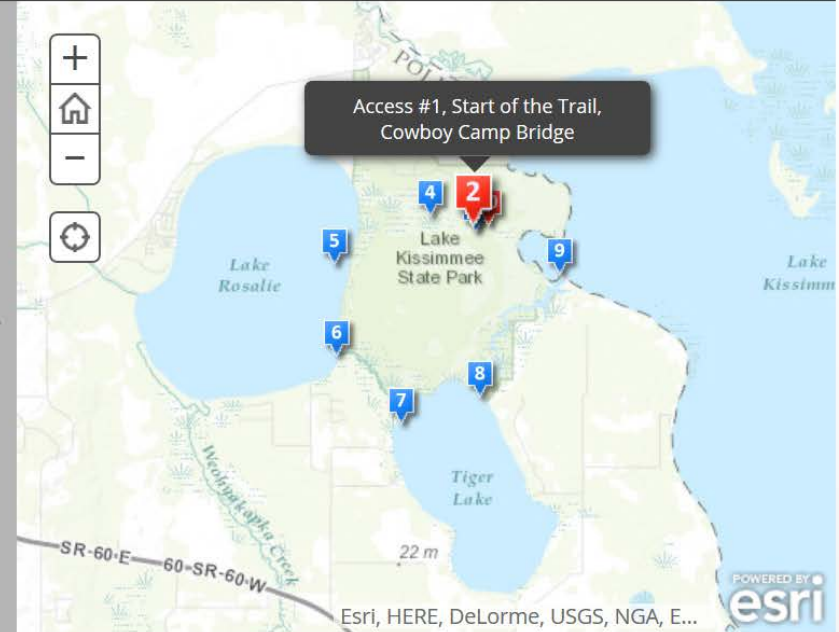
Lake Kissimmee is remote and unspoiled, offering endless reflecting waters, stunning stars in dark skies, and excellent fishing. Paddlers encircle Buster Island, a hiker and equestrian's delight with miles of trails winding between moss-draped live oak. The paddling loop meanders through the Zipperer Canal, Lake Rosalie, Rosalie Creek, Tiger Lake, Tiger Creek, and Lake Kissimmee

Florida Designated Paddling Trails



Access #1, Start of the Trail, Cowboy Camp Bridge

Paddlers launch just next to the road bridge that accesses the traditional cowboy camp, a short distance from the marina parking lot. Photo credit: Liz Sparks



Paddling Experience



Access #1, Start of the Trail, Cowboy Camp Bridge



Cowboy Camp



Zipperer Canal



Lake Rosalie



Rosalie Creek





The 1,515-Mile Circumnavigational Trail

Beginning at Big Lagoon State Park near Pensacola, and ending at Fort Clinch State Park near the Georgia border, the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail (The CT) is a 1,515-mile sea kayaking paradise.

There may be overlap with local coastal trails.

Some hardy souls have paddled the entire trail in 3-4 months. Others seek to complete the trail in segments over several years, similar to how hikers often tackle the Florida or Appalachian Trail.





Funding Opportunities

[Boating Safety Grants - BoatUS Foundation](#)

[Clean Marina Program - DEP](#)

[Coastal Partnership Initiative](#) – kayak launches, access, map publication

[Florida Communities Trust - DEP](#)

[Florida Inland Navigation District](#)

[Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program - DEP](#)

[Greenways and Trails - DEP](#)

[Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program](#)

[Waterfronts Florida Program - DEO](#)

[West Coast Inland Navigation District](#)

[Clean Vessel Act Grants - DEP](#)