



FLORIDA RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

2019-2020 Application Package

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT PROGRAM

GRANT APPLICATION PACKAGE

INTRODUCTION

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 included the National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRFTA) which established the National Recreational Trails Funding Program. The National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (NHS Act) amended and revived the NRTFA. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century amended and provided assured funding for the program and changed the program name to Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The purpose of RTP is to provide funds for projects that provide or maintain recreational trails. A recreational trail means:

> *A thoroughfare or track across land or water, used for recreational purposes such as bicycling, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or similar fitness activities, trail biking, overnight and long-distance backpacking, roller skating, in-line skating, running, aquatic or water activity and vehicular travel by motorcycle, four-wheel drive, all terrain off-road vehicles, or dune buggies.*

The RTP is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Grant application proposals are evaluated according to policies and procedures described in Chapter 62S-2, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). This is commonly known as the Recreational Trails Rule. Applicants should familiarize themselves with these policies and procedures. This packet will assist all applicants in preparing and presenting the information needed for DEP to evaluate proposed RTP applications.

GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Please submit the application in a SOFT COVER three prong binder (please, no HARD 3-ring binders). To facilitate the review and scoring process, label or tab all support documents or attachments. We appreciate your cooperation.

A request for financial assistance under RTP may be for development or maintenance of recreational trails; purchase of trail construction or maintenance equipment; and if funds are available, for trail education projects. Project proposals may address the following recreational trail interests:

- motorized recreation;
- nonmotorized recreation;
- mixed-use projects (either motorized or nonmotorized); or projects that provide for innovative corridor sharing with motorized and nonmotorized recreation;
- construction and maintenance equipment.

Development projects should consist of the complete or partial development of the project site. Grantees shall have up to two (2) years from the effective date of the project agreement to complete the development project. A development project, when completed, must be a usable recreational trail or a trail facility along a usable recreational trail.

Grantees requesting funds to purchase equipment should be prepared to provide proof of insurance, be capable of properly storing and maintaining the equipment, and be familiar with Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program Interim Guidance, and DEP's Directive 320 as they relate to equipment and surplus property. All equipment purchased with RTP grant funds will be receive a DEP property number.

Grantees may use RTP funds to develop trails, trailhead and trailside facilities and related support facilities including parking, rest rooms, access to drinking water, etc. Development projects may also renovate existing trails and facilities in order to provide access for persons with disabilities.

MAXIMUM GRANTS FUNDS AN APPLICANT MAY REQUEST FY 2019-2020:

Nonmotorized Projects = $400,000,

Mixed Use Projects = $500,000, and

Motorized Projects = $1,000,000

THE 2019-2020 SUBMISSION CYCLE IS November 12, 2018 through February 1, 2019

RTP program requires that the grantee provide matching funds. Please refer to Chapter 62S-2.071(3), F.A.C. for complete information on match requirements and match types.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Following DEP staff review of the applications, DEP will notify applicants of any deficiencies. Missing or incomplete documentation will usually constitute a deficiency. Applicants must submit requested deficiency information within fifteen (15) working days from date of deficiency notification. After the deficiency period, the Recreational Trails Advisory Committee ranks all eligible applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in the Recreational Trails Rule.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants must submit proposals for RTP grants on application form OGT-10. Applications are evaluated on the basis of the information provided by the applicants, except where such data is superseded by official DEP information. Failure by an applicant to present all required application information and documentation may result in the application being declared ineligible for funding consideration. Failure by an applicant to provide accurate information and documentation relating to the evaluation criteria for the proposed project set forth in the RTP Rule may result in a loss of points for the applicant's competitive score.

Applicants must submit four copies (1 original and 3 copies) of the completed application and all supporting documents during the announced submission period of November 12, 2018 through February 1, 2019. Applications must be postmarked **NO LATER THAN** February 1, 2019, and submitted to:

LAUREN E. CRUZ, RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
3800 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD, MAIL STATION 585
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000

If questions arise while preparing the application, please contact Lauren Cruz at Lauren.Cruz@FloridaDEP.gov or 850-245-2501

Please Note: If you plan to prepare this document by retyping or downloading it to your computer, the language and format used must exactly match this application.

This application may be downloaded from the Internet at the Recreational Trails Program webpage:
https://floridadep.gov/lands/land-and-recreation-grants/content/recreational-trails-program



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

DEP USE ONLY
RECEIVED: _____
POSTMARKED: _____
APPLICATION #: _____

PART I – APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. Name of Applicant or Organization: _____

2. Federal Identification Number: _____

3. Contact Person: _____ Title: _____
   (The contact person is someone who will be in direct contact with DEP)

   Street Address/P.O. Box: _____

   City/State: _____ Zipcode: _____

   Telephone: (___)_____ Fax: (___) _____

E-Mail: _____

4. Type of Applicant (Select One):

   ◯ City or County Government

   ◯ State Agency, Department: _____, District:_____

   ◯ Federal Agency, Department: _____, District: _____

   ◯ Recognized Indian Tribal Government (*projects must be on lands in Florida)*

   ◯ Organization ***** (*must be State recognized nonprofit)*

   Organization as applicant must provide letter of support from land managing agency. *Tab as "Exhibit A."

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to apply for this grant on behalf of the applicant.

_____ _____

Signature of Authorized Representative Date

PART II – PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Name of Project:** _____

2. **Project Location:** _____

   (Show on DOT county road maps or USGS 7 ½ minute quadrangle sheets):

   Tab as "Exhibit B"

   Street Address: _____

   City: _____ County: _____

   Beginning point: _____

   Ending point: _____

3. **Ownership** (If more than one owner, attach a list of owners and their agents along with a map clearly showing the location of each ownership).
   Site control issues must be resolved by the close of the submission period (February 1, 2019).
   Include a boundary map of the project site. ***Tab as "Exhibit C"***
   Include a copy of site control documents (e.g. deed, lease agreement, etc.)
   Tab as "Exhibit D"

4. Owner: _____ Owner's Agent: _____

   Address: _____ Address: _____

   _____ _____

   Phone: (_____) _____ Phone: (_____)_____

4. **U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS** IN WHICH THE PROJECT SITE IS LOCATED:
   These should be the district in which the project site is located. If you are not sure of the district, contact your local office of the Supervisor of Elections.

   U.S. Representative's Name: _____

   U.S. House District Number: _____

5. STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN WHICH THE PROJECT IS LOCATED:
These should be the district in which the project site is located. If you are not sure of the district, contact your local office of the Supervisor of Elections.

State Senator's Name: _____

State Senate District Number: _____

State Representative's Name: _____

State House District Number: _____

6. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Briefly describe the proposed project. *Include physical characteristics of the site, such as land resources, vegetation, fish and wildlife, historical, archaeological resources, previous land usage and transportation access as well as a description of proposed project activities.* ***If the project is an equipment purchase, describe the equipment, how it will be used to benefit recreational trails (include where it will be stored, who will maintain it, proposed projects for its use and the land managing agency on whose property equipment will be used****).*

PART III – FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. RTP Funds Requested: Line A $ _____
2. Local Funds Available:
   1) Cash: Line B $ _____
   2) In-Kind: Line C $ _____
   Total Local Funds Available: Line D $ _____
   Sum of lines B and C
3. Total Cost of Proposed Project: Line E $ _____
   Sum of Lines A and D

The Total Project Cost (Line E) must equal the grant request (Line A) plus the total local funds available (Line D). This figure (Line E) should not total more than $800,000 (non-motorized) or $2,000,000 (motorized) for the purpose of this application.

4. **PROJECT COST ESTIMATE:** For each element, please indicate if it is a new facility, renovation or maintenance of an existing facility, accessibility improvements, equipment purchase, or trail user education components. *Costs of planning, permitting and site preparation should be included within the cost of each element (not to exceed 15% of total project cost).*

Element Type	Quantity	Description	Estimated Cost
New			
Renovations			
Maintenance			
Accessibility			
Equipment			
Trail User Ed.			

PART IV – GENERAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. PROJECT TYPE

Provide Conceptual Site Plan. Tab as "Exhibit E"

Provide Photographs of the Project Area. *Submit color, on-site photographs sufficient to depict the physical characteristics of the project area.* ***Tab as "Exhibit F"***

Provide Location Map and Directions*. Submit a detailed street, road or highway map precisely locating the project site. Also, provide clear and concise written driving instructions from the nearest federal or state highway.* ***Tab as "Exhibit G"***

_____ Construction of new trails on federal, state, county or municipal lands where recreational needs for such construction is shown

_____ Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages

_____ Maintenance and restoration of existing trails

_____ Purchase of trail construction or maintenance equipment

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A. The project implements the applicant's adopted local comprehensive plan (city or county); or the land management or recreation or trail plan of a state or federal agency and; is included in their Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) or similar plan during the current year or one of the next three (3) fiscal years: *(Include copies of any necessary documents/plans which clearly indicate the proposed project****. Please highlight project name, amount and year****.)* ***Tab as "Exhibit H"***

_____ Yes _____ No

---OR---

B. Is the proposed project included as part of the plan through a resolution or agency commitment committing the applicant to amend their CIP or similar plan to include the project should the applicant receive program funds: *(Include copies of any necessary documents/plans/resolutions which clearly indicate the proposed project.* ***Please highlight project name, amount and year****.)* ***Tab as "Exhibit H"***

_____ Yes _____ No

3. STATE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Explain how the proposed project would address one or more of the issues or goals identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. *Use the **Outdoor Recreation in Florida – 2013 (SCORP).** Provide quotations or other appropriate references to justify the correlation. Use a separate sheet if necessary.*
Tab as "Exhibit I"

4. STATE GREENWAYS AND TRAILS PLAN

Explain how the proposed project would address one or more issues or goals as identified in the State's Greenways and Trails Plan. *Use the **Florida's Greenways and Trails System Plan – 2013-2017**. Provide quotations or other appropriate references to justify the correlation. Use a separate sheet if necessary.*
Tab as "Exhibit J"

5. ACCESSIBILITY

Describe how the project facilitates and improves the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities.

6. YOUTH CONSERVATION OR SERVICE CORPS

The project is supported through a written letter of commitment between the applicant and a recognized youth conservation or service corps in which the corps agrees to supply a stated amount of labor.

_____ Yes _____ No

If "Yes", submit a copy of the written letter of commitment between the applicant and the service corps. Written letter must be executed by the end of the submission period and quantify the amount of labor in monetary units. ***Tab as "Exhibit K"***

7. CONNECTIVITY AND LINKAGES

Describe how the proposed project provides access to or between any of the following:

(A) Public parks or other recreational lands or facilities;

(B) Features or areas of historic, cultural, biological or archaeological significance; *Provide copy of letter from Florida Department of State* ***(Tab as "Exhibit L")*** *and/or Florida Natural Areas Inventory* ***(Tab as "Exhibit M")****.*

(C) Existing intermodal transportation corridors or trail systems; and/or

(D) Residential populated areas.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Please indicate which of the following apply ***(select all that apply)***:

☐ A. An advertised public meeting was held solely for the purpose of discussing the proposed project. *Attach a copy of proof of publication for the advertisement. Meeting must be for the* ***SOLE PURPOSE*** *of discussing* ***the project proposed in the application****. The advertisement should indicate that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss a RTP grant for this project site.* ***Tab as "Exhibit N-1"***

☐ B. The project was discussed at a regularly scheduled meeting of the applicant's advisory board responsible for park, recreation and leisure service activities. *Provide a copy of the agenda and/or minutes of the advisory board meeting(s) where* ***this project*** *was discussed. The board must be an appointed group of citizens, such as a parks and recreation advisory board, who would normally review projects similar to the proposed grant application. Discussion must take place at a regularly scheduled meeting. Planning and zoning or similar boards may be used if a parks and recreation advisory board does not exist****. CITY OR COUNTY COMMISSIONS ARE NOT CONSIDERED ADVISORY BOARDS. Tab as "Exhibit N-2"***

☐ C. Public input on the proposed project was obtained through presentations to community organizations, neighborhood associations and/or a written opinion survey. *Provide documentation (agenda, minutes or thank-you letter) showing that presentations* ***regarding this project*** *were made to community organizations or groups* ***OR*** *provide a copy of the survey instrument and a summary of the results and explain how the* ***results relate to the proposed project. Tab as "Exhibit N-3"***

9. NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL OR NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL

A. The project is located on or connects with the Florida National Scenic Trail:

◯ Yes ◯ No

If yes, provide map and documentation (letter from U.S. Forest Service) indicating connectivity with ***a certified portion*** *of the Florida National Scenic Trail****.***
Tab as "Exhibit O"

B. The project is located on or connects with a National Recreation Trail:

◯ Yes ◯ No

If "Yes", provide a map and documentation (letter from the National Park Service) indicating connectivity with a **designated** National Recreation Trail. **Tab as "Exhibit O"**

10. STATE OF FLORIDA DESIGNATED RECREATIONAL GREENWAY OR TRAIL

The project is located on or connects with a State of Florida designated greenway or trail.

_____ Yes _____ No

If "Yes", provide a map and documentation (letter from Office of Greenways and Trails) indicating connectivity. ***Designation Agreements must be fully executed by end of submission period. Tab as "Exhibit P"***

11. MATCHING RATIO

RTP is a matching grant program. Maximum grant award can account for 80% of total project costs (federal grant amount: grantee's cash and/or in-kind services). Select which matching ratio applies to this project:

_____ A. 50:50

_____ B. 60:40

_____ C. 80:20

**** Federal Agencies: only 95% of total project costs may be federal dollars. Please explain the source of funds for remaining 5%.***

Source of non-Federal dollars when applicant is Federal Agency: _____.

12. MIXED USE PROJECTS

A. The specific trail design demonstrates that the project will support recreational trail opportunities for ***both motorized and nonmotorized use*** through innovative techniques such as multiple trails sharing a single corridor, or time sharing of trails or trailhead facilities, or other innovative corridor sharing techniques.

_____ Yes _____ No

If "Yes", please explain innovative techniques to be employed and address potential user conflicts. ***Tab as "Exhibit Q"***

B. The specific trail design demonstrates that the project will support mixed-use recreational trail opportunities, either motorized or nonmotorized, through innovative techniques.

◯ Yes ◯ No

If "Yes", please explain innovative techniques to be employed and address potential user conflicts. ***Tab as "Exhibit Q"***

PART V – SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. MOTORIZED PROJECTS Only:

A. The proposed project will: **(select only one)**

◯ 1. Develop new motorized recreational trails.

◯ 2. Repair or restore designated motorized trails impacted by normal use.

◯ 3. Develop motorized trail facilities on existing motorized recreational trail corridors.

B. The project will support compatible recreational trail use for the greatest number of the following: **(select ALL that apply)**

☐ 1. Off-Road Motorcycles

☐ 2. All-Terrain Vehicles

☐ 3. Off-Highway Vehicles (high clearance vehicles)

☐ 4. Other Motorized Recreational Trail Use. List all: _____.

2. NONMOTORIZED PROJECTS Only:

A. The proposed project will: **(select only one)**

◯ 1. Develop nonmotorized recreational trail facilities on new corridors.

◯ 2. Develop nonmotorized recreational trail facilities on existing corridors.

◯ 3. Improve or repair existing nonmotorized recreational trail and/or facilities.

B. The nonmotorized project will support compatible recreational trail use for the greatest number of the following: **(select ALL that apply)**

☐ 1. Bicycling

☐ 2. Skating

☐ 3. Day Hiking

☐ 4. Equestrian Activities

☐ 5. Fitness Activities

☐ 6. Overnight or Long Distance Backpacking

☐ 7. Aquatic Activity

☐ 8. Other Nonmotorized Recreational Trail Use. List all: _____.

3. MOTORIZED AND NONMOTORIZED MIXED-USE PROJECTS Only:

A. The motorized/nonmotorized mixed-use project will: **(select only one)**

○ 1. Develop new mixed-use trails.

○ 2. Repair or restore designated mixed-use trails impacted by normal use.

○ 3. Develop mixed-use trail facilities on existing motorized recreational trail corridors.

B. The project will support compatible recreational trail use for the greatest number of the following: **(select ALL that apply)**

☐ 1. Off-Road Motorcycles

☐ 2. All-Terrain Vehicles

☐ 3. Off-Highway Vehicles (high clearance vehicles)

☐ 4. Other Motorized Recreational Trail Use. List: _____.

☐ 5. Bicycling

3(B) Motorized/Nonmotorized Mixed-Use Projects Only, cont.

☐ 6. Skating

☐ 7. Day Hiking

☐ 8. Equestrian Activities

☐ 9. Fitness Activities

☐ 10. Overnight or Long Distance Backpacking

☐ 11. Aquatic Activity

☐ 12. Other Nonmotorized Recreational Trail Use. List: _____.

4. EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS Only:

A. The educational trail project will: **(select ALL that apply)**

☐ 1. improve trail user safety.

☐ 2. reduce trail user impacts upon the resources.

☐ 3. increase public awareness of trail opportunities.

B. Describe the education project in detail. *Include in your discussion goals, objectives, methods and materials to be used, time-line.* ***Use separate sheet if necessary. Tab as "Exhibit R"***

C. List all trail interest groups sponsoring this proposed education project. *Provide letter of commitment from each sponsoring group.* ***Tab as "Exhibit S"***

D. Describe the types of trail users targeted by this proposed education project (e.g., hiking, bicycling, motorcycles, motorized, nonmotorized, etc.).

E. Describe the evaluation method which applicant will use to determine the education project's effectiveness. *Use separate sheet if necessary.* ***Tab as "Exhibit T"***

PART VI – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

ATTENTION: *Before you finish your application package, make sure you have all the necessary support documents prepared and attached. Please use this list to make sure that all applicable documentation is included. Attach supporting documents as follows:*

Application Item – If Applicable	Tab as Exhibit
NOTE: *Four (4) copies of the completed and signed application and all supporting documents must be submitted before* ***February 1, 2019****. (1 original and 3 copies)*	***PLEASE USE A SOFT COVERED BINDER.***
A. Organizations provide a ***Letter of Support*** from land managing agency. Agency must state that it accepts the post completion requirements as outlined in Chapter 62S-2 F.A.C.	A
B. Show project location on ***DOT County Road Maps or USGS 7 ½ Minute Quadrangle Sheets***. Include beginning and ending points.	B
C. ***Boundary Map*** of the project area: The map must provide a description and sketch of the project area boundaries, display known easements and be legally sufficient to identify the project area. Plat maps may accepted if the above criteria are identified. ***Aerial photographs are not accepted as boundary maps.***	C
D. ***Site Control*** (e.g., deed, lease): Submit a copy of the site control document for the project site. If submerged lands are included in the development area, provide a legal document (i.e., permit, management agreement, etc.) which indicates permission to use and develop the submerged lands. **Site control must be effective by the close of the submission period.**	D

Application Item – If Applicable	Tab As Exhibit
E. ***Conceptual Site Plan*** for development of the project area: Submit a conceptual site plan displaying the areas and facilities to be developed as proposed in the scope of the application. The site plan must correlate with the project area identified in the project boundary map and cost estimate. The site plan must CLEARLY DELINEATE between facilities/opportunities currently existing, facilities proposed for funding in this application and facilities planned for future development. ***Please color code your site plan to indicate facilities that are existing, proposed for funding and planned for future development (not in this project).***	E
F. ***Photographs of the Project Area****:* Submit color, on-site photographs sufficient to depict the physical characteristics of the project area. Provide color photographs for all four copies of your application. Aerial photographs are requested, but not required. *Please mark an approximate boundary of the Project Site and note major roads and/or landmarks on the aerial photo (note – this is not the boundary map).*	F
G. ***Location Map and Directions****:* Submit a detailed street, road or highway map precisely locating the project site. Also, provide clear and concise written driving instructions from the nearest federal or state highway. ***NOTE:*** Please confirm that street names listed in the written directions are the same as those posted on street signs in the area.	G

Application Item – If Applicable	Tab As Exhibit
H. ***Capital Improvements Schedule*** or a copy of a resolution amending the existing schedule to include the proposed project. State or federal agencies provide copy of their land management or recreation or trail plan.	H
I. ***SCORP*** objectives support documentation. Written response to Part IV, Item 3, Page 9 of this application. Include narrative explaining how the project implements one or more of the outdoor recreation goals and objectives as listed in the 2013 SCORP.	I
J. ***State Greenways and Trails Plan*** support documentation. Written response to Part IV, Item 4, Page 9 of this application. Include narrative explaining how the project implements one or more of the goals and objectives as indicated in the 2013-2017 State Greenways and Trails System Plan.	J
K. ***Service Corps***: Copy of letter of commitment between applicant and recognized youth conservation or service corps, in which the corps agrees to supply stated amount of labor. *Refer to 42 U.S.C. 12572 and 42 U.S.C. 12656 for definitions*. ***Scout troops and similar groups do NOT qualify. AmeriCorps is a recognized service corps.***	K
L. ***Department of State*** letter to verify that a project is for archaeological/ historic/cultural preservation purposes	L
M. ***FNAI*** letter to verify resources protected by project.	M

Application Item – If Applicable	Tab As Exhibit
N. ***Public Participation Documentation:*** 1. Copy of public meeting advertisement for ***SOLE PURPOSE*** of discussing the project. 2. Agenda and/or minutes of ***REGULARLY SCHEDULED*** advisory board meeting. 3. Documentation of ***PRESENTATION*** to community groups (agenda, letter of thanks, etc. **OR . . .** A copy of the ***SURVEY*** instrument and a summary of the results as they relate to the proposed project.	N
O. Letter from U.S. Forest Service documenting project is located along or connects to a ***certified portion*** of the ***Florida National Scenic Trail***. **OR . . .** Letter from National Park Service documenting project is located along or connects with a ***designated National Recreation Trail***.	O
P. Letter from Office of Greenways & Trails documenting project is located along or connects with a ***designated State of Florida Greenway or Trail***.	P
Q. ***Mixed Use Projects***: Explanation of innovative techniques to be employed (*address potential user conflicts*).	Q

Application Item – If Applicable	Tab As Exhibit
R. ***Education Project Description:*** • **Tab as R-1**: Explain how this project relates to trails safety, trails-related environmental education, or trails-related environmental protection (e.g. environmentally sensitive trail construction and/or trail maintenance techniques). **Limit 1 page** • **Tab as R-2**: Show the timetable and deliverables for the project. **Limit 1 page** • **Tab as R-3**: Explain who the target audience is and what the number of people you expect to reach will be. Explain how you will reach this audience.	R
S. Letters of commitment from each of the sponsoring ***Trail Interest Groups***.	S
T. ***Evaluation Methodology*** for the proposed education project. To be based upon sound research principles.	T

PART VII – CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CONTACT	PHONE
Recreational Trails Program Information & Assistance	**850-245-2501**
Florida Statewide Greenways & Trails Plan	850-245-2052
Department of State	850-245-6333
Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)	850-224-8207
Outdoor Recreation in Florida–2013 (SCORP)	850-245-3068
U.S. Forest Service (National Scenic Trail)	850-523-8501
U.S. Department of the Interior (National Recreation Trails)	601-446-8692 ext. 6

Recreational Trails Program
Florida Fact Sheet
2019-2020 Grant Cycle

What is the Recreational Trails Program (RTP)?
The federally funded Recreational Trails Program of the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides competitive, matching-grant funds to renovate, develop, or maintain recreational motorized, nonmotorized, and mixed-use trails and trailside facilities.

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 included the National Recreational Trails Fund Act (NRFTA) established the National Recreational Trails Funding Program. The National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (NHS Act) amended and revived the NRTFA. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) established the current Recreational Trails Program (RTP), and codified it in Federal statute (23 U.S.C. 206). In 2005 the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) revised the program, providing the current legislative text. In 2012 the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) reauthorized funding for the RTP as a set-aside of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds (extended through May 2015), but did not change the program. Florida Statute 260.016 and Rule 62S-2 Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) provides specific application requirements, processing and evaluation criteria. RTP is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Land and Recreation Grants section within the Office of Operations.

Project Proposals may address the Following Recreational Trail Interests: motorized trails; mixed-use projects (which facilitate diverse recreational trail use within a recreational trail corridor), trailside, or trailhead. Trail planning is NOT an eligible expense for this Program (62S-2.072(4)(e) F.A.C.)

Project Proposals may address the Following Recreational Trail Needs: Construction of new recreational trails (with restrictions for new trails on Federal lands); maintenance and restoration or renovation of existing recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities; and recreational trail linkages.

What is a "Recreational Trail"?
A thoroughfare or track across land or water, used for recreational purposes such as bicycling, hiking/jogging/running or similar activities, equestrian activities, overnight and long-distance backpacking, roller skating, in-line skating, non-motorized aquatic or water activities including canoeing and kayaking, and vehicular travel by motorcycle, four-wheel drive or all terrain, off-road vehicles, or dune buggies.

Who may apply for RTP Funds?
Municipal, county, state, or federal governmental agencies, recognized state and federal Indian tribal governments, and organizations registered as active Florida nonprofit corporations, which have an agreement with a governmental agency to develop public lands and the project.
Note: Nonprofit corporations must provide documentation from the public landowner or manager stating that they support the project and will abide by compliance requirements.

The 2019-202 Submission Cycle is November 12, 2018 – February 1, 2019.

Completed applications must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2019.

Recreational Trails Program
Florida Fact Sheet
2019-2020 Grant Cycle

How Do I Apply?
During the submission period: Applicants must submit a completed Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant Application. Applicants may submit only one application. Applications must involve only one project site. A grantee with two incomplete RTP projects by the closing date of the application submission period is not eligible to apply. The application is available on the RTP webpage.

What is the Maximum Grant Amount?
The maximum permissible request for nonmotorized single-use or diverse-use projects is $400,000. The maximum permissible request for motorized single-use projects is $1,000,000. Match requirements apply.

What are the Match Requirements?
All grant awards must be matched. "Match" means the provision of cash or in-kind services by the grantee in addition to the RTP funds. Value of real property or inmate labor are ineligible match sources. The RTP grant is provided on a 50:50, 60:40, or 80:20 (Program/Grantee) matching basis. The more match provided, the more points awarded. For example, with a $100,000 project, your match could be:

Total Project Cost	*RTP Grant*	*Local Match*	*Point Value*
$100,000	$50,000	$50,000	5
$100,000	$60,000	$40,000	3
$100,000	$80,000	$20,000	1

Please indicate in the Project Description (Application page 7) if the trail is part of a larger Master Plan. If so, include an estimated timeline for completion of the entire plan.
For the Financial Information (Application page 8), only the elements that can be completed with the available funding, including match, should be shown. Also ensure the Matching Ratio (Application page 13) matches the Financial Information.

Note: Federal agencies may match grant funds with federal funds up to 95% of total project cost.

What is Site Control? **IMPORTANT**

Applicants must have, and demonstrate that they have, adequate control of project sites and are able to construct, operate, and maintain the area for the term required by RTP and the grant agreement. For RTP projects on land owned by the applicant, that term is 99 years; for sites owned by someone other than the applicant, that term is at least 25 years past the project completion date.

Proper site control, as required in Chapter 62S-2, F.A.C., may be documented in several ways, including, but not limited to the following instruments:

- Warranty Deed (fee title land ownership),
- A lease,
- Use agreement,
- Easement,
- Title commitment or title policy.

Property Appraiser report cards, surveys, and maps are not sufficient evidence of site control.

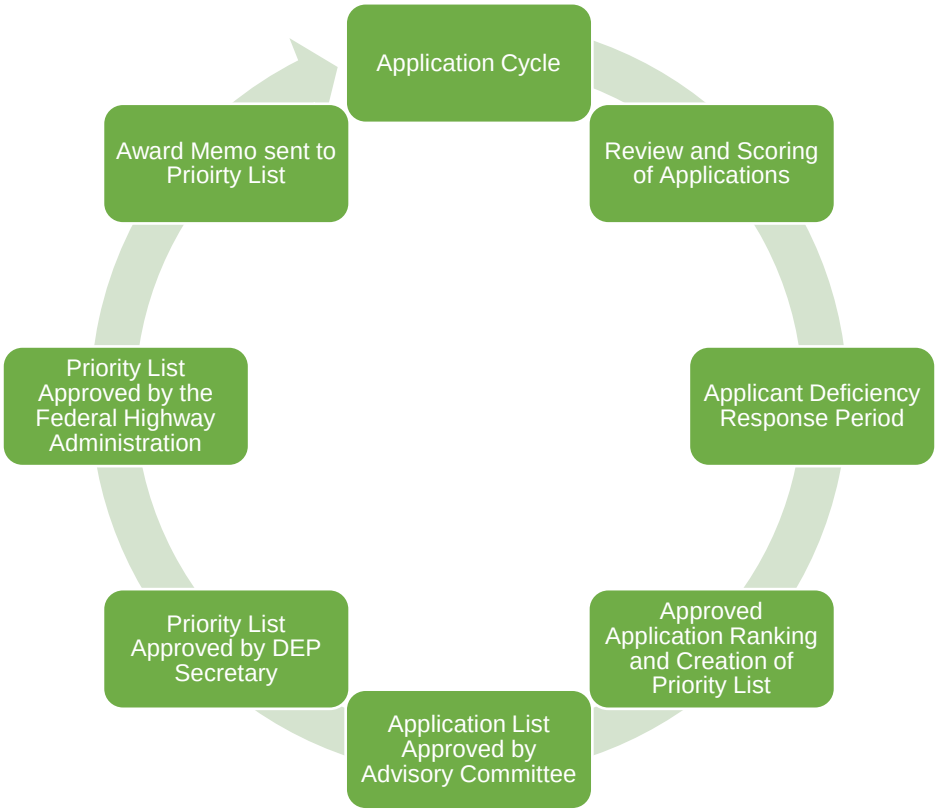
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Submittal of any of these bulleted instruments does not automatically guarantee that the applicant has properly demonstrated site control for the proposed project site. RTP staff will thoroughly review submitted site control documents for sufficiency, noting any deficiencies.

Site control documents must include an adequate legal description of the parcel(s) comprising the project site, such that RTP staff can compare same with the boundary map submitted with the application and evaluate whether the applicant is able to adequately control the project site. For site control less than fee simple, the instrument must not be revocable at will; must extend for twenty-five (25) years after project completion date; and must contain a clause that enables the grantee to dedicate the land for a twenty-five (25) year period, pursuant to Rule 62S-2.076(1), F.A.C.

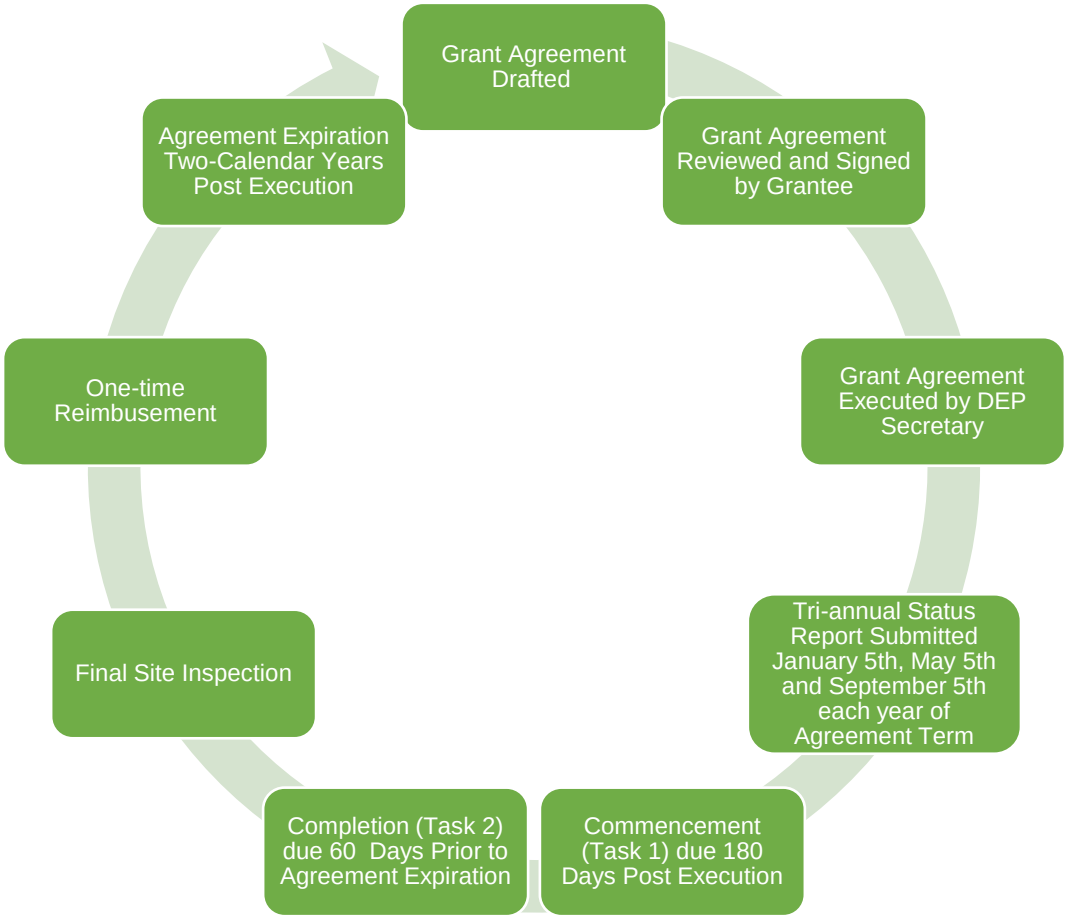
Adequate site control must be in place **prior** to the close of the application cycle- **February 1, 2019.**

How are RTP Grants Awarded?
Evaluation criteria are established pursuant to 62S-2, F.A.C. Each application is reviewed to determine eligibility. Following the initial review, applicants will be notified of deficiencies. Applicants must submit the requested deficiency information within fifteen working days of the notification. Following the RTP grant cycle, staff will score the applications based on the evaluation criteria, discuss projects with FHWA and draft a RTP priority-funding list based on project scores. A recommended priority list and related materials in digital form will be provided to the Advisory Committee for the program, for consideration. They will review the draft RTP priority-funding list and related materials then submit recommendations for funding to the DEP Secretary. Once finalized by the Secretary or their designee the priority list will be submitted to FHWA for funding consideration. If the project is funded, a two-year grant agreement will be executed between the sponsor and DEP.



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Project Agreement. Following FHWA approval of submitted applications, the Department and grantee shall enter into a grant agreement that sets forth the responsibilities and duties of each party regarding administration of the **approved project as outlined in the Application**, pursuant Rule 62S-2.075(1) F.A.C. The grant agreement shall contain terms and conditions particular to each project.



For More Information, Whom Should I Contact?

Lauren E. Cruz, Recreational Trails Program
Division of State Lands, Land & Recreational Grants Section
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS #585
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Lauren.Cruz@FloridaDEP.gov or 850-245-2051

Recreational Trails Program
Project Boundary Map Requirements
2019-2020 Grant Cycle

1. Submit a dated project boundary map which clearly delineates the project area.
2. The project boundary map and/or attachments must identify the following:
    - The title of the project and project elements.
    - The date of map preparation.
    - The area(s) under lease and term remaining on the lease(s).
    - All known outstanding rights and interests in the area held by others. Known easements, deed/lease restrictions, reversionary interests, etc. are to be included.
    - The project area in sufficient detail so as to be legally sufficient to identify the lands to be afforded protection under the RTP. The following methods of identification are acceptable:
        - Deed references
        - Adjoining ownerships
        - Adjoining easements of record
        - Adjoining water bodies or other natural landmarks
        - Meters and bounds
        - Government survey

Where one or more of the above methods are not readily suited for boundary identification, measurements form permanent locators must be used. A formal survey is not generally required.

State of Florida
Department of Environmental Protection
Administrative Services

DEP 320
Effective: November 15, 2002
Approved by Secretary Struhs

STATE-OWNED REAL AND TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

1. Purpose

Establish Departmental policy, procedures and the responsibility for the receipt, accountability and disposal of state-owned real and tangible personal property. The sale of State Lands is not covered by this directive.

2. Authority

Chapters 273, 287, 705, and Section 216.011(1)(y), Florida Statutes, Chapter 60B-3 and Section 3A-21.002 Florida Administrative Code, and Chapter 10.300, Rules of the Auditor General.

3. Definitions

a. Alternate Custodian Delegate - A DEP staff member delegated the responsibility of overseeing all matters dealing with the accounting of inventory property assigned to a specific organizational entity in the absence of the assigned custodian delegate.

b. Attractive Items - Tangible personal property items which must be tracked because they may be easily lost, misplaced or stolen. Attractive items include items that have an acquisition cost, or value, greater than $500 but less than $1,000. These items include cellular phones, televisions, video cassette recorders, cameras with lenses, VHF and UHF radios, facsimile machines, camcorders, printers, scanners, and personal computers. If a division/district has other items they desire to have on inventory they must request that Property/Records Management add them to the FLAIR Property Subsystem.

c. Capitalize - To record all Operating Capital Outlay and Fixed Capital Outlay procurements, as well as attractive items, purchased by the Department in the FLAIR Property Subsystem accounts of the Department.

d. Custodian - Any elected or appointed state officer, board, commission, or authority, and any other person or agency entitled to lawful custody of property owned by the state, or their designee.

e. Custodian Delegate - A DEP staff member who is appointed by a custodian or a property coordinator to oversee all matters dealing with the accounting of inventory property assigned to a specific organizational entity.

f. Departmental Identification Decal - An unnumbered decal used to denote Departmental ownership of property items of a nonconsumable and nonexpendable nature that are not Inventory Property.

g. DEP Property Number - An identification number assigned by Property/Records Management to an item of Inventoried Property.

h. Donated Property - Property that has been given permanently to the Department.

i. Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) Property - Real property (land, buildings, including appurtenances, fixtures and fixed equipment, structures, etc.) including additions, replacements, major repairs, and renovations to real property which materially extend its useful life or materially improve or change its functional use including furniture and equipment necessary to furnish and operate a new or improved facility, when appropriated by the Legislature in the Fixed Capital Outlay appropriation category.

j. Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) - The double entry, computer based general accounting system used by the State of Florida and the Department of Environmental Protection to account for their assets, liabilities, revenue and expenditures. FLAIR is a subsystem of the Florida Fiscal Accounting Management Information System.

k. FLAIR Property Subsystem - The subsystem of the state accounting system that is used to maintain a property file containing detail records for each property item under the control of a custodian and to maintain the accounting general ledger accounts necessary to control property activity on a fund basis.

l. Forfeited Property - Property which has been awarded to the Department by court order or property which has been confiscated under Florida Statutes applicable to the Department.

m. Infrastructure - Improvements to real estate other than buildings, including roads, bridges, curbs, parking lots, pavement, sidewalks, drainage systems, lighting systems, fencing, landscaping, boardwalks, docks, water lines, sewage lines, septic tank systems, signs, etc.

n. Inventory Officer - A DEP staff member appointed by a Property Coordinator to physically take an inventory of property belonging to an organizational unit.

o. Inventory Property - All items of property capitalized and maintained on the department's master file of property inventory records in the FLAIR Property Subsystem. This includes tangible items of a nonconsumable and nonexpendable nature purchased by (includes tangible items acquired utilizing Federal Grant Funding) or donated, transferred or forfeited to the Department that meet Operating Capital Outlay (OCO) requirements, all Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) and infrastructure valued at $1,000 or greater, and all firearms, road-worthy trailers and museum relics/antiques regardless of acquisition cost and/or value, and attractive items as defined in this directive. Software is not Inventory Property.

p. Operating Capital Outlay (OCO) - Equipment, fixtures, and other tangible personal property of a nonconsumable and nonexpendable nature, the value or cost of which is $1,000 or more and the normal expected life of which meets or exceeds one year, and hardbound books, the value or cost of which is

$250 or more. Software is specifically excluded from this definition.

q. Private Nonprofit Agency - A nonprofit charitable organization, where no part of the net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual, which has been held to be tax exempt under the provisions of s. 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and which has as its principal mission public health, welfare, education, environmental restoration and conservation, civil and human rights, or the relief of human suffering and poverty. Citizens Support Organizations as defined under Section 258.015, Florida Statutes qualify as private nonprofit agencies.

r. Property - All real property and tangible personal property/equipment owned by the state to include animals.

s. Property Coordinator - A DEP staff member within the entities mentioned in 4.a.(1) “Delegation of Authority”, who has been delegated the responsibility of coordinating Custodian Delegate and Alternate Delegate assignments and the assignment of Inventory Officers to take the annual physical Departmental inventory for a specific organizational entity. The Property Coordinator generally oversees any property matters for the entity they represent.

t. Property/Records Management - A section of the Bureau of General Services with the responsibilities delineated in Section 4.a.(5) of this directive.

u. Real Property - Land including permanent buildings and other structures.

v. Scrap Property - Surplus property that either has no value or only has value as recyclable material.

w. Surplus Property - Any property that is obsolete or the continued use of which is uneconomical or inefficient or which serves no useful function to an entity within the Department.

x. Surplus Property Review Board (Board) - A Board with the responsibility for reviewing and approving all classifications of property as surplus to the Department's needs and for making all determinations regarding the method of disposal for such items. The Board shall consist of the Chief of the Bureau of General Services, the Purchasing Administrator and the Supervisor of Property/Records Management. The Board shall be chaired by the Chief of General Services and the Chair shall have the authority to establish other Surplus Property Boards for the Department if needed and to appoint the chairs to those Boards. In the absence of the Chief of General Services, the Department's Contract Administrator shall chair the Board and approve all actions. The additional Boards, if created, will have a minimum of three members. The approval of the method of disposal for surplus property shall be signed by at least two (2) members of the Board.

y. Tangible Personal Property - All property items of a nonconsumable and nonexpendable nature purchased by, donated, transferred or forfeited to the Department with the exception of land (real property).

4. Policy

All Department property (consumable and nonconsumable) is owned by the State of Florida. Any employee who misuses State property shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Property that is surplus to the needs of the Department shall be disposed of in a manner that is in the best interest of the State. All property acquired with Federal Grant funding shall be disposed of or transferred in accordance with guidelines of the Federal program providing the grant funds.

a. Delegation of Authority

The Secretary of the Department is the appointed state officer entitled to lawful custody of all Department property. This

responsibility may be delegated pursuant to Section 273.03, Florida Statutes.

(1) The custodial responsibilities of the Secretary are delegated to the Inspector General, General Counsel, Director of Greenways/Trails, Chief of Staff, Director of External Affairs, Director of Legislative and Governmental Affairs, Deputy Secretaries, Division Directors, District Directors, Director of Administrative Services, and the Chief of General Services. This delegation may be delegated to a Property Coordinator who shall further delegate these duties of a Custodian Delegate and Alternate Custodian Delegate for specific organizational entities. All delegations to Property Coordinators, Custodian Delegates and Alternate Custodian Delegates shall be made on a Property Custodian Delegation Form, DEP 55-403 and submitted to Property/Records Management. A custodian delegate may make a temporary delegation of authority to another DEP staff member to sign a specific property transaction form on their behalf for a specified property item or items. Such delegations must be in writing (in the form of a memorandum), must be signed and dated by the custodian delegate and must be attached to the copy of the property transaction form submitted to Property/Records Management for processing.

(2) A Division/District Property Coordinator will appoint Custodian Delegates, Alternate Custodian Delegates and Inventory Officers for all organizational entities for which they are responsible. The Custodian Delegate or Alternate Custodian Delegate may not be an Inventory Officer for the organizational entity.

(3) Custodian Delegates are delegated the responsibility of overseeing all matters dealing with the accounting of inventory property assigned to a specific organizational entity.

(4) The Surplus Property Review Board shall have the responsibility of reviewing and approving classifications of property as surplus and determining the method of disposal for surplus property.

(5) Property/Records Management shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) Maintaining the Department's property inventory in the Property Subsystem of the Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) and other records/documents supporting entries to that subsystem which includes capitalizing acquired inventory property and entering into FLAIR all other transactions affecting inventory property.

(b) Receiving, reviewing, and verifying all documents for transactions affecting the Property Inventory.

(c) Obtaining license plates, registrations and titles for vehicles and trailers and watercraft registrations and "FL" numbers for new watercraft.

(d) Providing the Bueau Office with the information required to order State of Florida Voyager Petroleum Fleet Cards for vehicles and other equipment items that use petroleum products.

(e) Advising agency staff regarding property available for reassignment within the agency and recommending to the Surplus Property Review Board a method of disposal for property (other than vehicles and watercraft) certified as surplus. Property/Records Management will also be responsible for the actual disposal of such surplus property in the Tallahassee area unless otherwise delegated by the Board. They will also assist field units in the disposal of surplus and scrap property.

(f) Providing instructions, forms and assistance to departmental staff having property custodial responsibilities.

(6) The authorization to acquire Federal Surplus Property from the Federal Surplus Donation Program can be obtained by sending a memorandum approved by a Division/District Director naming the staff that are to be granted this authority.

5. Procedures

a. Capitalization of Acquired Property

(1) Property/Records Management shall capitalize inventory property and maintain a department-wide property inventory register of capitalized property in the Florida Accounting Information Resource (FLAIR) Property Subsystem. The following property, when acquired by purchase (to include property purchased with Federal Grant Funds), donation, or forfeiture (except for forfeited items that are to be sold) must be capitalized and included in the inventory listing:

(a) All Operating Capital Outlay (OCO).

(b) All Fixed Capital Outlay (FCO) (except certain incidental cost expenditures).

(c) All weapons, road-worthy trailers, museum relics and antiques regardless of cost.

(d) Attractive items.

(2) All property included under (1)(a) through (1)(d) listed above that is purchased by the department will be automatically added to inventory by utilizing the FLAIR Property Subsystem Pending File and information on purchase orders or contracts.

(3) Donated property that meets inventory property guidelines will be capitalized in the FLAIR Property Subsystem upon submittal by the acquiring organizational unit's custodian delegate of a completed Donated Property Report form, DEP 55-405, to Property/Records Management.

(4) Property forfeited to the department that meets inventory property guidelines shall be capitalized upon the organizational unit's custodian delegate's submission of a copy of the court order of forfeiture along with an accurate description, fair market value and condition of the property, and the acquiring unit's organization code.

b. DEP Property Number Assignment

Property/Records Management will assign identification numbers for all property items that are capitalized, to include items acquired with Federal Grant Funds. The following types of property will each have a separate number series:

(1) OCO items, weapons, museum relics and antiques, road-worthy trailers and attractive items.

(2) Vehicles.

(3) Buildings including mobile homes and storage buildings.

(4) Infrastructure.

(5) Construction projects. (These have temporary numbers used for purposes of insurance and cost accumulation which are replaced upon project completion by infrastructure and/or building numbers.)

(6) Land.

c. Property Identification Marking

All Department property items, if practical, must be marked to identify them as belonging to the Department. The following modes of marking will be used:

(1) Numbered decals will be issued by Property/Records Management for all inventory property listed under Section 5 b. above. Numbered decals will include a bar code which may be utilized to conduct automated physical property inventories.

(2) Building numbers should consist of painted-on or attachable letters/numbers affixed to the building.

(3) Vehicles will be identified by the license plate.

(4) Departmental identification decals should be placed on all tangible personal property items that are not Inventory Property except expendable items.

d. License Plates, Titles, Registrations, Credit Cards, and D.O.T. Fuel Keys

(1) Property/Records Management will obtain license plates and titles for all newly acquired vehicles and trailers when the documentation required by the purchase order and a copy of the purchase order and invoice are received from the Division/District staff responsible for requesting the license plates and titles. They will also obtain replacements for lost, stolen or deteriorated license plates once a completed Request For Vehicle/Trailer Tag Replacement Form, DEP 55-408 is submitted requesting the replacement tag by a custodian delegate.

(2) Property/Records Management will register and obtain “FL” numbers for all newly acquired watercraft when the documentation required by the purchase order and a copy of the purchase order and invoice are received from the

Division/District staff responsible for requesting "FL" numbers for newly acquired watercraft.

(3) Property/Records Management will request that State of Florida Voyager Petroleum Fleet Cards are ordered for all newly acquired motor vehicles and watercraft and other equipment that uses petroleum products. Cards will automatically be issued for new vehicles when the license plate documentation is received, see Section 5.d.(1). Cards for other petroleum using equipment and replacement cards will be issued as needed upon receipt of a State of Florida Voyager Petroleum Fleet Card Order Form DEP 55-410.

(4) Please see "State of Florida Voyager Petroleum Fleet Card Usage Procedures" for information of the Voyager card.

(5) The Bureau of General Services, Bureau Office will obtain fuel keys for Department of Transportation Fueling Stations (G-Stations) for department vehicles upon receipt of a completed D.O.T. Fuel Key Request form, DEP 55-411from the responsible custodian delegate.

e. Property Inventories

A physical inventory of all state-owned tangible personal property listed on the Department's inventory will be conducted and reconciled once each fiscal year as required by Chapter 273, Florida Statutes. It is recommended that a physical inventory of assigned property also be taken whenever there is a custodian delegate change for an organizational entity. Divisions/Districts with property acquired with Federal Grant Funding shall conduct inventories of the property acquired under the grant in accordance with the conditions of the grant agreement if so required by the agreement.

(1) Property/Records Management will provide inventory reports, appropriate forms, and inventory due dates to the Division/District Property Coordinators.

(2) The Property Coordinators will distribute inventory reports and related forms and instructions to Inventory Officers assigned to their organizational units and will set a date for the completed inventory reports and supporting documents to be returned to them in order to meet deadlines set by Property/Records Management.

(3) The Division/District Property Coordinator will review inventories for completeness and compliance with inventory procedures and will return incomplete or improperly conducted inventories to the organizational units for appropriate corrective action. When inventories of organizational units for which they are responsible are in order, the Division/District Property Coordinator will submit them to Property/Records Management.

(4) Property/Records Management may request from the organizational units any additional documentation needed to reconcile the inventories and will make all appropriate adjusting entries in the FLAIR Property Subsystem. They will also forward missing property reports at the appropriate time to the State Comptroller's Office to obtain approval to delete the items from the property register. If approved, Property/Records Management will delete the missing items from the property list.

f. Property Transfer

Property may be permanently transferred from the control of one Custodian Delegate to that of another. A Permanent Property Transfer form, DEP 55-401, must be submitted to Property/Records Management when property is permanently transferred.

g. Property Loans

Property may be temporarily loaned to state or governmental agencies. All loans to other agencies must be authorized by a custodian delegate or alternate custodian delegate.

(1) External Property Loans - A properly executed Property Loan Agreement form, DEP 55-402 or similar form developed by a Division/District is required for all property loaned externally by the Department. Office of General Counsel review is required only if the standard loan agreement provisions are altered or a Division/District form is used.

(2) Loans made to DEP by Other Agencies - The format and provisions of loan agreements used for borrowing property from other agencies will be determined by the loaning entity. General Counsel review is recommended for all these loan agreements.

(3) Property Loaned to DEP by Private Industry - When property is loaned to Divisions/Districts by other than a government agency the agreement must be reviewed and approved by the Office of General Counsel. Also, based on the type of equipment loaned, approvals may be required from other state agencies and the purchase of insurance may be required to protect the Department.

h. Lost, Missing, Stolen Property

(1) All lost, missing or stolen property must be reported to Property/Records Management on a Report of Missing Inventory Items form, DEP 55-404, with supporting documentation. Reports for lost or stolen property must be submitted at the time the loss is discovered. Reports for missing items must be submitted when they have been missing from two consecutive fiscal year's inventories.

(2) All stolen property must be reported immediately to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and an investigation report must be completed and a copy submitted along with the DEP 55-404 form to Property/Records Management.

(3) Property/Records Management will obtain authorization from the State Comptroller's Office to delete stolen/missing property from inventory.

i. Lost or Abandoned Property Found in Public Places

Lost or abandoned property found by Department personnel during the course of their official duties shall be turned in to their Property Custodian. Property with a value of $100 or less shall be retained by the custodian for ninety (90) calendar days. If the property is not claimed the custodian shall post a notice in an area accessible to the public for fourteen (14) consecutive days. The notice must describe the property in a manner reasonably adequate to permit the rightful owner to claim it. If the property is not claimed in the fourteen (14) days, it may be utilized in the Department's daily operation or disposed of in accordance with the Department's surplus property procedures.

If the value of the property is more than $100 and is not claimed in ninety (90) calendar days the Property Custodian shall advertise in a newspaper of general circulation for two (2) consecutive weeks in the county where the property was found. The notice must describe the property in a manner reasonably adequate to permit the rightful owner to claim it. The advertisement shall indicate that the Department intends to either retain the property for its own use, donate it to a charitable organization or dispose of it. Once this advertisement has appeared and the property is not claimed it may be used in the Department's daily operation or disposed of in accordance with the Department's surplus property procedures.

j. Insurance

All state-owned buildings and state-owned contents of buildings (including leased facilities) that are eligible must be insured through the Florida Department of Insurance, Florida Property Insurance Trust Fund. Buildings being constructed by Department staff or under force account will be insured while under construction. For details regarding eligibility, obtaining coverage, the risks covered through the fund and guidelines for submittal of coverage requests and claims, refer to Directive DEP 355.

k. Disposal of Surplus Property (Except Motor Vehicles and Watercraft) and Federal Grant Acquired Property

For detailed procedures, please refer to "Procedures for the Disposal of Surplus Tangible Personal Property Other Than Motor Vehicles and Watercraft".

All departmental state-owned tangible personal property which is determined to be obsolete, excess to the department's needs, uneconomical or inefficient for continued use shall be disposed of in an accountable manner which is in the best interest of the department and the State. All such property, regardless of whether it is assigned a property number and capitalized in FLAIR and **REGARDLESS OF THE ACQUISITION COST** must be disposed of in accordance with Sections 273.05 and 273.055, Florida Statutes, Section 10.370, Rules of the Auditor General and DEP procedures for disposal of surplus property.

(1) Property that is surplus to the needs of an organization unit should be reported by the responsible custodian delegate to their Division/District Property Coordinator. That office should determine if the property is needed by their division/district.

(2) To dispose of property that is not needed by a division/district, the responsible custodian delegate must complete and sign a DEP Certification of Surplus Property

form, DEP 55-406, and submit it to Property/Records Management. All property listed in scrap condition, as well as, listings containing animals must be listed on a separate certification from equipment listed in excellent to poor condition.

(3) Property/Records Management will assign a unique control number for each certification received. Certifications will be processed as follows:

(a) Useable Property – Property/Records Management will prepare listings of useable property submitted on surplus certification forms and circulate these to property coordinators and to other state agencies requesting to receive such lists. Listed property with the exception of scrap property and animals must be made available for reassignment within the agency for a minimum of five (5) working days unless this period is waived in writing by the Chief of General Services. After property listings have been circulated as required within the agency by e-mail to the Property Coordinators and internal reassignment has not been requested, Property/Records Management may dispose of the property in accordance with the established procedures once the Surplus Property Review Board has approved the disposal. Methods of disposal include but are not limited to, transfers to other public agencies, donations to private nonprofit organizations, advertised sealed bid sales, spot bid sales, auctions, sales to recycle dealers, dumping at landfills, or contracting with a private vendor.

(b) Scrap Property – Property/Records Management will immediately review certifications for property reported in scrap condition and submit them to the Surplus Property Review Board for review and final disposition determinations.

(c) Animals – Property/Records Management will immediately review surplus certifications for animals and submit them to a Surplus Property Review Board for review and final disposition determinations.

(d) Trade-in Of Property - Each Custodian Delegate should pursue trade-in options prior to requesting disposal of surplus equipment.

1 All requests to trade-in equipment must be processed through the Purchasing Section. A Request for Trade of Equipment form, DEP 55-409,will be completed and attached to the requisition form with a copy of the vendor's trade-in allowance.

2 A Surplus Property Review Board will review and take action on all requests for trade-in.

(e) Software - Disposal of software shall depend on the provisions of the license agreement. In those cases where the licensing agreement does not require either destruction of or return to the copyright holder of the software, disposal shall be accomplished in accordance with the policies set forth in this directive for disposal of other surplus property. Surplus property certifications submitted to Property/Records Management for software must be accompanied by software license agreement information. When return to the developer or destruction is required, the user organization is responsible for such return or destruction. The disposition or disposal of microcomputer software may be required in cases where:

1 The agency upgrades to a new version of software and no longer needs the previous version. In such cases the license may require the department to destroy or return to the

developer all copies of the previous version. Typically, upgrades preclude use of the previous version. In this situation no surplus property certification would be submitted to Property/Records Management.

2 The agency replaces one microcomputer software product with another, e.g., switches from one word processing package to another. In this case the product being replaced becomes surplus property unless the department has plans for further utilization.

3 The agency determines that it will not use a particular software product any longer. In this case, the unused product also becomes surplus property to the department.

4 In number two (2) and three (3) above a copy of the license agreement must be provided with the surplus property certificate. Without this license agreement the Department can not sell or donate the software.

(4) All items reported as surplus and all disposal records shall be subject at all times to an on-site inspection/review.

(5) A Surplus Property Review Board will review and approve all surplus property certifications and will approve the method of disposal for each item.

(6) The person disposing of surplus property shall complete and sign a Surplus Property Disposal Certification/Receipt form DEP 55-407, obtain any additional required signatures, and submit the form to Property/Records Management.

(7) Proceeds in the form of cash, bank draft, money order, or cashiers' check from property sold by Property/Records

Management, will be receipted by Property Management and credited to the Bureau of General Services, Administrative Trust Fund unless prior arrangements are made to credit another trust fund or the General Revenue Fund. When property is sold by other organizational entities, the selling organizational entity will issue a cash receipt and forward the payment and required deposit information to the Bureau of Finance and Accounting, Revenue Section, along with the proceeds. Copies of sales transaction documents must be submitted along with the Surplus Property Disposal Certification/Receipt form, DEP 55-407 to Property/Records Management for use in making disposal entries in the FLAIR Property Subsystem. The Bureau of Finance and Accounting will provide Property/Records Management with a copy of all deposit sheets for funds deposited as result of a sale of surplus property.

I. Disposal of Motor Vehicles and Watercraft

The Department of Management Services, Bureau of Motor Vehicles and Watercraft (BMVW), has the responsibility of approving the disposal (including the means of disposal) of all vehicles, tractors, scooters, ATV's, trailers, marine engines, watercraft and riding lawn mowers powered by a motor of 20 HP or more. Methods of disposal include sale at a BMVW auction, sealed bid sale, sale to a scrap dealer, and deposit at a local landfill. Motor vehicles for which replacement funds have been appropriated may not be retained in service unless approved by the BMVW to meet emergency needs. All retention requests shall be submitted to Property/Records Management at the time the replacement vehicle is acquired.

(1) Requests for disposal of DEP vehicles must be submitted to Property/Records Management on a Request for Disposal of Mobile Equipment form, DMS MP-6401. Disposal forms must be submitted to Property/Records Management within 30 days of a vehicle becoming excess. If the organizational entity wishes to dispose of the equipment by

any means other than a BMVW auction, a request memo must be submitted along with the DMS MP-6401 form. Property/Records Management shall immediately review forms it receives, request approval from the Surplus Property Review Board and after receiving approval forward them to BMVW.

(2) An Equipment Without Commercial Value form, DMS MP-6401B must be submitted with the DMS MP-6401 form for all vehicles that have no value or have been wrecked and are in scrap condition.

(3) Property/Records Management will obtain disposal authority from the Surplus Property Review Board and BMVW. They will notify the appropriate Custodian Delegate when disposal authorization has been received.

(4) Funds received in cash or by journal transfer for the sale of surplus motor vehicles and watercraft will be recorded in the accounts as refunds of current year expenditures. The organizational entity that sells the property will designate the fund and organization code to which the funds will be credited. For journal transfer receipts for property sold by DMS at an auction, Property/Records Management will obtain the required information from the organizational unit for whom the Property was sold and furnish it to the Bureau of Finance and Accounting. The information required in order to properly deposit cash and journal transfer receipts includes the organization code, expansion option and/or fund code and object code to be credited.

(5) Proceeds from the sale of motor vehicles and watercraft received by Property/Records Management or by an organizational unit will be handled as cash received under subsection k.(7) above. The receipts will be recorded in the department's accounts as a refund of current expense.

m. Disposal/Transfer of Property Acquired with Federal Grant Funding

The disposal/transfer of all property acquired with Federal Grant Funding shall be in accordance with the requirement of the Federal Program providing the grant funding. If the grant agreement does not contain any special requirements related to property the following shall apply. The Department will use, manage and dispose of equipment acquired under the grant in accordance with Florida Statutes and Department Directives. This is pursuant to the Federal "Common Rule for Uniform Administrative Requirements" for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments.

n. Disposal of Vehicles Leased from other Government Agencies

Vehicles leased from other Government Agencies are to be returned to that agency for disposal. If that Government Agency does not want to handle the disposal and delegates that responsibility to this Department then the vehicle will be disposed of in the same manner as surplus Department vehicles. When a leased vehicle is returned to the leasing Government Agency the Property/Records Management Section shall be notified.

6. Waiver

The Director of Administrative Services or Chief of the Bureau of General Services will have the authority to waive any part of this directive in order to expedite the actions needed by the Department to carry out its statutory authority. These two positions shall also have the authority to make minor changes in the procedures for disposal of surplus property as needed to improve the procedures.

This is a revision to DEP 320 and supersedes the March 15, 2000 revision. This revision was necessary due to procedural changes with the Voyager Petroleum Fleet card and the D.O.T. Fuel Keys and to update telephone and fax numbers.

This revision includes changes in responsibility for ordering of the State of Florida Voyager Petroleum Fleet card and the D.O.T. Fuel Keys from the Property/Records Management Section to the Bureau of General Services, Bureau Office; updated the State of Florida Voyager Petroleum Fleet Card usage procedures to allow repairs to equipment up to $500.00 utilizing the Voyager Card; deleted the $300.00 limit for emergency repairs; revised form DEP 55-410 to update telephone and fax numbers; updated the telephone and fax numbers used for contact information for the Voyager Card.

Responsible Office: Division of Administrative Services
Bureau of General Services
Property/Records Management

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment I
Procedures for Disposal of Surplus Tangible Personal Property Other Than Motor Vehicles and Watercraft

Attachment II
Property Custodian Delegation Form
DEP 55-403

Attachment III
Donated Property Report
DEP 55-405

Attachment IV
Permanent Property Transfer
DEP 55-401

Attachment V
Property Loan Agreement
DEP 55-402

Attachment VI
Report of Missing Inventory Items
DEP 55-404

Attachment VII
Certification of Surplus Property
DEP 55-406

Attachment VIII
Request for Trade of Equipment
DEP 55-409

Attachment IX
Surplus Property Disposal Certification/Receipt
DEP 55-407

Attachment X
DMS MP-6401
Request for Disposal of Mobile Equipment

Attachment XI
DMS MP-6401B
Equipment Without Commercial Value

Attachment XII
D.O.T. Fuel Key Request
DEP 55-411

Attachment XIII
Request for Vehicle/Trailer Tag Replacement
DEP 55-408

Attachment XIV
Voyager Fleet Card Order From
DEP 55-410

Attachment XV
State of Florida Voyager Petroleum Fleet Card Usage Procedures

Outdoor Recreation *in Florida* 2013

Florida's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan









Front cover photos (L to R): Fishing at Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park, credit: Juliane Eckert; Stretching before practice in Marion County, credit: Florida Recreation and Park Association; Lighthouse in the distance at Anclote Key Preserve State Park; Kayaking at Fort George Island Cultural State Park

Outdoor Recreation in Florida 2013

A Comprehensive Program for Meeting Florida's Outdoor Recreation Needs







State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
Tallahassee, Florida

Photo credits: Amelia Island State Park; Highlands Hammock State Park; Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park, credit: Tabatha Spurlock

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Chapter One - Introduction and Background

PURPOSE

The purpose of Florida's statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) is to outline a five year policy plan and establish a framework for statewide outdoor recreation planning. Section 375.021, Florida Statutes, provides that the plan will document recreational supply and demand, describe current recreational opportunities, estimate needs for additional recreational opportunities and propose means for meeting identified needs. The plan is intended to be a broad statewide and regional appraisal of the outdoor recreation needs of Florida and a guide for the development of a diverse, balanced statewide outdoor recreation system.

In conjunction with that purpose, the plan is intended to fulfill the requirements of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578), which was established to create parks and open spaces, protect wilderness, wetlands and refuges, preserve wildlife habitat and enhance recreational opportunities. Under this program, Florida receives matching grants to acquire and develop outdoor recreation lands and facilities. Within the plan, the following issues are required to be addressed in accordance with federal planning requirements:

- Evaluate demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities;
- Conduct studies periodically to estimate and analyze outdoor recreation demand;
- Provide ample opportunity for public participation involving all segments of the population;
- Address current wetland protection strategies as required by the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-645);
- Identify state and national outdoor recreation trends and initiatives;
- Develop and implement an "Open Project Selection Process" for Land and Water Conservation Fund grants.

This plan is part of an outdoor recreation planning process that Florida has pursued since 1963. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) coordinates and develops the plan according to state and federal legislative requirements.

Specific planning authority is provided by Section 375.021(1), Florida Statutes, which gives DEP specific responsibility, authority and power to develop and execute a comprehensive, multipurpose statewide outdoor recreation plan. Additionally, Section

Spotlight

Section 375.021, Florida Statutes

Comprehensive multi-purpose outdoor recreation plan

1) The Department is given the responsibility, authority, and power to develop and execute a comprehensive multi-purpose outdoor recreation plan for this State with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Transportation, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Department of Economic Opportunity, and the water management districts.

2) The purpose of the plan is to document recreational supply and demand, describe current recreational opportunities, estimate the need for additional recreational opportunities, and propose means for meeting identified needs. The plan shall describe statewide recreational needs, opportunities, and potential opportunities.

258.004(3), Florida Statutes, directs DEP to study and appraise the recreation needs of the state and assemble and disseminate information relative to recreation.

OUTDOOR RECREATION: A LEGITIMATE ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT

Outdoor recreation, broadly defined, is any leisure time activity conducted outdoors. Within the vast range of that definition lie an almost unlimited number of activities, from wilderness camping to neighborhood playground use, organized sports and outdoor performances.

Resource-based outdoor recreation differs from user-oriented recreation in that it cannot be provided just anywhere, but is dependent upon some element or combination of elements in the natural or cultural environments that cannot be easily duplicated by man. Examples include fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, hunting, camping, boating, surfing, nature study and visiting historical sites. Resource-based recreation is typically provided by state and federal governments.

User-oriented outdoor recreation is a type of outdoor recreation that can be provided almost anywhere for the convenience of the user. This category is the broader of the two and includes activities such as golf, tennis, baseball, basketball, shuffleboard, pool swimming, and playground activities. User-oriented activities are needed in vast amounts in urban and suburban areas. As with other urban services, user-oriented recreation facilities and programs are most often provided by local governments.

User-oriented outdoor recreation can always be provided if there is adequate physical space and funds. An increase in urbanization often results in an increase in user-oriented outdoor recreation to help meet the recreational needs of expanding urban populations. On the other hand, provision of resource-based outdoor recreation is limited to the availability of cultural and natural resources. As population grows, greater demand is placed on resource-based recreation as suitable land areas and resources are converted to development or other land uses. Because they satisfy essentially different human needs, it is difficult to compare these two types of outdoor recreation in terms of importance or urgency. In the final analysis, both user-oriented and resource-based outdoor recreation are important. The peoples need



Resource-based recreation at Lake Talquin, credit: FWC



User-oriented recreation in Broward County, credit: FRPA



A family enjoys RV camping at Gamble Rogers Memorial State Recreation Area at Flagler Beach

for both must be met expeditiously if Florida hopes to keep pace with the demands of a growing population.

Since the late-19th Century, Americans have accepted the idea that the provision of most types of outdoor recreation is a proper function of government. Public responsibility for outdoor recreation stems from two essential purposes: the promotion of social welfare, and the protection of our common natural and cultural heritage. As a matter of social welfare, outdoor recreation is provided by governments as a means of healthfully occupying the leisure time and enhancing the quality of life of citizens. The management of natural resources is also a matter of public interest in Florida for the ecological and health benefits our citizens and visitors receive from healthy and diverse natural areas throughout the state in the forms of fresh air, fresh water, exercise and the relief of modern stress. Finally, preserved and interpreted historic and prehistoric resources are vital in that they explain our history and culture and provide a means for individual citizens to relate to the whole of Florida's society.

ROLES IN OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING

Florida is a traditional destination for outdoor recreation seekers in the United States and from around the world. More than 87.3 million tourists visit annually to enjoy the sunshine, sandy beaches and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities. Residents delight in Florida's pleasant climate which provides endless opportunity for year-round outdoor recreation.

More recreation facilities and services are needed today than ever before, due largely to the continued growth, urbanization and diversification of the population, longer life expectancies, greater mobility and a greater appreciation of the values of recreation. People who recreate spend huge sums of money, consume large quantities of energy and demand tremendous amounts of open space in which to recreate. As a result, social and environmental conflicts may be generated that must be addressed through comprehensive and coordinated efforts by recreation managers at many levels of government. Effective coordination is also critical if we hope to maximize the health, economic and environmental benefits derived from recreation. Therefore, professional, systematic planning and program implementation are necessary to guide communities, government agencies and other organizations in addressing both the problems and the benefits of recreation statewide.

The political subdivisions of the state have the major responsibility for providing local recreation opportunities within their respective jurisdictions, with supplemental assistance from both the state and federal governments. At the state level, the leadership role requires that state agencies, particularly the Department of Environmental Protection, must work toward the most efficient utilization of human, financial and natural resources for the maximum benefit to the public. In addition, the state must provide a part of the financial, technical and physical resources needed to meet Florida's statewide recreational demand.

PLANNING PROCESS

The process for creating the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan must reflect a balanced, statewide approach

to be truly comprehensive. This SCORP achieves this in a variety of ways, from soliciting extensive input from recreation providers and consumers through public workshops and Web-based surveys to regular consultations with recreation professionals from around the state to ensure a unified agency-level approach in addressing the future of recreation in Florida.

As an ongoing effort, DEP also maintains an inventory of the recreation facilities provided throughout the state. From mid-2011 to spring 2012, the data base was systematically updated by hundreds of municipal, county, state, federal, and private recreation providers in preparation for this planning effort.

In addition, DEP and Responsive Management, a natural resource survey research consulting firm, conducted the 2011 Outdoor Recreation Participation Study. The study gives an in-depth look at participation in outdoor recreation activities, explores changes in trends, and offers quantitative insight on the recreation demands of both residents and tourists in Florida. The results of the study are used throughout this document to provide both statewide and regional analyses that will be helpful planning tools to a wide variety of public and private recreation providers.

The SCORP stands alone as the state's only comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The result of its comprehensive methodology and inclusive planning process is a plan that provides a basis for cooperative action to resolve priority issues and a reasoned approach to meeting identified recreation needs throughout Florida. The plan provides statewide outdoor recreation programming guidance and is intended to influence the decisions of all potential recreation suppliers.

Public Participation

Public input to the plan was obtained through a combination of effecting methods, including an online questionnaire, public workshops, and input from the participation survey. In April 2012, two online surveys were distributed, one targeting the general public and the other for public recreation providers. Input was received on recreation issues identified by the SCORP workgroup, meetings with stakeholders, and through research of national and statewide trends in outdoor recreation while additional issues and concerns were generated through open response items. The survey link was distributed to the public by multiple state and local agencies, yielding nearly 3,900 responses. Public workshops to gather input on the recommendations of the plan were conducted between September 12 and October 5, 2012 at these locations: Tallahassee, Sanford, Sarasota and Boca Raton. The SCORP workshops were combined with workshops for the update of the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan to better coordinate both planning efforts and to consolidate staff and participant travel.

Planning Coordination

One of the most important links in the chain of outdoor recreation planning coordination is between state and local governments. Many county and municipal governments assisted in the development of this plan by cooperating in the preparation of the statewide inventory of outdoor recreation resources and facilities. This massive undertaking could not be accomplished without such assistance.

Additionally, all Florida counties and many municipalities have participated in state-sponsored financial and technical assistance programs, and other efforts involving recreation coordination. Local governments participate in the acquisition and management of land for outdoor recreation through multiple land acquisition and grant programs, including the Florida Forever Program, the Florida Communities Trust Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program and the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program.

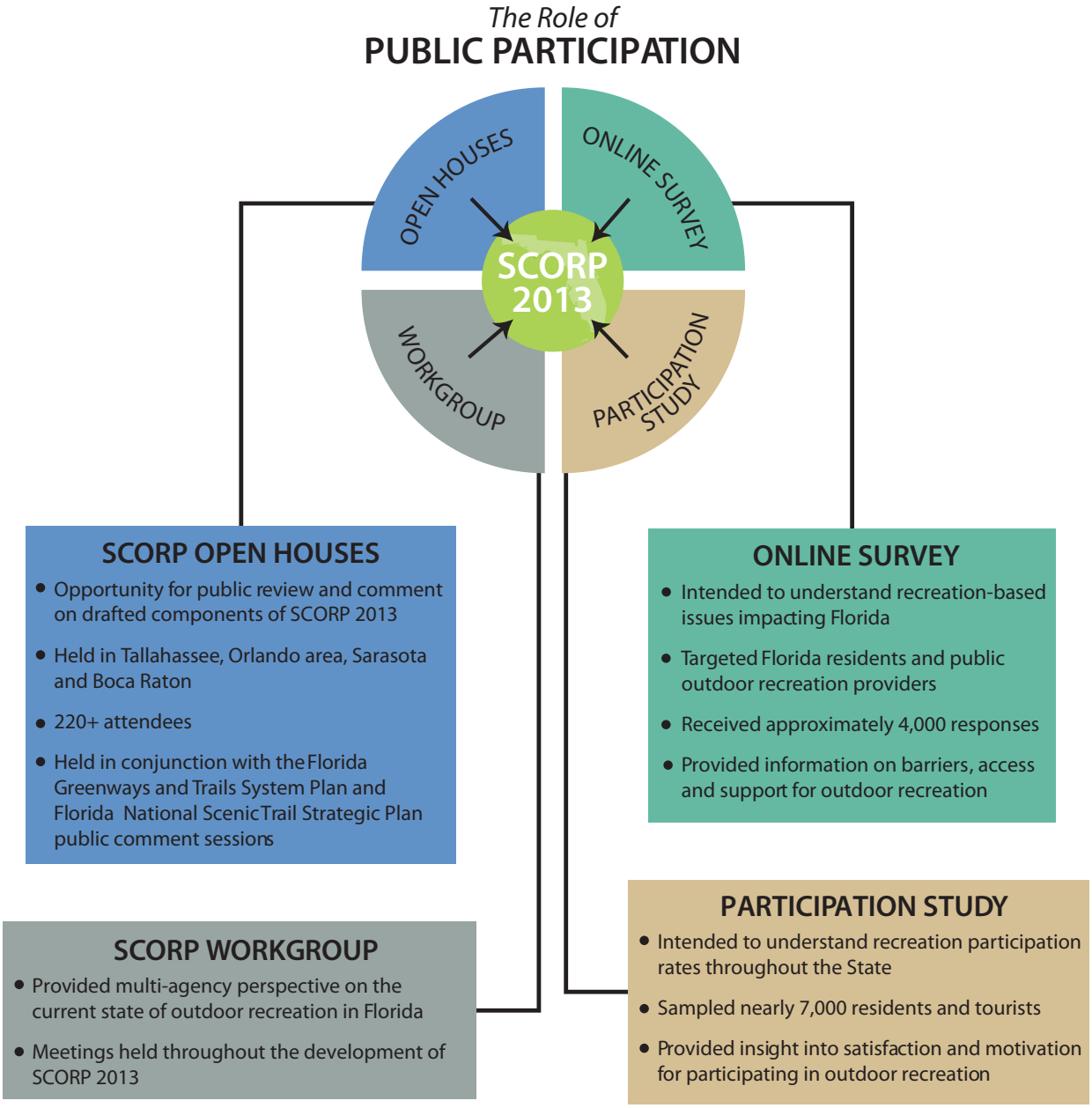


Figure 1.1

State and local planning is further linked through the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act (Section 163.3167, Florida Statutes), through which the state provides technical assistance in plan preparation and state-level review of local plans. In developing their comprehensive plans, many local governments have made use of information and data contained in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

State Level Coordination

The success of the SCORP is largely contingent on the acceptance and implementation of its recommendations by both public and private recreation providers. To begin the update process of the 2013-2018 plan, a workgroup of state level land managing agencies was created to guide the planning efforts of the Division of Recreation and Parks staff. Staff members from the following agencies participated: Department

of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Florida Forest Service, Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Recreation and Parks, Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, Department of State – Division of Historical Resources, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the state's five water management districts, and the non-profit Florida Outdoor Recreation Coalition.

The advisory group focused its attention on three specific aspects of Florida's Outdoor Recreation Plan: the planning process, the plan's data methodology and the identification of recreation issues and trends. The group discussed each topic in detail and made recommendations in each area. The recommendations provided by the advisory group were critical to the development of an inclusive and relevant planning process. In addition, the advisory group helped to improve working relationships between the policy and recreation program staff of many agencies who will, hopefully, continue the collaboration going forward.

State-Federal Coordination

Liaison for outdoor recreation planning purposes is maintained with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, especially through its Southeast Regional Office. Other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are consulted frequently at regional and field offices on recreation-related planning matters.

State-Private Coordination

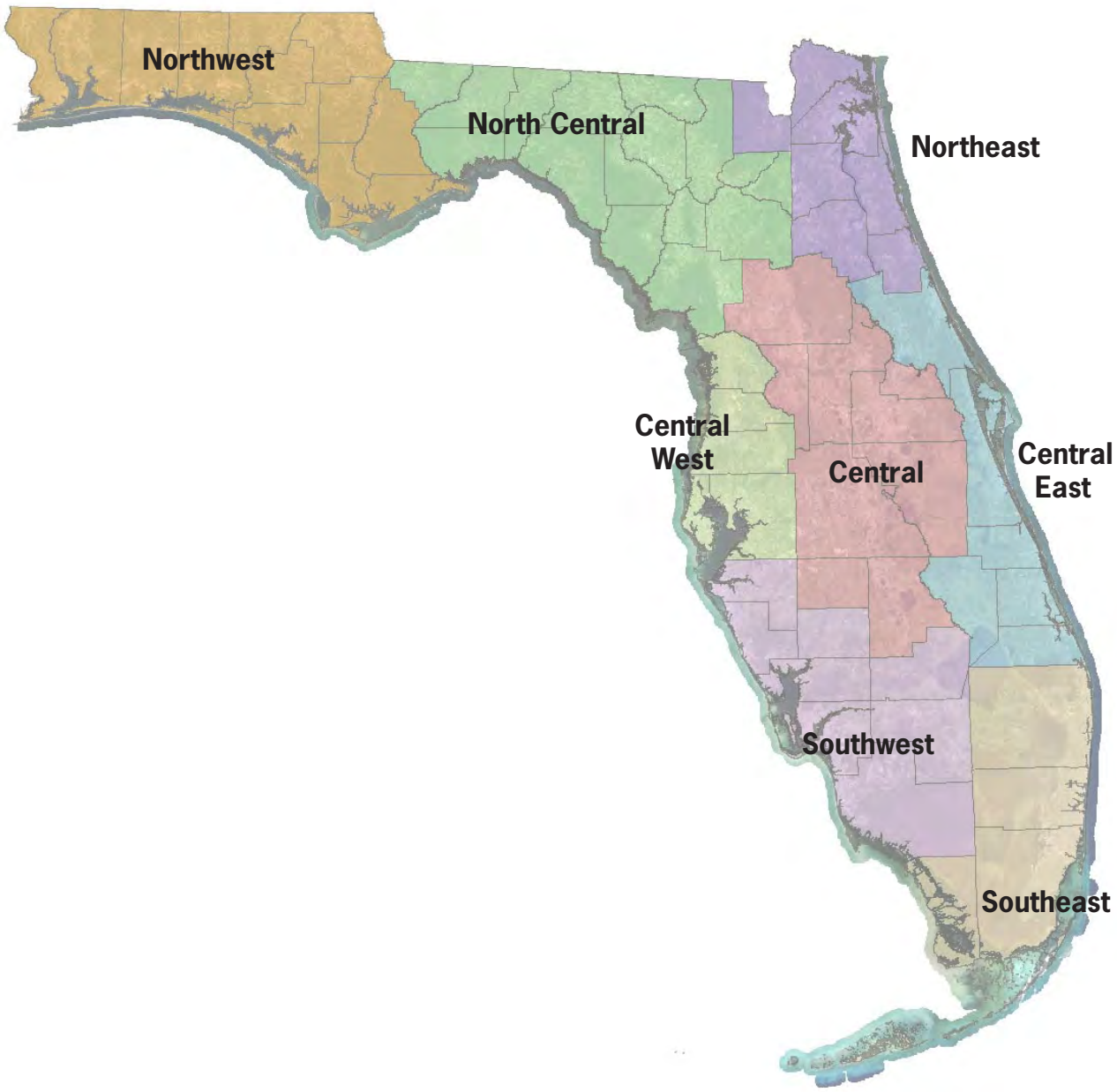
Private outdoor recreational enterprises constitute a significant element of the Florida economy and will continue to be relied upon to provide a major share of the outdoor recreation supply in the state. Coordination with the private sector is necessary to achieve more efficient development and operation of mutual programs, to improve and expand the ongoing inventory of private recreation sites and facilities, and to implement major recreation action program objectives. State-private liaison is established primarily through the trade organizations, conferences and networking opportunities such as the Governor's Conference on Tourism and VISIT FLORIDA, which is primarily involved with tourism promotion and an array of commercial recreation enterprises. In addition, the DRP consults formally and informally with representatives of various clubs and groups concerned with conservation and recreation to discuss and resolve matters of mutual concern. State representatives also attend various gatherings of private organizations to present and discuss state recreation policies and programs.

Planning Regions

The 2013-2018 plan divides the state into eight planning regions (see Figure 1.2) to establish consistency with VISIT FLORIDA planning regions, considering the strong ties between recreation and tourism. This format for recreation data analyses will facilitate a statewide and regional comparative analysis of recreation participation, demand and need with the state's current trends in tourism.

CONCLUSION

Florida is a leader in outdoor recreation across the nation and has made excellent progress in developing an outdoor recreation program to meet the needs of its residents and visitors. The need is still great, however, and demand for outdoor recreation opportunities will evolve and continue to grow in tandem with the state's population. Whether for the health and welfare of Florida's people, the stability of its tourist oriented economy or the prudent management of its natural resources, a carefully planned and effectively implemented outdoor recreation program is a major public need today. This plan provides a foundation for such a program in Florida.



SCORP Planning Regions

Figure 1.2

Chapter Two - Florida's Outdoor Recreation Setting

This chapter provides an overview of the social and physical setting for outdoor recreation in Florida. As Florida moves through the 21st Century, its astonishing rate of population growth continues.

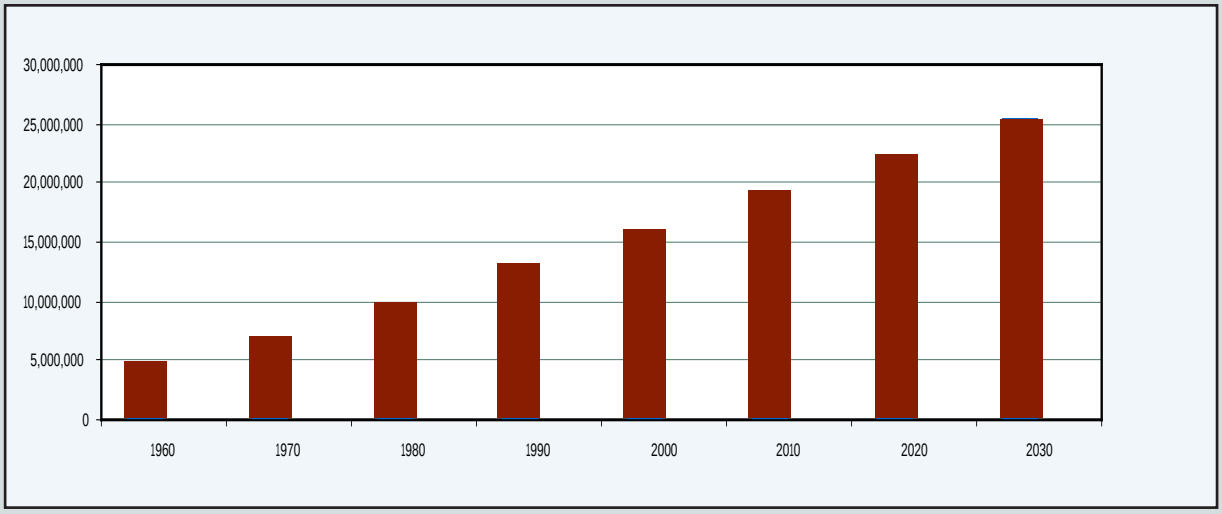
FLORIDA'S PEOPLE AND ECONOMY

Florida's population was 18.8 million in 2010 according to the 2010 U.S. Census, a 17.6 percent increase from 2000. Today, Florida is the fourth most-populated state in the nation and its population is projected to reach nearly 24.5 million by 2025.

The 2010 Census in Florida reported a rise in the Hispanic/Latino population from roughly 17 percent (2000 Census) to 22.5 percent – making Hispanics the fastest growing segment of the population in the state. In addition to becoming more culturally diverse, Florida's population is also getting older. In 2010, 17.3 percent of Floridians were aged 65 or older, compared to the national average of 13 percent. Florida's median age of 40.7 was fifth highest in the nation (the national average is 37.2 years), an upward shift compared to 38.7 in 2000. The state's rapid population growth, increasing ethnic diversity and the shift in age of its population will create complex challenges affecting many aspects of the state's social and economic framework. The planning and coordination of Florida's system of outdoor recreation programs will be affected by these changes.

If current trends continue, most of the new population will concentrate in relatively unpopulated counties adjacent to the highly developed metropolitan areas, particularly along the coast. As these areas become more crowded, problems such as loss of open space and natural areas, crowding and a higher cost of living will provide an impetus for further expansion into more rural areas. This sprawling pattern of growth reduces the availability of outdoor recreation land and facilities unless more land is acquired and more facilities developed in pace with the expansion. Ensuring that an adequate base of land for both user-oriented and resource-based recreation is acquired and sufficient

Florida's Population, 1960 to 2030



Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2008

Figure 2.1



Crowds enjoy Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park in Dade County

funding resources are available for facilities development and operations continues to be a major challenge for recreation planning and programming in Florida.

To ensure a continued high quality of life in Florida, the amenities provided by the statewide outdoor recreation program must be coupled with a healthy social and economic climate. Among socioeconomic variables, income is a major factor in determining the ability of people to participate in many kinds of recreational activity. Unfortunately, during the past five years the nation has faced substantial economic challenges, and Florida is no exception. Between 2008 and 2009, per capita annual income in Florida dropped by roughly $2,600 to $37,382. This appears to have been the worst of the economic downturn as, in response to a slowly-improving national and state economic performance, incomes rose to an estimated $39,636 per capita in 2011, returning to near the 2008 level (Bureau of Economic Analysis). Significantly, Florida's unemployment rate has surpassed the national average every year since 2008, and currently stands at 8.1 percent (November 2012), compared to a 7.7 percent national average. There is no certainty that pre-2008 economic growth rates and unemployment figures will return in the near future. The health of the state and local economies will always directly affect the public resources available to support outdoor recreation. Therefore, current economic conditions and subsequent financial support for recreation will continue as priority issues for recreation system planning in Florida.

Tourism-based activities support a major share of Florida's economy. An estimated 87.3 million tourists visited Florida in 2011, a 6 percent increase from 2010. Taxable spending in the tourism and recreation category during 2011 totaled $67.2 billion, according to data from VISIT FLORIDA, the official tourism marketing organization of the state. Many tourism leaders are cautiously optimistic that Florida will remain a preferred destination for both domestic and international travelers, although increased competition from other vacation destinations, potential high gasoline costs and increases in other travel costs are major concerns.

Visitor Estimates for Florida 2005-2011

YEAR	Annual Visitors (millions)	Percent Change
2005	83.6	NA
2006	83.9	.03%
2007	84.5	.07%
2008	84.2	- 0.4%
2009	80.9	NA*
2010	82.3	1.7%
2011	87.3	6%

**A new estimation methodology was introduced in 2009*

Table 2.1 *source: VISIT FLORIDA*

PHYSICAL SITUATION

Florida is an elongated peninsula with a total land area of 65,755 square miles, including 4,672 square miles of interior water. The state stretches 450 miles from north to south and 470 miles from east to west. This size makes Florida the second largest state east of the Mississippi River (Georgia being slightly larger). Despite its size, no point in Florida is more than 70 miles from either the Atlantic or Gulf coast. Florida's highly diverse coastline stretches 1,350 miles around the peninsula. To the north, Florida shares common boundaries with Alabama and Georgia.

CLIMATE

Florida's climate is one of its primary assets and perhaps the single, most important factor contributing to the love of outdoor recreation by residents and visitors. Florida lies completely within the temperate zone, yet its climate, particularly in the lower peninsula, is subtropical, with wet, humid summers and relatively dry, cool winters. The influence of the waters of the Gulf of Mexico on the west and the Atlantic Ocean on the east tends to moderate seasonal temperature extremes. Most of the state enjoys a long, warm summer, relatively minor seasonal transitions, and a short, mild winter. The mean annual temperature ranges from the upper 60s in the northern portions of the state to the upper 70s in the south. Florida's abundant rainfall is seasonal. Most of the state's average annual rainfall of 54 inches consists of short summer showers. In the winter months, when sunshine is so conducive to outdoor activity, Florida enjoys the greatest average percentage of seasonal sunshine in the eastern United States.

Florida's geography makes it extremely vulnerable to tropical storms. These cyclonic weather systems have always been a part of Florida's natural climatic patterns, but in 2004, one tropical storm and four major hurricanes made landfall along Florida's coastline, impacting nearly 85 percent of the state's beaches. As the science surrounding climate change makes it clearer that carbon emissions are affecting global climate, the state's outdoor recreation resources may be more vulnerable to the effects of climate

Spotlight

Florida's Recreation and Leisure-Based Tourism

There are many reasons why Florida is a popular place to visit and vacation. Beautiful beaches, theme parks, access to water and climate are all well-known draws for people to come to the state. Arguably, many of Florida's most unique traits are rooted in its landscape, leading millions of people each year to participate in outdoor recreation and leisure activities while in Florida.

According to VISIT FLORIDA research, the percentages of tourists who choose to visit the state because of outdoor opportunities is significant.

Percentage of visitors who came to Florida primarily for recreation and leisure



change than many other states. Changes in climate can affect water temperatures and salinity, disrupting natural conditions in sensitive areas such as coastal wetlands and coral reefs. Coastal erosion has also compromised many of the state's important saltwater beaches, necessitating costly restoration and stabilization efforts to protect this vital component of Florida's economy and culture.

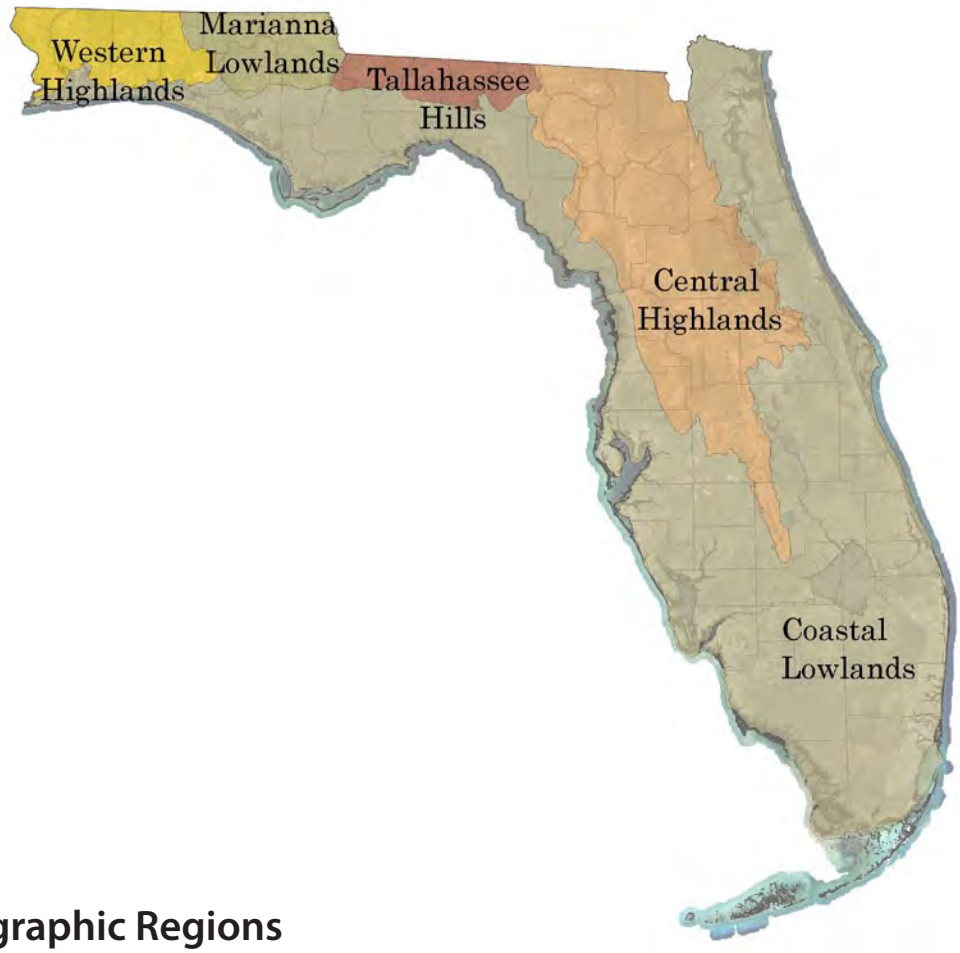
GEOLOGY

Florida occupies only about half of a larger geological unit, the Floridian Plateau. This plateau is a partly submerged platform nearly 500 miles long and 250 to 400 miles wide. It separates the deep waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The submerged portions of the plateau are called the continental shelf, extending out to an ocean depth of about 300 feet. The plateau has been in existence for millions of years, during which time it has been alternately dry land or shallow sea. It consists of a core of metamorphic rocks buried under layers of sedimentary rocks (chiefly limestone) which vary in thickness from a little less than a mile to upwards of four miles.

PHYSIOGRAPHY

Five physical or natural regions are commonly identified in the state. They are the **Western Highlands**, the **Marianna Lowlands**, the **Tallahassee Hills**, the **Central Highlands**, and the **Coastal Lowlands** (see Figure 2.3).

The **Western Highlands** includes most of the Florida Panhandle between the Perdido and Apalachicola Rivers, north of the Coastal Lowlands. It is a southward-sloping plateau,



Physiographic Regions

Figure 2.2

hilly in the northern part and trenched by narrow steep-walled stream valleys. The higher hills in the northern part of the plateau are over 300 feet in elevation and include the highest measured elevation in the state - 345 feet.

The **Marianna Lowlands**, west of the Apalachicola River, is a low, rolling hill and sinkhole region, with numerous small lakes. This region occupies a roughly quadrilateral area, with its southern and western limits marked by a rise to the Western Highlands. The elevation is due to the increasing thickness of sand covering the limestone base that lies near the land surface.

The **Tallahassee Hills** region, north of the Coastal Lowlands, stretches from the Apalachicola River to the northern Withlacoochee River. It is approximately 100 miles wide by 25 miles in length and is characterized by long, gentle slopes with rounded summits.

The **Central Highlands** region extends from the Tallahassee Hills and the Okefenokee Swamp in the north almost to Lake Okeechobee in the south. Its length is about 250 miles. The width tapers from 60 miles in its northern portions down to a blunt point at the southern boundary. Much of the northern part is a nearly level plain approximately 150 feet above sea level. The western part consists of hills and hollows interspersed with broad, low plains. This sub-region ranges in altitude from 200 feet to less than 40 feet above sea level. Adjoining this sub-region to the east and extending southward to the end of the Central Highlands is a sub-region known as the Lake Region. It is characterized by numerous lakes and high hills of up to 325 feet above sea level.

The **Coastal Lowlands** forms the entire Florida coastline, including the Florida Keys, and reaches inland as much as 60 miles at some points. The inner edge generally lies along the 100' contour line. In recent geologic times, these lowlands were marine terraces and experienced three or more successive inundations by higher sea levels. This is a flat region, except where ancient shorelines or dune ridges occur or where the surface has been modified by stream erosion or underground solution. The Gulf coast has the appearance of a drowned coastline, one that is sinking into the sea. The east coast has the appearance of an emergent coast, one that is rising from the sea. In fact, sea levels on both coasts are rising very gradually as the result of changes in global climatic patterns.

HYDROLOGY

More than 2.8 million acres of Florida are covered by water. This includes some 7,000 natural and man-made lakes larger than ten acres, as well as marshes, swamps and seasonal floodplains.

Most of the defined river systems in Florida are in the northern half of the state. South Florida's lack of these systems is due to its differing geological history and flatter terrain. Drainage in south Florida occurs through broad, shallow channels, most of which have been altered extensively by man for purposes of reclamation and water management. In addition to the thousands of lakes and the thousands of miles of streams, wetlands comprise a major component of the state's surface waters. It has been estimated that in 1973, wetlands and their associated open-water areas accounted for approximately one-third of Florida's total area. An overview of wetlands in Florida, including a description of wetland protection efforts is contained in Appendix I.

A considerable amount of drainage in Florida goes into and through the underlying limestone rock, forming a groundwater reservoir. This underground reservoir, or aquifer, discharges tremendous quantities of fresh water to wells and to some of the world's largest springs. Florida has 33 first magnitude springs, discharging more than six billion gallons of water per day. The combined flow of all the state's springs is estimated to be eight billion gallons per day.



Manatee calf and mother, Blue Spring State Park

Between Florida's offshore waters and its inland fresh waters are sheltered coastal waters generally referred to as estuaries. Estuaries form where the flow of fresh water from inland rivers and streams meets coastal waters. Estuaries are among Florida's most biologically productive waters, and are vital to the state's commercial and sports fisheries.

VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

Vegetation dominates the Florida landscape. More than 65 percent of the state is covered by a seemingly endless variety of plant associations and natural communities. All of Florida's natural vegetation is significant from the standpoint of outdoor recreation. In addition to its obvious aesthetic qualities, it utilizes carbon dioxide and produces oxygen, absorbs wastes and maintains water quality, provides food and habitat for game and other forms of wildlife, and performs a host of other environmental functions that themselves contribute to outdoor recreation. Providing effective management of Florida's diverse native plant communities through prescribed burning, exotic plant control, hydrological restoration and other methods is critical for maintaining their biological and recreational values.

Florida's wildlife is as varied as the habitats that support it. Species range from those common throughout the southeastern United States to some that are virtually unknown elsewhere in the country such as the Florida panther, the Florida manatee and the



Indian Blanket Flower at Honeymoon Island State Park, credit: Sherry S. Werner

Florida scrub jay. Florida is inhabited by more than 490 bird species, 135 native, non-marine reptiles and amphibians, 250 native freshwater fish and nearly 80 mammals that spend all or part of their lives on land. These diverse wildlife resources provide a major attraction for outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Fish, both freshwater and saltwater, are exceptionally important to the economy and to outdoor recreation in Florida. Numerous game species play an important role as well. Non-game species, particularly bird life, support nature observation and appreciation and a range of environmental education activities.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

There is evidence that man has inhabited Florida for approximately the last 12,000 years. Prehistoric cultures thrived in this hospitable area and left behind much evidence of their way of life. This evidence has become a source of wonder and curiosity for modern man. The story is still unfolding from professional exploration and analysis of the data from the many Native American mounds, other prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, and historic structures found throughout the state.



A typical 1940s crowd at American Beach, credit: Amelia Island Museum of History



Seminole at Ocali Country Days, Silver River State Park

In 1513, barely 20 years after the first voyage of Columbus, Florida was opened up to the western world by Spanish discovery. Thus began 450 years of exploration, colonization, settlement and development by Spanish, French, British, and American people, which constitute Florida's long and unique modern history.

Both of these eras, the Prehistoric and the Modern, combine to leave rich historical and cultural resources. These resources provide abundant opportunity for a highly popular form of outdoor recreation, visiting historical and archaeological sites.

Chapter Three - Outdoor Recreation Programs and Supply

Florida's outdoor recreation program is the collaborative effort of many federal, state and local governments and private organizations, businesses and non-governmental organizations to fund, manage, and support opportunities for outdoor recreation. The following sections discuss the various roles in providing outdoor recreation, and describe how the multitude of outdoor recreation programs contribute to the overall supply of outdoor recreation in Florida.

ROLES IN PROVIDING OUTDOOR RECREATION

Some division of responsibility is needed if the state's diverse public outdoor recreation needs are to be efficiently met. It is not reasonable, for example, to expect that agencies charged with managing state parks, forests and wildlife or water management areas would also be responsible for local ball fields, tennis courts and neighborhood parks.

State government has the responsibility for promoting and coordinating all outdoor recreation efforts beneficial to the general public. It is the only level of government where this task can be accomplished effectively, especially when the resources on which the recreation is based crosses jurisdictional boundaries as in a regional or statewide trail. Thus, the state must try to ensure, either directly or indirectly, that the public's demand for outdoor recreation is brought into a reasonable balance, at least in a broad regional context, with the supply of opportunities. Rather than meet these needs entirely through state-level programs, the state should assume responsibility for ensuring that needs are met through the planned and coordinated efforts of state, federal and local governments and private interests.

As far as its direct programming efforts are concerned, the state's primary responsibility is to provide resource-based outdoor recreation. It accomplishes this through the acquisition of lands and development of facilities necessary to make natural and cultural outdoor recreation resources of regional or statewide significance available to the public. The extensive land requirements, the typical location outside urban centers, and the higher costs of operation have led the state to assume this role as a bridge between the large, nationally significant parks managed by the federal government and the community playgrounds and recreational facilities traditionally provided by local governments. No other level of government can meet this vital responsibility.



Oak Grove Park Fitness Zone in Miami-Dade County, credit: Allana Wesley White/The Trust for Public Land

User-oriented outdoor recreation, like other local services, is largely the responsibility of local government. The need exists primarily in the urban areas and it increases in proportion to the degree of urbanization. Although local governments have focused primarily on user-oriented recreation, many counties have established excellent conservation and environmental land acquisition programs and have contributed to the provision of many types of resource-based recreation. In general, however,



Horseback riding at privately run R.O. Ranch Equestrian Park in Mayo, Florida

local governments are the primary entities responsible for user-oriented recreation.

All local governments, large or small, are faced with the task of providing the full range of recreational opportunities that are so important to the well-being of their citizens. These include everything from cultural arts programs to nature trails. Local governments are finding it increasingly difficult to accomplish this, particularly in light of escalating costs and the national economic downturn.

While the state's primary thrust in its outdoor recreation efforts is directed toward resource-based outdoor recreation, a substantial effort is made to assist local governments with financial support and technical assistance for meeting their needs for user-oriented recreation facilities. Three programs — the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program, the Florida Communities Trust Program and the Florida Recreational Trails Program — provide local governments with funds in the form of matching grants for acquiring and developing recreational lands and facilities. The demonstrated priorities and needs of local governments are given full consideration in the allocation of funds from these programs.

Private recreation providers are a vital component of the state's outdoor recreation supply. Commercial providers meet a significant portion of the overall demand for both resource-based and user-oriented outdoor recreation in Florida, particularly tourist-generated demand. For example, commercial providers supply nearly 90 percent of the campsites in the state and meet a considerable portion of the overall demand for camping facilities by residents and visitors.

Non-profit organizations include private and quasi-public organizations such as the scouts, church groups and conservation organizations.

These groups provide land and facilities primarily for the use of their members, but in some cases for the public at large.

Clubs and other organizations not certified as non-profit by the Florida Department of State (DOS), such as hunt clubs, country clubs, yacht clubs and others, manage lands and facilities that are primarily available only to organization members and their guests. In doing so, they can relieve some of the pressure that is often placed on overcrowded public facilities. In addition, private industry lands (timber companies and other industries with extensive land holdings whose lands or portions thereof are open to the public) are used for resource-based recreation, although some forms of user-oriented facilities are also available. In recent years, however, many such areas have been withdrawn from use by the general public, particularly for hunting, and are now available only to leaseholders or others who have access to the lands.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS

In response to an ever-growing and ever-changing public demand, a variety of outdoor recreation programs have developed in Florida through the years. Although both private and public efforts have served this demand, most of the formal outdoor recreation programs have been instituted by various levels of government. Both state and federal agencies have been extensively involved, and practically every county and municipality in Florida conducts some outdoor recreation programs of its own. Many of these diverse programs have evolved more out of expediency than by careful design. As a result, there has been much duplication and overlap. Fortunately, however, most of the legitimate outdoor recreation needs in the state have been met in some fashion by concerted efforts to coordinate these governmental programs.

Florida's outdoor recreation providers can be classified into five categories: federal government, state government, county government, municipal government and private sector providers. Both federal and state agencies are concerned with areas and facilities designed to accommodate the demand for resource-based outdoor recreation. County and municipal governments are the primary suppliers of the public facilities needed for user-oriented recreation, although some also provide areas and facilities to meet part of the need for resource-based outdoor recreation. Private recreation providers, non-profit organizations, clubs and other organizations not certified as non-profit by the Florida Department of State, such as hunt clubs, country clubs, yacht clubs and others, are a vital component of the state's outdoor recreation supply and meet a significant portion of the overall demand for both resource-based and user-oriented outdoor recreation in Florida.

The following describes the specific programs of the various categories of public and private recreation providers. Although the public agencies discussed in this section may have other responsibilities, only those related to outdoor recreation opportunities are addressed.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The federal government has responsibility for developing recreational facilities and programs that provide public opportunities that are not, or cannot, be made available by state or local government.

Federal roles in outdoor recreation are broad in scope and run the gamut from dredging waterways, lock and levee construction and maintenance, endangered species protection and habitat preservation, and providing crucial funds for many programs through federal grants. Federal agencies coordinate and cooperate on resource protection efforts such as protecting wilderness areas, designating wild and scenic rivers, and implementing trail connectivity projects that require inter-jurisdictional management. The core mission of most of the federal agencies, with the exception of the National Park Service, is not recreation per se. However,

Spotlight

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The National Park Service administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a federal program that provides funding for park acquisition and development projects. The LWCF provided over $16 million to local governments between 2004 and 2011, resulting in the establishment and improvement of over 80 different parks throughout Florida.

Bartlett Park, an urban park located in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood of St. Petersburg, received $200,000 through the LWCF program. The grant helped add lighted soccer and football fields, water features, an observation deck, fishing docks, hiking trail extensions, and funded the renovation of basketball courts, tennis courts, and playground equipment.



by the nature of their settings - the national forests, wildlife refuges, military installations, dams and locks, waterways and estuaries of the state - these vast tracts of federal land are key locations for outdoor recreation and play a vital role in the state's outdoor recreation supply.

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) has the specific mission to conserve the scenery and natural resources of national parks and provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Besides active land management for outdoor recreation, the federal agencies administer financial and technical assistance programs to aid state and local agencies and private citizens.

In Florida, NPS's mission includes:

- Managing 11 areas comprising approximately 2.6 million acres of submerged and upland areas set aside for their natural or historic interest.
- Administering the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, which provided more than $16 million to local governments between 2004 and 2011 to fund 87 park acquisition and development projects. These funds are awarded to meet recreation needs identified through an open selection process described in Appendix D.
- Maintaining the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 United States Code 470).
- Designating significant properties or landmarks of national historical or archaeological interest, as defined in the Historic Sites Act of 1936 (16 United States Code 461), including districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects of state and regional significance.



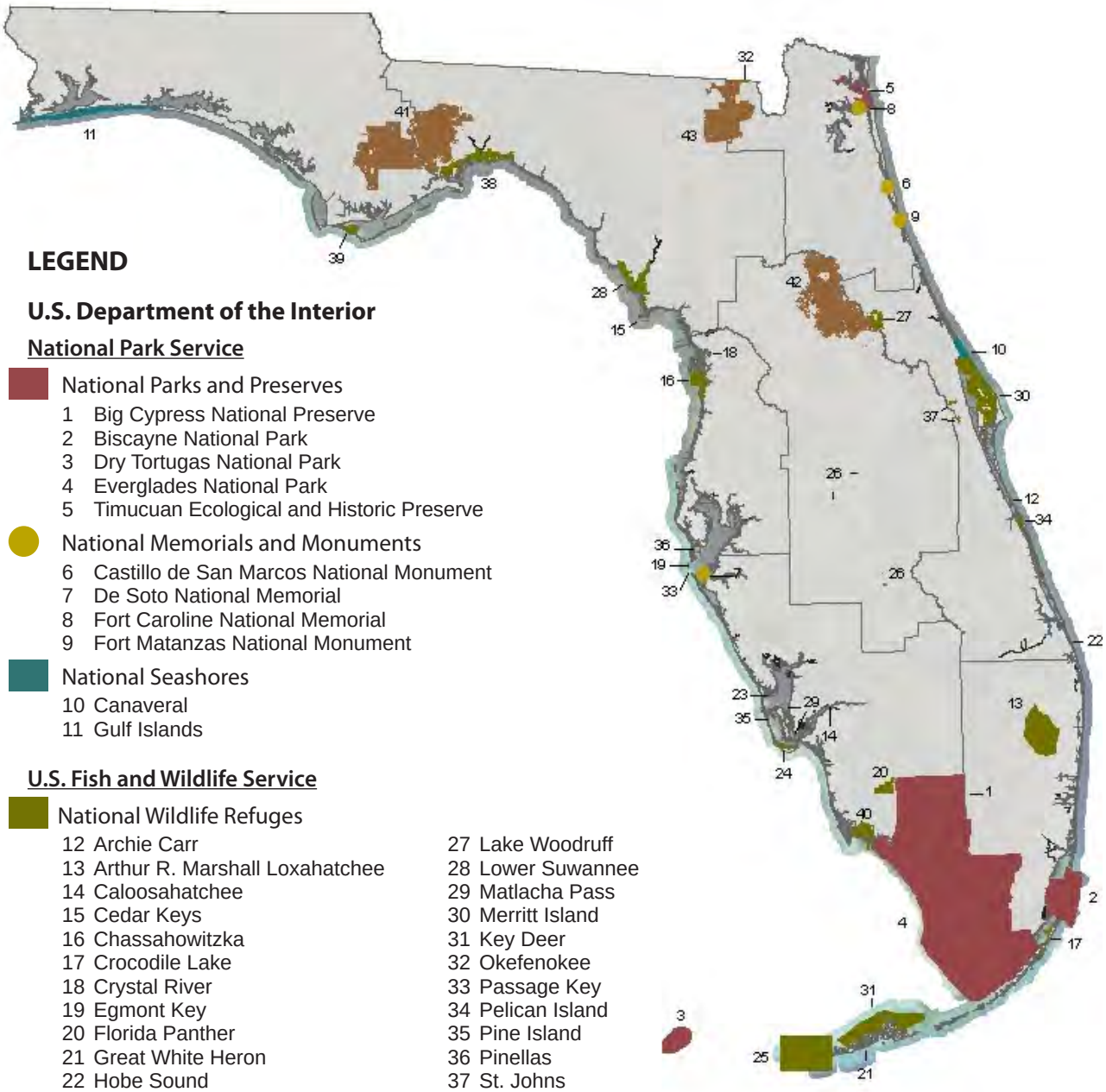
Fort Jefferson Dry Tortugas National Park, credit: National Park Service

Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities by Category of Provider, Statewide 2012

Facilities	Federal	State	County	Municipal	Non-Government	Total
Outdoor Recreation Areas	70	715	4,000	5,424	3,105	13,314
Land (in Acres)	4,600,730	4,697,593	422,331	113,022	410,594	10,244,270
Water (in Acres)	855,076	2,805,714	50,580	7,278	24,385	3,743,033
Acres TOTAL	5,455,806	7,503,307	472,911	120,300	434,979	13,987,303
Cabins	37	240	103	14	3,136	3,530
Tent Campsites	1,026	1,087	1,223	195	4,768	8,299
RV Campsites	2,138	4,778	3,531	1,451	118,750	130,648
Historic Sites	390	1,182	239	188	190	2,189
Commemorative Structures	9	26	33	148	38	254
Museums	25	103	136	116	163	543
Picnic Tables	1,966	9,345	26,375	24,060	56,373	118,119
Hunting Areas (Acres)	2,065,648	3,324,594	15,002	0	22,952	5,428,196
Bike Trails (Miles Paved)	73.5	358.5	600.8	439.6	63.5	1,536
Bike Trails (Miles Unpaved)	144	2,512.4	816.1	232.3	49.7	3,755
Canoe Trails (Miles)	517	997.6	247.6	136.6	309	2,208
Hiking Trails (Miles)	974	4,460.9	2,834.9	353.9	282.8	8,907
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	120.7	2,291.9	642.9	156.9	169.4	3,382
Jogging Trails (Miles)	71.4	312.1	638.3	263.7	71.3	1,357
OHV Trails (Miles)	401	286	0.2	0.7	0	688
Nature Trails (Miles)	310	278.5	707.5	375.9	208.2	1,880
Freshwater Beach (Miles)	0.7	4.1	17.4	6.7	9.3	38
Freshwater Boat Ramps	89	266	614	297	366	1,632
Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	98	288	756	362	417	1,921
Freshwater Catwalks	12	2,839	205	244	231	3,531
Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	907	28,229	193,958	60,385	25,507	308,986
Freshwater Jetties	120	120	3,849	75,125	1,306	80,520
Freshwater Marinas	6	17	7	18	297	345
Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	51	86	234	682	10,218	11,271
Freshwater Piers	27	72	256	276	86	717
Freshwater Piers (Feet)	4,515	4,388	18,998	27,938	41,452	97,291
Saltwater Beach (Miles)	139	125	93.8	80.5	36.7	475
Saltwater Boat Ramps	35	45	278	258	314	930
Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	52	59	455	359	351	1,276
Saltwater Catwalks	53	52	363	192	145	805
Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	23,044	20,541	72,542	54,857	42,161	213,145
Saltwater Jetties	10,120	11,603	14,389	26,769	9,964	72,845
Saltwater Marinas	11	32	22	65	618	748
Saltwater Marinas (Slips)	698	401	1,311	5,409	36,601	44,420
Saltwater Piers	17	41	148	155	102	463
Saltwater Piers (Feet)	7,506	20,032	37,509	50,905	19,703	135,655
Baseball Fields	51	66	2,609	2,804	181	5,711
Basketball Goals	55	103	3,791	3,507	647	8,103
Equipped Play Areas	52	92	1,889	2,746	449	5,228
Football Fields	18	48	1,043	936	91	2,136
Golf Courses, 18-Hole	8	3	14	63	800	888
Golf Courses, 9-Hole	5	2	13	20	138	178
Golf Courses, Executive	1	1	3	11	190	206
Golf Holes Total	207	75	399	1,459	16,884	19,024
Multi-Use Courts	6	12	406	375	159	958
Multi-Use Fields	9	56	980	810	235	2,090
Outdoor Swimming Pools	15	27	157	324	1,505	2,028
Racquetball Courts	19	187	644	733	265	1,848
Shuffleboard Courts	6	13	365	1,710	2,353	4,447
Tennis Courts	78	331	1,777	2,767	4,216	9,169
Volleyball Courts	1	50	355	331	46	783

Table 3.1

Federal Recreation Lands by Managing Agency



LEGEND

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Parks and Preserves

1 Big Cypress National Preserve
2 Biscayne National Park
3 Dry Tortugas National Park
4 Everglades National Park
5 Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

National Memorials and Monuments

6 Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
7 De Soto National Memorial
8 Fort Caroline National Memorial
9 Fort Matanzas National Monument

National Seashores

10 Canaveral
11 Gulf Islands

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wildlife Refuges

12 Archie Carr
13 Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee
14 Caloosahatchee
15 Cedar Keys
16 Chassahowitzka
17 Crocodile Lake
18 Crystal River
19 Egmont Key
20 Florida Panther
21 Great White Heron
22 Hobe Sound
23 Island Bay
24 J.N. Ding Darling
25 Key West
26 Lake Wales Ridge
27 Lake Woodruff
28 Lower Suwannee
29 Matlacha Pass
30 Merritt Island
31 Key Deer
32 Okefenokee
33 Passage Key
34 Pelican Island
35 Pine Island
36 Pinellas
37 St. Johns
38 St. Marks
39 St. Vincent
40 Ten Thousand Islands

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service

National Forests

41 Apalachicola National Forest
42 Ocala National Forest
43 Osceola National Forest

Figure 3.1

Federal Agency Outdoor Recreation Resources				
Region	**# of Recreation Areas**	**Land** (in Acres)	**Water** (in Acres)	**Acres Total**
Northwest	11	871,043	12,653	883,696
North Central	4	518,415	2,746	521,161
Northeast	9	132,764	405	133,169
Central West	6	24,605	10,007	34,612
Central	3	498,693	10,000	508,693
Central East	13	111,360	174,560	285,920
Southwest	14	610,253	22,052	632,305
Southeast	10	1,833,597	622,653	2,456,250
Statewide	70	4,600,730	855,076	5,455,806

Table 3.2

- Partnering with other federal agencies as well as state and local government programs designed to achieve national goals such as clean air, protection of wilderness areas, clean water and access to waterways and coastal areas under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Water Resources Development Act.
- Providing matching grants through the Historic Preservation Grants-in-Aid Program, an expansion of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, to government, private groups and individuals for historic preservation surveys, planning activities and community education. These programs are administered in Florida by the Division of Historic Resources (DHR) within DOS.
- Administering the Federal Lands-to-Parks Program, which enables states and local governments to establish park and recreation areas on federal properties which are no longer needed for military or civilian uses by conveying lands for that purpose.
- Coordinating the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program by providing planning assistance to communities for projects that are designed to protect rivers, trails and greenways on lands outside of the federal domain.

National Trail System

The National Trail System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-543), authorized creation of a national trail system comprised of National Recreation Trails, National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails. While National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails may only be designated by congressional act, National Recreation Trails may be designated by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture to recognize exemplary trails of local and regional significance, upon application from the trail managing agency or organization. When designated, these trails are recognized as part of the National Trail System.

In order to be certified as a National Scenic Trail, a trail must contain outstanding recreation opportunities and encompass more than 100 miles of a continuous, primarily non-motorized trail. Eleven National Scenic Trails have been designated across the nation. A total of 1,400 miles of hiking trails across

Florida were designated as the Florida National Scenic Trail in 1983. The Florida National Scenic Trail is further discussed under the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) on page 25.

National Historic Trails commemorate historic and prehistoric routes of travel that are significant to the nation. Throughout the United States, there are 19 National Historic Trails made up of 33,002 miles of designated trails. These trails provide user experiences through a series of interpretive facilities along trails and signed automobile routes. There are currently no National Historic Trails in Florida.

National Recreation Trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a variety of urban, rural and remote settings. A total of 30 trails including more than 550 miles of land-based trails and 1,700 miles of paddling trails have been designated in Florida. These trails are managed by federal, state, county and municipal agencies and run the spectrum from urban jogging and bicycling in St. Petersburg to wilderness canoeing in the Everglades.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, is to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. This mission is accomplished by enforcing federal wildlife laws, protecting endangered species, managing migratory birds, restoring nationally significant fisheries and conserving and restoring wildlife habitat including wetlands. USFWS also distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies across the nation. The activities of USFWS in Florida include:

- Management of 28 national wildlife refuges, comprising nearly one million acres of land and water. Most of the refuges are limited-purpose outdoor recreation areas that provide bird watching, wildlife observation, fishing, environmental education and interpretation and at some refuges, public hunting. In addition, the Service manages a national fish hatchery in Welaka and maintains law enforcement facilities at six locations.
- Administration of federal aid programs, including Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act and Wallop-Breaux Act), Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) and Wildlife Partnership Act (conservation of non-game species). These grant programs are managed in Florida by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Grants to Florida under the Clean Vessel Act (clean boating programs) are managed by the Clean Marina Program in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of External Affairs.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) provides leadership in the management, protection and use of the nation's forests and rangelands. The agency is dedicated to multiple-use management of these lands for sustained yields of renewable resources such as wood, water, forage, wildlife and recreation to meet the diverse needs of people. The responsibility of USFS in the field of outdoor recreation is to fully develop the recreational potential of national forests and protect landscape aesthetics. USFS also cooperates with other federal, state and local agencies in planning and developing recreational resources on other federal, state, local and private lands.

In Florida, USFS administers three national forests: the Apalachicola, the Ocala and the Osceola. Together these areas contain approximately 1.2 million acres of land and water, thus making a major contribution to the state's recreational resources. They contain some of Florida's most pristine lands including extensive woodlands, springs

and streams. Within the national forests, USFS manages numerous designated public recreation sites. Some of the sites are managed exclusively for dispersed recreational purposes, such as hiking, hunting, fishing and primitive camping.

Florida National Scenic Trail

USFS is the federal administering agency for the Florida National Scenic Trail. The Florida National Scenic Trail, designated by Congress in 1983, extends from the Big Cypress National Preserve north to the Gulf Islands National Seashore in the Florida Panhandle. Along the way, the Florida Trail passes through lands managed by more than two dozen public land managing agencies in more than 40 separate management units. USFS acts as a partner with state land management agencies and private landowners to obtain through-trail access for the project. The non-profit Florida Trail Association, Inc., through its volunteer membership of hiker-volunteers, provides nearly 70,000 hours of manpower each year to build and maintain the Florida National Scenic Trail and other hiking trails throughout Florida.

U.S. Department of Defense

The U.S. Department of Defense (USDOD) includes the Departments of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Each provides outdoor recreation opportunities in Florida. USDOD has 17 military installations in Florida that make lands available for recreational purposes. Although public outdoor recreation is not a primary function of USDOD, its contributions in this regard are nevertheless important to Florida's overall outdoor recreation program. Generally, all military installations offer some degree of outdoor recreation programs for military personnel, dependents and their guests. However, access to their resources for recreational use by the general public is usually limited.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Along with its primary responsibilities for navigation, flood risk management, environmental restoration and beach renourishment, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has made considerable efforts to provide recreational facilities. It is the policy of USACE to plan for and provide outdoor recreation resources and facilities at all of its water resources projects. For information of the Corps Recreational Opportunities visit www.corpslakes.us

USACE's general authority for recreational development stems from the Flood Control Act of 1944, which was later expanded by the Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 (16 United States Code 460). The latter act directs that each project give full



A scene from the Florida National Scenic Trail, credit: USFS



Dock fishing at Lake Okeechobee, credit: US Army Corps of Engineers

consideration to opportunities for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement, and it establishes outdoor recreation and preservation of wildlife and fish as a full project purpose.

Florida is divided into two USACE districts. The Mobile District manages recreation sites at the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam on Lake Seminole, a 37,500 acre impoundment in southern Georgia and Jackson County, Florida. Excellent opportunities for camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating are available.

The Jacksonville District manages Lake Okeechobee and the Okeechobee Waterway in southern Florida. Not only does this managed area provide extensive outdoor recreation opportunities, but its series of locks and canals provides a cross-Florida waterway that is popular among pleasure boaters and connects the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico via the lake and the Caloosahatchee River. A few of the outdoor recreation opportunities include three full-facility campgrounds along the Okeechobee waterway and the 110 mile Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail that runs along the top of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

In partnership with the South Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other federal, state, local and tribal agencies, the USACE is implementing the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), one of the world's largest wetland restoration projects. The project covers 16 counties and over 18,000 square miles. The Plan was approved by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, which was reauthorized by Congress in November 2007. It includes more than 60 elements and will require more than 30 years to construct at an estimated cost of $10.9 billion. The CERP Master Recreation Plan will provide guidance to assist recreation planning within CERP project fee title lands, and will help provide recreation opportunities that are compatible with the restoration purposes of the project.

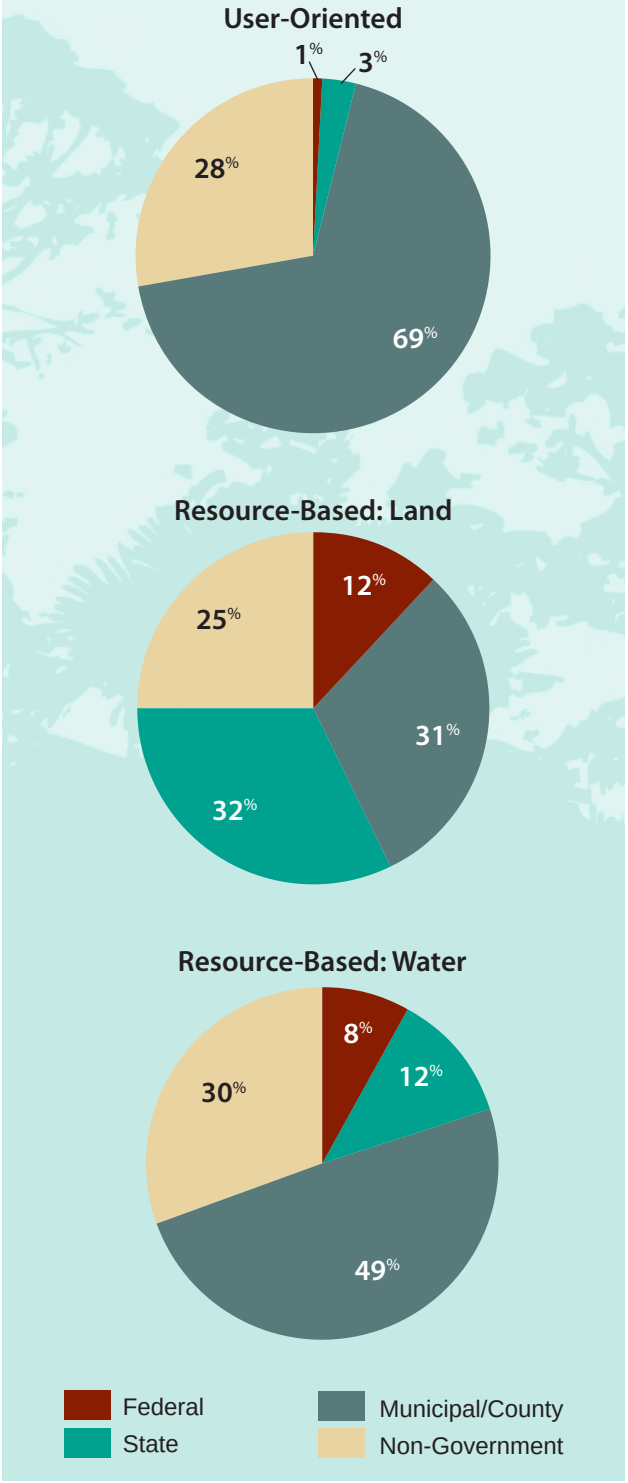
U.S. Department of Transportation

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) within the U.S. Department of Transportation provides grants to state and local governments for various recreational trail projects, including bicycle and

Spotlight

Supply Distribution

The distribution of recreational facilities and resources by level of provider in the state is illustrated in these charts.



pedestrian facilities, and scenic highways. The Recreational Trails Program provides funds to the states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized trail uses. The Office of Greenways and Trails in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks administers the financial assistance program in coordination with the FHWA.

The Transportation Enhancement Program provides funding for improvements that are not provided as part of the features routinely provided in transportation projects. Enhancements such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, preservation and conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails, landscaping and other scenic beautification projects have been provided in Florida through this program. Since 2008, a total of approximately $207.1 million in enhancement funds have been apportioned to Florida through the program.

The National Scenic Byways Program recognizes roads having outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational and archaeological qualities by designating them as National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads, America's Byways or State Scenic Byways. Grants and technical assistance are provided to the states to implement projects on designated byways, and to plan, design and develop a state scenic byway program. The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), in cooperation with FHWA, is the administering agency for the Florida Scenic Highway Program.

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a scientific and technical organization that works to preserve and enhance the nation's coastal resources and ecosystems. Its mission is to provide products, services and information that promote safe navigation, support coastal



Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

communities, sustain marine ecosystems and mitigate coastal hazards. The National Ocean Service provides assistance to Florida in observing, understanding and managing coastal and marine resources. Florida is an active partner in several programs that directly affect resource protection in Florida's coastal areas.

National Estuarine Research Reserves

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of estuarine areas across the nation established for long-term stewardship, research and education. Each reserve has developed an organized ecological research program containing extensive teacher training, education, research and monitoring. Findings are communicated to coastal managers and other decision makers, as well as local citizens. Florida contains three of these reserves: Apalachicola, Guana Tolomato Matanzas and Rookery Bay.

National Marine Sanctuaries

The National Marine Sanctuary Program designates and manages areas of the marine environment with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archaeological, educational or aesthetic qualities. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, one of 13 in the National Marine Sanctuaries System, covers 3,926 square miles and encompasses part of the most extensive living coral reef system in the nation.

National Coastal Zone Management Program

The National Coastal Zone Management Program fosters an effective partnership among federal, state and local governments. By leveraging federal and state matching funds, the program strengthens the capabilities of each partner to address coastal issues while giving states the flexibility to design a program that accommodates their unique coastal challenges.

The Florida Coastal Management program is administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Intergovernmental Programs. The state program serves as the lead coordinator with eight other state agencies and five water management districts in enforcing 23 statutes and implementing several coastal zone management programs in cooperation with NOAA. The program works to protect coastal resources, build and maintain vital communities, enhance coastal access, protect remarkable places and revitalize working waterfronts.

In 2002, the National Coastal Zone program initiated the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. The program is aimed at protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values and that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses. The Florida Coastal Management Program manages this grant program, which provides up to $3 million for each eligible project.

STATE PROGRAMS

The State of Florida's responsibilities for providing public recreation are fulfilled through a variety of facilities and programs, each unique to the mission of nine separate entities.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is charged with the protection, administration, management, supervision, development and conservation of Florida's natural and cultural resources.

This broad mandate is accomplished by direct acquisition and management of public outdoor recreation and conservation areas, as well as through major initiatives and agency priorities which contribute to a healthy ecosystem. DEP's functions include protecting and conserving Florida's water supply and its quality, protecting springs and oceans, restoring America's Everglades, acquiring, conserving and managing conservation and recreation lands, enforcing environmental laws and regulations, investing in cleaner sources of energy and protecting the health of Florida's communities.

Division of Recreation and Parks

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) develops and operates Florida's state park system and state greenways and trails for the benefit and enjoyment of Florida's citizens and visitors. The state park system contains many of the best remaining examples of Florida's original domain and cultural heritage. Units in the state park system are classified for management according to the natural and cultural resources they contain and the desired balance between resource preservation and public use.

Besides providing hundreds of thousands of acres for public recreational use, the state park system is the largest steward of public historic properties in the state. More than 83 parks contain significant historic resources, including almost 300 historic structures and more than 1,500 archaeological sites. These resources provide a broad array of unique interpretive and educational opportunities for residents and visitors. In addition to administering Florida's state park system, DRP also administers the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program provides financial assistance to eligible local governments, including the 67 county general governments and 412 incorporated municipalities of Florida. Funding from the program is awarded on a competitive basis that considers the total project costs and the economic status of the applicants among other evaluation criteria. Pursuant to Section 375.075, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 62D-5, Part V, Florida Administrative Code, DEP recommends to the Legislature each year that an appropriation of not less than five percent of the total amount credited annually to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund be authorized for the program.

Since 2001, the program has also received two percent of the bond proceeds made available through the Florida Forever program. Funding for the program has been awarded to approximately 1,031 projects for the last 10 fiscal year funding cycles.

Office of Greenways and Trails

The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) within the Division of Recreation and Parks provides statewide leadership and coordination to establish, expand and promote the Florida Greenways and Trails System. To fulfill its mission under the Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Chapter 260, F. S), OGT coordinates and implements

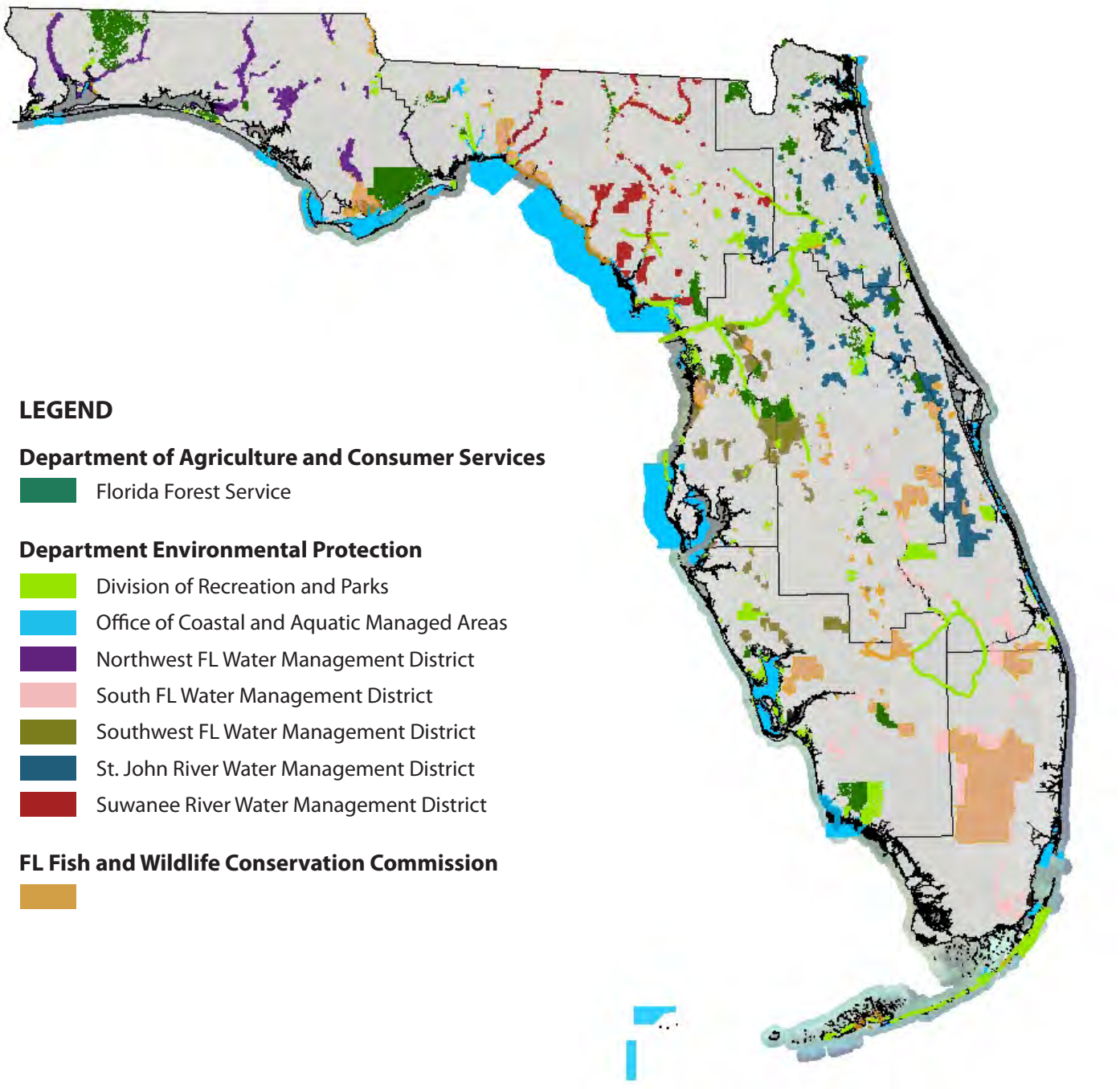
Spotlight

Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP)

The Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) is a state competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to local governments to develop and/or acquire land for public outdoor recreational purposes. Funding for the program has been awarded to approximately 1,031 projects for the last 10 fiscal year funding cycles.

Pasco County matched a $100,000 FRDAP grant to enhance access to Pithlachascotee River Preserve, using the funds to develop an interpretive boardwalk, playground, restrooms, parking and landscaping.

State Recreation Lands by Managing Agency



Source: Florida Natural Areas Inventory

Figure 3.2

State Agency Outdoor Recreation Resources				
Region	**# of Recreation Areas**	**Land** (in Acres)	**Water** (in Acres)	**Acres Total**
Northwest	83	835,357	359,030	1,194,387
North Central	168	565,149	1,028,469	1,593,618
Northeast	80	342,118	171,364	513,482
Central West	63	349,959	492,253	842,212
Central	108	656,916	103,374	760,290
Central East	88	479,219	113,589	592,808
Southwest	65	525,907	382,257	908,164
Southeast	68	942,968	155,378	1,098,346
Statewide	715	4,697,593	2,805,714	7,503,307

Table 3.3

the Plan for the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) in partnership with communities, businesses, agencies, the Florida Greenways and Trails Council and many other stakeholders. OGT also maintains and updates the vision maps that are a companion to the FGTS Plan, encompassing land-based trails, paddling trails and ecological greenways. The vision maps for land and paddling trails are included in Appendix C. OGT establishes the vision for the FGTS by identifying and coordinating greenways and trails planning efforts throughout Florida. OGT expands the statewide system through the acquisition of eligible projects under the Greenways and Trails component of the Florida Forever Program, and has partnerships with nearly 30 communities that develop and manage state acquired greenways and trails on behalf of OGT.

OGT coordinates with and provides technical assistance regarding the acquisition, development, designation and management of greenways and trails projects that fulfill the FGTS plan and vision. OGT administers the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), a federally funded competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to local

Spotlight

RTP and OGT Acquisition Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program have worked with over 70 communities across the state to develop and expand recreational trails.

RTP

The City of Chattahoochee developed the Chattahoochee Nature Trails, improving recreation opportunities by adding and improving more than three miles of trails and boardwalks, as well as parking, kiosk and a water fountain as support facilities. This recently completed project enhanced recreational opportunities in a “Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern” and was awarded the 2012 Recreation Trails Program Achievement Award.

Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program

The East Central Regional Rail Trail is the longest rail-to-trail acquisition in State of Florida history, stretching almost 51 miles between Volusia and Brevard Counties. The trail will connect three major tourism destinations in the state: the greater Orlando area, Kennedy Space Center, and Daytona’s beaches. The trail corridor was purchased by the state through the Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program, with Brevard and Volusia Counties responsible for construction and management of the trail. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the first completed section of the trail in February 2012.

communities for the development of trails. Since inception, RTP has assisted communities in 42 Florida counties to establish and expand their trails.

OGT disseminates information about the many benefits that greenways and trails provide to Florida residents and visitors. OGT provides information to residents and visitors about greenways and trails recreational opportunities through publications, e-newsletters, FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com and VisitFlorida.com/trails.

Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas

The Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) is the principal manager of submerged lands and their associated marine and aquatic resources in Florida. The Florida Aquatic Preserve Act of 1975 (Chapter 258, Part II, Florida Statutes), authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to maintain state owned submerged lands with exceptional biological, aesthetic and scientific value as aquatic preserves. These areas offer prime opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, paddling, snorkeling, diving and other water-related types of recreation. CAMA manages Florida's 41 aquatic preserves, including 37 saltwater and four freshwater sites, encompassing more than two million acres of sovereign submerged lands of the state. In cooperation with NOAA, CAMA manages approximately 240,000 acres of submerged land and coastal uplands in three national estuarine research reserves: Apalachicola, Guana Tolomato Matanzas and Rookery Bay. In addition, CAMA partners with NOAA to manage the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary contains 3,926 square miles of submerged lands around the 126 mile long Florida Keys, and encompasses the most extensive living coral reef system in the nation.
Through the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative and the Coral Reef Conservation Program, CAMA supports Florida's membership in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and the U.S. All Islands Committee. These programs coordinate research and monitoring, develop management strategies, and promote partnerships to protect the coral reefs, hard bottom communities and associated reef resources of southeast Florida.

Division of State Lands

Since 1968, Florida has invested approximately $7.8 billion through successive land acquisition programs to conserve approximately 3.8 million acres of land for environmental preservation, conservation and outdoor recreation purposes. The Division of State Lands (DSL) administers these land acquisition programs on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund and DEP. DSL also provides administrative oversight for approximately 11 million acres of state owned lands, including 700 freshwater springs, 4,510 islands of ten acres or more and 7,000 lakes.

Florida Forever

DSL administers the Florida Forever program, which was created by the 1999 Florida Legislature as the successor program to the Florida Preservation 2000 program established in 1990. Florida Forever supports a variety of land acquisition purposes, including the preservation of environmental, conservation, and water management lands and to provide grants to local governments. Since Florida Forever's inception, 683,003 acres of land and water have been acquired, reflecting an investment of more than $2.9 billion.

In 2008, Florida Forever was extended for another decade by the Florida Legislature. As part of the program's re-authorization, several important changes were made to the original program that was established in 1999. Two new land acquisition programs were created. The Rural and Family Lands Protection Act was established in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer

Services for the acquisition of agricultural lands through perpetual easements and other less-than-fee techniques. The Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts Program was created in the Department of Community Affairs, Florida Communities Trust, to preserve and restore working waterfronts and provide public access to Florida's waters. In 2011, the Florida Communities Trust and Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts programs were transferred to the Division of State Lands.

In addition to these new programs, greater emphasis was placed on providing public access to conservation lands, increasing accountability of public land management, protecting listed plant and animal species, and addressing climate change.

Florida Communities Trust

The Florida Communities Trust (FCT), established in 1989 to help local governments preserve parks, open space, beaches and natural areas, has created more livable communities throughout Florida. The FCT program was transferred to DSL in 2011. Matching and full grants for conservation and recreation land acquisition projects are provided to communities, as well as to non-profit environmental organizations, through an annual competitive application process. FCT receives 21 percent of annual proceeds from Florida Forever.

As of April 2012, more than 90,450 acres were acquired through the program. FCT has provided nearly $826 million of the $1.5 billion spent to acquire these lands, while local government partners have provided matching funds in excess of $695 million.

Division of Water Resource Management

The Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM) is responsible for protecting the quality of Florida's drinking water as well as its rivers, lakes and wetlands, and for reclaiming lands after they have been

Spotlight

Florida Communities Trust (FCT)

Florida Communities Trust provides matching and full grants for conservation and recreation land acquisition projects.

- *More than 90,450 acres acquired as of April 2012*
- *Nearly $826 million in project funding provided*
- *More than $695 million in matching funds from local government partners*

Acreage Pines Natural Area, a 123 acre parcel, was acquired by Palm Beach County with matching funds from FCT. Since the 2001 acquisition, restoration efforts have focused on removing exotic nonnative vegetation, introducing prescribed burns, and restoring hydrology to historic wetland levels. Additionally, public-use facilities were developed including an educational kiosk, a bicycle rack, an accessible nature trail and boardwalk spanning through a restored wetland to a wildlife observation platform, and 1,400 feet of natural-surface hiking trails.

The Acreage Pines Natural Area is within the footprint of the Northeast Everglades Natural Area, a multi-agency system of 165,000 acres of conservation lands and activity and education centers in northern Palm Beach County and southern Martin County that provide a wide-range of nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities.



Acreage Pines Natural Area



Acreage Pines Trail

mined for phosphate and other minerals. Its programs establish the technical basis for setting the state's surface water and ground water quality standards, which are critical to maintaining the viability of water resources for public outdoor recreational use. By 2030, Floridians are expected to use about two billion gallons more fresh water each day. The Water Protection and Sustainability Program, created in 2005, has the task of increasing alternative water supplies to meet existing and future water supply needs. DEP's 2011 Annual Report on Regional Water Supply Planning describes the highlights and accomplishments of this program. The report also describes the progress of the state's five water management districts in meeting Florida's future demands for water.

Coastal protection and restoration are vital in preserving one of Florida's most valuable natural resources - its 825 miles of sandy shoreline fronting the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Straits of Florida. As of 2011, more than 222 miles of beach have been restored as a result of the Beach Erosion Control Program, working in concert with other agencies and local governments to protect, preserve and restore coastal sandy beaches. Financial assistance in an amount up to 50 percent of project costs is available to county and municipal governments, community development districts and special taxing districts for shore protection and preservation. In addition to beach restoration and nourishment, funds are also available for construction of dune walkovers and parking facilities for public access. Through 2011, more than $739.5 million has been appropriated by the Florida Legislature for beach erosion control activities and hurricane damage recovery.

Bureau of Mine Reclamation

DWRM's Mine Reclamation Program regulates surface mine reclamation through a review and monitoring process. Originally established in the late 1980s to regulate, restore and reclaim phosphate-mined land, the program has evolved into a habitat and wildlife management program. The Bureau periodically funds reclamation of phosphate lands mined before mid-1975 and develops, as well as manages, extensive habitat corridors in Florida's mining areas. To date, 46,524 acres have been reclaimed through the funding program, with 6,835 acres under active reclamation; $127 million has been disbursed to landowners reclaiming mined lands with nearly $27 million more committed to ongoing reclamation. Today, the program is responsible for managing 23 state-owned parcels along the Peace and Alafia Rivers and in the Green Swamp to implement long-term management activities needed for protection of the these greenways, wildlife corridors and riparian buffers.

Office of Sustainable Initiatives

Clean Marina Program

In 1992, Congress enacted the Clean Vessel Act, which established a federal grant program administered by USFWS to reduce pollution from vessel sewage discharges. Funding comes from the Sport Fishing Restoration Program account made up of revenues from excise taxes on fishing equipment, boats and motorboat fuels. The Clean Marina Program is a cooperative effort by the Office of Sustainable Initiatives, the Marine Industries Association of Florida, Florida Sea Grant Program, International Marina Institute, U.S. Coast Guard and public and private marinas throughout the state. Clean boater programs educate recreational boaters, marinas, boat yards and marine retailers about pollution control and enhance recreational boating through brochures and workshops that emphasize protecting aquatic resources.

Water Management Districts

The Office of Water Policy in DEP addresses statewide water management issues in coordination with Florida's water management districts and other agencies. Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, created five water management districts for the purpose of managing and conserving the state's water resources. The five districts were organized around major drainage basins in the state:

Northwest Florida, Suwannee River, St. Johns River, Southwest Florida and South Florida. Land acquisition is one of the districts' primary tools for carrying out their mission of flood control, water storage and management, water resource development, and preservation of wetlands, streams and lakes.

The districts play a key role in providing public outdoor recreation opportunities on lands under their ownership. The water management districts acquire land and construct water resource-related capital improvements, including water resource or water supply development and restorations projects. The districts are required to make their lands available for compatible public outdoor recreation uses whenever practicable. Numerous public access sites and recreational facilities have been developed on district owned lands throughout the state in cooperation with other state agencies, the federal government, counties, municipalities and the private sector. Examples of the recreational opportunities provided on district lands include hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, bicycling, canoeing, primitive camping and wildlife viewing.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was established by a 1998 amendment to the Florida Constitution that consolidated the responsibility for conserving the state's freshwater and saltwater aquatic life and wildlife into a single agency. FWC operates under a mission of "managing fish and wildlife for their long-term well-being and benefit of the people." The Commission is composed of seven members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, for staggered terms of five years. FWC exercises regulatory and executive powers of the state over marine life and is charged with exercising all the non-judicial powers of the state with respect to wild animals, freshwater aquatic life and marine life. Central to FWC's role in outdoor recreation is the management of hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities. FWC receives federal funds for preservation, restoration and enhancement of Florida's sport fishing resources, including boating access facilities, from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (sometimes referred to as Dingell-Johnson or Wallop-Breaux) program. The FWC also receives funds for protection of endangered species from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration (commonly referred to as Pittman-Robertson) Trust Fund. These programs are administered at the federal level by United States Fish and

Spotlight

Florida Boating Improvement Program

The Florida Boating Improvement Program provides funding through competitive grants for boating access projects and other boating-related activities on coastal and/or inland waters of Florida. Eligible program participants include county governments, municipalities and other governmental entities of the State of Florida.

- *Over $3 million awarded in FY 2011/12*
- *32 projects funded in FY 2011/12*



Gulf County received funding from the Florida Boating Improvement Program to help renovate the White City Boat Ramp. Improvements made to the facility included 20 new mooring spots, renovation of the docks and bulkhead, improved parking, lighting, signage, and a picnic area.



Florida has more than 200 freshwater boat ramps constructed by FWC using Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration funds, credit: FWC

Wildlife Service, which provide grants and technical assistance to the states.

Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

This division is responsible for the state's Wildlife Management Area system, which includes 158 tracts totaling approximately 5.7 million acres in public and private ownership, one of the nation's largest. FWC is the lead manager of 54 areas that cover 1.4 million acres and is a co-manager of 104 areas that cover an additional 4.3 million acres. This system is vital to sustaining the fish and wildlife resources of the state and also provides an expansive and rugged setting for a range of outdoor recreation opportunities. Some of FWC's cooperating agreements are short-term arrangements, particularly on private lands. As a result, the amount of hunting land available to the public on these areas fluctuates from year to year.

In 2001, Congress created the State Wildlife Grants Program and required each state to develop a comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy in order to continue receiving federal wildlife grants. FWC created Florida's Wildlife Legacy Initiative in 2004 to serve the agency's long-term commitment to conserve native wildlife. The initiative crafts a statewide vision for the future of wildlife in Florida, in coordination with other state, federal and local agencies, universities, conservation organizations, recreation groups, businesses and the public. Species range from those which are common throughout the southeastern United States to some which are virtually unknown elsewhere in the country, such as the Florida panther, the Florida manatee and the Florida scrub jay. The initiative supports various forms of outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, bird watching and nature study.

Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management

The Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management (DFFM) provides expertise on freshwater fish populations, angler use and other aspects of freshwater fisheries to ensure high quality fishing in Florida lakes, rivers and streams. Florida has over 3 million acres of fresh water comprising 7,700

named lakes, and 12,000 miles of fishable rivers, streams and canals. More than 200 species of freshwater fishes inhabit these waters and include many highly sought after sportfish species. DFFM provides the public with information on freshwater fisheries management issues, fishing opportunities, aquatic education and outreach, and other matters aimed at promoting responsible life-long participation in sport fishing. Additionally, freshwater fish production facilities provide a dependable supply of the specific size, quantity and quality of freshwater fish to meet specific freshwater fisheries management objectives.

Division of Marine Fisheries Management

The Division of Marine Fisheries Management (DMFM) develops sustainable management recommendations for consideration by the FWC Commissioners for more than 500 saltwater species in Florida. These management plans ensure the long-term conservation of Florida's valuable marine fisheries resources while balancing the needs of the fishermen with the needs of the marine species. More than 2.7 million saltwater anglers fish Florida's 2,276 miles of tidal shoreline, creating an economic impact of more than $5.7 billion and more than 54,000 jobs. MFM staff also work with federal agencies on marine issues and represent the state on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The DMFM outreach and education team provides the public with opportunities to learn more about saltwater fishing, from learning basic fishing skills and fish identification to sustainable habits such as the best ways to catch and release a fish. DMFM's other programs include the planning and deploying artificial reefs; reaching out to commercial, recreational and charter fishermen; ensuring seafood dealers are selling safe and quality products; removing derelict traps from the water through the trap retrieval program; and making public comment on issues that may affect Florida anglers.

Division of Law Enforcement

FWC's Division of Law Enforcement officers provide protection to residents and visitors who enjoy Florida's natural resources, and enforce resource protection and boating safety regulations in the state's woods and waters. The Boating and Waterways Section is responsible for educating boaters about boating safety, ensuring boat access, installing and maintaining waterway signage, and identifying derelict vessels.

The Boating and Waterways Section administers several grant programs, including the Florida Boating Improvement Program and the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. The Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program (commonly referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act and Wallop-Breaux Act) is a "user pays, user benefits" program that is aimed at improving sport fishing and boating opportunities. Federal funds are collected from taxes on fishing tackle, motor fuels and import duties on tackle and yachts. The money is returned to appropriate state agencies for research, management, education and facility development related to sport fishing. These three programs funded over 200 grants around the state, totaling more than $31 million, to provide for construction of boat ramps and related access facilities.

Division of Hunting and Game Management

The Division of Hunting and Game Management (DHGM) facilitates sustainable responsible use of Florida's game wildlife resources by providing scientific expertise on game wildlife species, including alligators, deer, small game, waterfowl and wild turkeys and developing sound management recommendations based upon scientific information. With a cadre of volunteer instructors DHGM delivers hunter safety training and certification and manages public shooting ranges; DHGM coordinates and develops rules, regulations, and information for the public pertaining public hunting throughout the state. Through these activities, DHGM strives to accomplish a high level of



A family at the L. Kirk Edwards Wildlife and Environmental Area (WEA) in eastern Leon County, credit: FWC

satisfaction among those who use and depend on healthy game wildlife resources.

Office of Public Access

The Office of Public Access and Wildlife Viewing (PAWV) plans and develops public use enhancements on FWC-managed areas such as trails, fishing docks and viewing blinds. Among the trails managed by the office is the nationally recognized 105 mile Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail, an open-water route along Florida's coast from the Aucilla to Suwannee rivers. PAWV coordinates FWC's volunteer programs, delivers wildlife viewing information to the public and assists local communities to provide sustainable wildlife viewing opportunities. The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail, managed by this office, is a collection of nearly 500 sites throughout the state selected for their excellent wildlife viewing. The trail uses special highway signs identifying designated sites, guidebooks and maps, a website and social media to showcase Florida's birding and wildlife viewing opportunities.

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Florida Forest Service

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is a major contributor to Florida's total outdoor recreation supply. The primary outdoor recreation objective is to maximize compatible recreational use of state forest lands. Florida's state forest system consists of 35 areas totaling more than 1,058,700 acres, most of which provide abundant opportunities for many popular outdoor recreation activities. Resource-based recreation opportunities offered by FFS include camping, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, off-highway vehicle use, hunting, fishing, paddling and nature study.

Hunting is allowed on most properties managed by FFS, and is administered in cooperation with FWC as part of that agency's wildlife management program. Section 589.19 (4), Florida Statutes states that the FFS shall designate areas of state forest as an Operation Outdoor Freedom Special Hunt Area to honor wounded veterans and service members in order for them to have a valuable hunting experience.

FFS is also responsible for administering the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Program established by the T. Mark Schmidt Off-Highway Vehicle Safety and Recreation Act (Chapter 261, Florida Statutes) in 2002. The Act provides a set of guidelines for providing and maintaining state lands for off-highway motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle (ATV), two-rider ATV, recreational off-highway vehicle use, collectively referred to as off-highway vehicles.



Riding at the Croom Motorcycle Area in the Withlacoochee State Forest, credit: FFS



Mission San Luis, Tallahassee, credit: Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

Besides directly providing resources and facilities for outdoor recreation, FFS assists private landowners in developing forest management plans that often include a recreation component. At the landowner's request, FFS will assess the land's potential for hunting, fishing, wildlife management, water access facilities, camping and related activities. FFS may also assist landowners in designing facilities such as campgrounds, boat ramps and hiking trails to make the land available for recreational purposes.

Florida Department of State

Division of Historical Resources

The Division of Historical Resources (DHR), is responsible for preserving and promoting Florida's historical, archaeological, and folk culture resources. DHR directs historic preservation efforts throughout the state in cooperation with state and federal agencies, local governments, private organizations, and individuals. The director of DHR serves as the State Historic Preservation Officer, acting as a liaison with the national historic preservation program's conducted by the National Park Service. Chapter 267, Florida Statutes, directs DHR to develop a statewide historic preservation plan. Its primary purpose is to guide the implementation of sound planning procedures for the location, identification, and protection of the state's archaeological and historical resources.

The Bureau of Historic Preservation (BHP) conducts programs aimed at identifying, evaluating, preserving and interpreting historic and cultural resources of the state. Programs include the Florida Main Street Program, Historic Preservation Grants-in-Aid Program, National Register of Historic Places/ National Historic Landmark Program, Historical Markers Program, Certified Local Government Program and Florida Folklife Program. BHP also reviews federal or state undertakings that may affect historical or cultural resources, and maintains the Florida Master Site File, the state's inventory of known historical and archaeological resources.

The Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) is responsible for the protection of archaeological and historical resources on state-owned and state-controlled lands, including sovereignty submerged lands.

Bureau archaeologists conduct archaeological surveys and excavations throughout the state. The state's underwater archaeology program includes pre-Columbian sites and underwater archaeological preserves established to protect and interpret shipwreck sites to the public. BAR also manages Mission San Luis, the 17th century capital of Spanish Florida, and Florida's Apalachee-Spanish Living History Museum.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) offers technical and financial assistance to local governments in a wide range of functional areas. As the state planning agency, DEO's Office of Comprehensive Planning is charged with coordinating state-level review of local government comprehensive plans required by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes. DEO has also assisted local governments and regional agencies concerning a variety of land use planning issues.

Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program

The Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program was originally established in 1997. In 2005, the program received statutory authorization to be administered in coordination with DEP and NOAA under Chapter 342, Florida Statutes. The program helps communities revitalize and promote interest in their waterfront districts by providing technical assistance, support, training and financial assistance. Waterfront revitalization may target environmental resource protection, public access, retention of viable traditional waterfront economies and hazard mitigation. Since 1997, a total of 23 communities have received designation as Waterfronts Florida Partnership communities. In 2009, two new communities were designated: Fort Myers and the community of Millville in Panama City.

Rural Land Stewardship Area Program

Chapter 2011-139, Laws of Florida, substantially amended the Rural Land



San Carlos Island Community is one of the communities benefitting from the Waterfronts Florida program

Stewardship Area program. Now at Section 163.3248, Florida Statutes, the law provides that one or more landowners may request that the local government designate their lands as a rural land stewardship area. The program allows local governments to adopt a future land use overlay to designate all or portions of the lands as a rural land stewardship area if the properties currently are classified as predominantly agricultural, rural, open, open-rural, or a substantively equivalent land use. Rural Land Stewardship Areas are areas within which planning and economic incentives are applied to encourage the implementation of innovative and flexible planning and development strategies and the use of creative land use planning techniques to support a diverse economic and employment base.

Rural land stewardship areas must be at least 10,000 acres or greater and located outside of municipalities and established urban service areas. This program, among other things, helps preserve inherent qualities provided by rural areas, including the protection of natural resources, ecosystems, and habitats while controlling urban sprawl.

Florida Department of Transportation

In providing for the state's transportation needs, Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), under Chapter 334, Florida Statutes, gives consideration to the preservation and enhancement of the environment and the conservation of natural resources, including scenic, historic and recreational assets. Florida's highway system affords a vast number of scenic recreational opportunities, but perhaps its most significant contribution to outdoor recreation is providing access to Florida's recreation resources. DOT constructs and maintains rest areas for public use and provides opportunities for water-based recreation on causeways and bridges. Additionally, DOT administers the State Pedestrian and Bicycle Program, the Florida Scenic Highway Program and the Transportation Enhancement Program.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Program



Bicyclists ride the St. John's River to Sea loop, credit John Moran, courtesy of the Florida Wildflower Foundation

DOT developed the State Pedestrian and Bicycle Program in Florida as a means of promoting alternative transportation modes and recreational bicycling in Florida. DOT develops initiatives and programs to improve the environment for safe, comfortable and convenient walking and bicycling trips and to improve the performance and interaction among motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. As part of this program, the state pedestrian and bicycle coordinator and district pedestrian and bicycle coordinators in each of DOT's seven field operations regions work with municipal pedestrian and bicycle coordinators to develop and update design, maintenance and operation guidelines for all state, municipal and local bicycle facilities.

Florida Scenic Highway Program

The Florida Scenic Highway Program is a grass-roots effort to showcase and heighten awareness of Florida's intrinsic resources - cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, natural and scenic - which collectively enhance the overall traveling experience. Designated highways tell a story that is representative of Florida's past and present lifestyles. Participation in the program is voluntary and benefits the communities along the routes in matters such as resource enhancement and protection. Proposed projects are reviewed based on criteria established by FHWA. Each designated corridor is managed by a corridor management entity made up of interested

citizens. As of June 2012, there were 23 designated scenic highways in Florida.

State University System of Florida

The State University System of Florida consists of 11 institutions that serve 321,503 students and contain almost 14,000 acres of land. Each university has an approved master plan that addresses the issue of outdoor recreation space. Recreational facilities maintained by each university provide opportunities for participation in a variety of athletic activities such as tennis, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer and football. Many state universities also operate resource-based recreation areas detached from the main campus for use by students, alumni and in some instances, the general public. These areas provide opportunities for both active and passive outdoor recreation activities, such as golfing, swimming, canoeing, hiking, camping, nature study and picnicking.

Regional Planning Councils

Section 186.501, Florida Statutes, also known as the Regional Planning Council Act, divides the state into eleven regional planning councils. Each council provides a link between local and state governments, and is comprised of two-thirds county and municipal officials and one-third gubernatorial appointees. Additionally, the council includes ex-officio members from FDOT, FDEP, the corresponding Water Management District and a nominee from FDEO.

One of the primary functions of each council is the preparation and adoption of a strategic regional policy plan, providing goals and policies which guide the economic, physical and social development of the region. Using this plan as a guideline, the councils review local strategic and development plans, link planning efforts of various entities to ensure regional consistency, and facilitate planning or growth management disputes.

Special Districts

Chapter 189, Florida Statutes, also known as the Uniform Special District Accountability Act of 1989, addresses the operation of special districts in Florida. Over 1,600 special districts exist statewide, providing infrastructure and services in a wide range of areas including fire control, libraries, ports and inlets, mosquito control, water control, community development, roads and hospitals. In some cases, special districts play an expanded role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities, conservation and resource management services.



Regional Planning Councils

Figure 3.3

Local Agency Outdoor Recreation Resources				
Region	**# of Recreation Areas**	**Land** (in Acres)	**Water** (in Acres)	**Acres Total**
Northwest	875	9,505	962	10,467
North Central	709	31,710	1,663	33,373
Northeast	934	43,700	475	44,175
Central West	1,406	115,508	2,582	118,090
Central	1,407	55,717	34,947	90,664
Central East	1,283	65,561	9,914	75,475
Southwest	1,017	138,044	3,208	141,252
Southeast	2,032	75,539	3,618	79,157
Statewide	9,663	535,284	57,369	592,653

Table 3.4

Navigation districts in the state play a particularly important role in outdoor recreation. The Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) and the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) provide assistance programs that develop waterway access projects such as boat ramps, marinas, boardwalks, fishing piers, waterfront parks, navigation channels, shoreline stabilization and environmental restoration projects. FIND is the state sponsor of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from the Georgia border to the southern end of Miami-Dade County. WCIND stretches from the northern border of Manatee County to the southern border of Lee County and contains the 152 mile long Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDERS

Besides being the main provider of user-oriented recreation facilities and programs, local governments are pursuing opportunities to acquire open space and conservation areas for their communities, often in partnerships with state agencies or non-profit conservation groups. Although the size of the properties acquired under these programs may not be as large as the properties acquired for conservation by state and federal agencies, they can be critically important in achieving a community's goals for environmental preservation, recreation and open space, or growth management.

Much of the success of the state's land acquisition programs is the result of the cooperative partnerships between federal, state and local governments and national and local land trusts. Many of the projects have been sponsored jointly by partnering arrangements and such partnerships with local governments have increased in recent years. Of Florida's 67 counties, 29 have implemented land acquisition programs as have several cities and regional authorities. Such programs have generated nearly $2 billion to acquire conservation and recreation lands.

County Roles

Florida's counties vary in character from densely populated metropolitan areas such as Miami-Dade and Pinellas, to sparsely populated rural areas like Glades and Liberty. County governments are key components of Florida's recreation and park system. All counties do not have the same outdoor recreation needs nor have they all been able to fund responsive programs to the same degree, but every county in the

state has an officially established outdoor recreation program. In some counties, user-oriented recreation programming is limited, but resource-based facilities such as roadside picnic areas or boat ramps are common amenities. In some counties, user-oriented facilities may be available only at public schools and municipal parks. More than half of Florida's counties, however, have undertaken sophisticated recreation programs involving the administration of numerous and diverse parks, facilities and program activities.

Counties are primarily concerned with the local outdoor recreation needs generated by extra-municipal populations and as a rule are the ideal level of government to provide regional or large community parks. Unlike cities, the larger acreage of counties provides a wider range of resources and a greater variety of outdoor recreation venues. As a result, the typical county outdoor recreation program in Florida may offer a combination of resource-based and user-oriented activities. Beaches, swimming areas, boating access sites, picnic sites, scenic areas and, occasionally, campgrounds are among the more popular types of resource-based areas and facilities provided.

Municipal Roles

Virtually all of Florida's 412 municipalities have recreation programs and facilities of one type or another. Many cities have developed park and recreation programs with trained staff involved in the administration of parks, facilities and programs. Smaller cities may have only limited facilities and rely on the county government, local school system, private organizations or non-profit groups to carry out athletic programs.
Because of population densities and the lack of large open space areas that support resource-based recreation opportunities, municipal recreation systems tend to concentrate on providing more intensive user-oriented facilities that require relatively little space. Typical municipal outdoor recreation facilities include playgrounds, swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts and golf courses. Because of the near total reliance on user-oriented facilities, municipal programs have only a limited bearing on the statewide resource-based outdoor recreation program. There are some exceptions, however, especially in the cases of cities located on bodies of water. For example, Atlantic and Gulf coastal communities provide many excellent public beach facilities, while those located on navigable waters (coastal or inland) operate marinas, boat ramps, mooring fields and other boating facilities.

Although little in the way of resource-based outdoor recreation facilities is provided by the typical municipal outdoor recreation program, municipal programs play a primary role in the provision of user-oriented recreation opportunities in Florida. The importance of the role of municipal programs will grow as increased public emphasis is placed on close-to-home recreation. Since municipal recreation agencies are the recreation system closest to the people, they are usually the first to feel the pressures to establish programs for meeting the added demands of new residents.

NON-GOVERNMENT ROLES

In addition to the more conventional forms of outdoor recreation provided by all levels of government, a wide array of recreational opportunities is afforded by the private sector. Private programs range from for-profit recreational enterprises such as campgrounds, golf courses, marinas and attractions of all kinds to non-profit conservation organizations. Industries with extensive land holdings, notably the forest products industry in Florida, provide vast recreation resources and excellent facilities on their lands for the use of the public often at only a nominal fee. However, this resource is quickly disappearing in many parts of the state as timber lands are being converted to private access leases or developed for residential and commercial purposes.

Private outdoor recreation, because of its size, complexity and the fact that it undergoes rapid and frequent change, is extremely difficult to inventory in a comprehensive manner.



Golfing at one of Florida's private recreation providers

In addition to its direct delivery of outdoor recreation opportunities, the private sector can respond quickly to opportunities for acquiring property for subsequent donation or resale. This capability makes the private sector a valuable partner with public agencies in the provision of resource-based outdoor recreation. During the past decade, private companies and non-profit organizations have transferred thousands of acres to state government for recreation and conservation purposes. Those transfers represent a substantial contribution to the overall supply of outdoor recreational opportunities in Florida.

Commercial Providers

Florida's commercial outdoor recreation providers are a vital component of the state's economy. Commercial providers meet a significant portion of the overall demand for both resource-based and user-oriented outdoor recreation in Florida, particularly tourist-generated demand. Because of their capabilities and further potential for fulfilling demand, the private commercial sector must bear a large share of the responsibility for meeting demand for both resource-based and user-oriented recreation.

Private Organizations

This category includes private and quasi-public organizations such as the YMCA, 4-H, scouting organizations, faith-based groups and a myriad of conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, Archbold Biological Station and Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy. In many cases these organizations not only acquire and manage conservation land, but they also conduct preservation, restoration and research programs and public educational activities. These groups provide land and facilities primarily for the use of members, but in some cases for the public at large.

Clubs

This category includes hunt clubs, country clubs, tennis clubs, yacht clubs and others. These groups manage land or facilities that are primarily available only to organization members or their guests. In addition, private industry lands are included (timber companies and other industries with extensive land holdings whose lands or portions thereof are open to the public). The majority of these lands are used for resource-based recreation, although some forms of user-oriented facilities are also available.

There is no consensus in the field of recreation planning as to the most appropriate methods for measuring current and future demand for outdoor recreation resources and facilities. Since outdoor recreation resources and facilities are generally felt to be "free" goods and services, "demand," as an economic concept, does not readily lend itself to practical application. No commonly accepted methods exist for determining, on a statewide or broad regional basis, the amount of outdoor recreation a person would "consume" under certain conditions of cost and availability. As a result, the use of the term "demand" is common as a means of expressing the actual participation in recreation activity by some defined group or population over a fixed period of time. Such measurements can provide reasonably sound estimates of recreation demand and are vital to long-range statewide outdoor recreation planning.

OUTDOOR RECREATION DEMAND

To estimate outdoor recreation demand in Florida, the Division of Recreation and Parks conducts periodic surveys of resident and tourist participation in outdoor recreation activities. The 2011 Florida Outdoor Recreation Participation Study was conducted by Responsive Management, a natural resource survey research firm. The study surveyed Florida residents by telephone between April and September 2011 regarding their participation in 26 different outdoor recreation activities. Participants were asked to identify each activity they participated in during the preceding 12 months. A survey of tourists was conducted in three phases: May, August and October 2011. Responsive Management completed 3,961 surveys with residents and 2,890 surveys with tourists. The methodologies used to conduct the resident and tourist surveys are described in Appendix E.



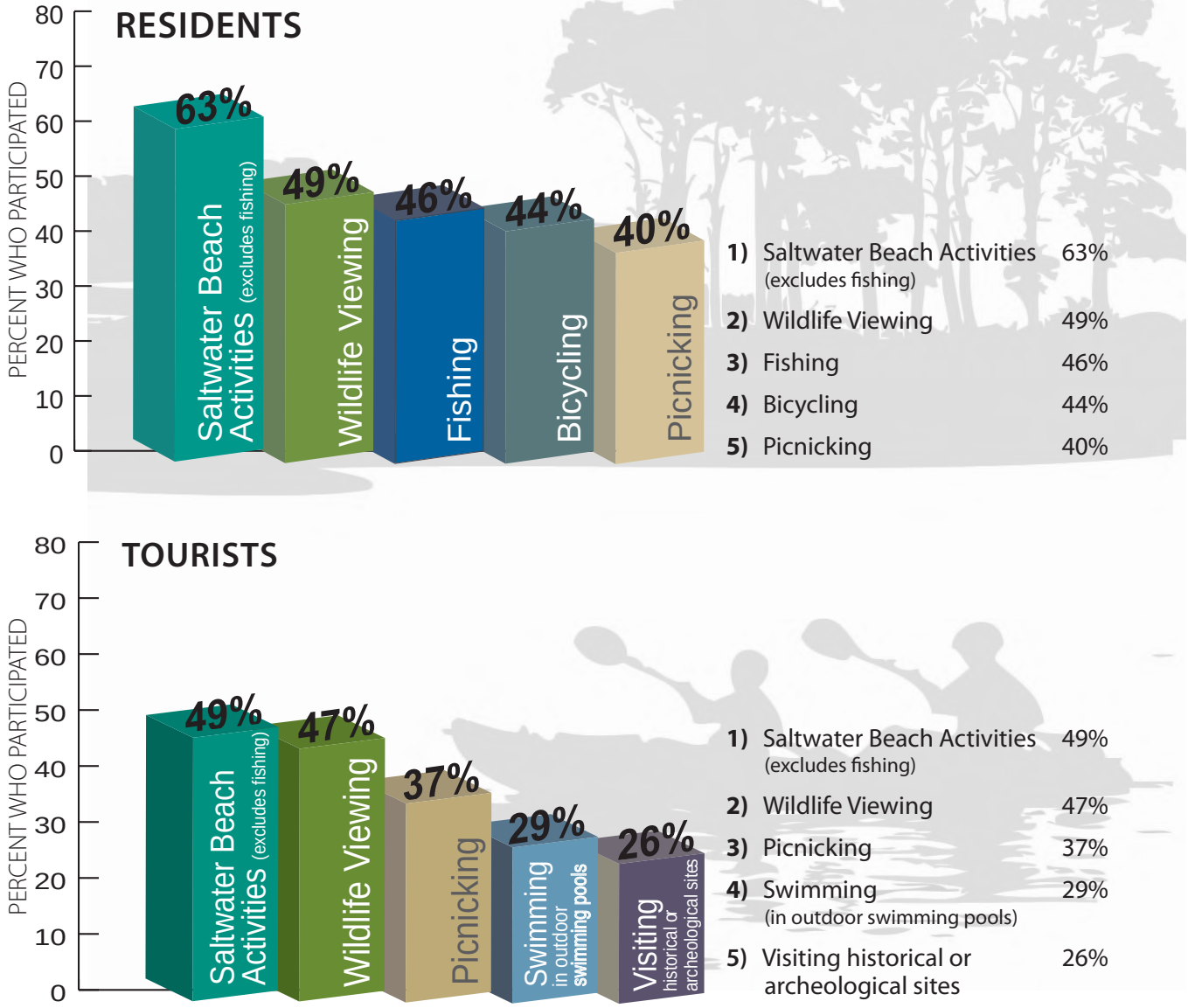
Edward Ball Wakulla Springs State Park is a favorite recreational spot for residents and tourists

Based on the results of the surveys, the percentages of Florida residents and tourists who participated in each of the activities were calculated. The percentages indicate the number of residents and tourists in each region who actually took part in an activity at least one time during the preceding year. By applying these percentages to estimates of resident and tourist populations for 2010, the number of people who participated in each activity was calculated for the state and for each planning region. These methods were repeated using resident and tourist population projections for 2020. Figure 4.1 shows the top five recreation activities for residents and visitors statewide for 2010. Appendix G provides the resident and tourist participation rates for each measured activity.

Saltwater beach activities remain the activity in which the largest percentage of residents participated. Wildlife viewing, bicycling, picnicking, visiting historical or archaeological sites and saltwater fishing had the next highest percentages of participation. Resident participation rates for other activities ranged from 29 percent for swimming in public outdoor pools to one percent for horseback camping.

Among tourists, saltwater beach activities also had the highest level of participation

Top Five Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: *Residents & Tourists*



See Appendix G for full list of outdoor recreation participation by activity

Figure 4.1

at 49 percent. This was followed closely by wildlife viewing at 48 percent. Picnicking, swimming in public outdoor pools, visiting archaeological and historic sites, hiking and saltwater fishing had the next highest levels of participation. Participation rates for the other activities ranged from 14 percent for both bicycling and freshwater beach use to 2 percent for soccer and football.

Importance of Recreation

The participation survey determined that nearly all Florida residents (96 percent) say that outdoor recreation is important to them; this includes 72 percent who think it is very important and 24 percent who think it is somewhat important. The results are similar among tourists: 98 percent say outdoor recreation is important to them personally (65 percent saying very important and 33 percent saying somewhat important).

Motivations for Participation

An important aspect of planning for outdoor recreation is understanding why people recreate; what motivates them to get

outside and participate. According to the participation survey, for Florida residents, health and physical fitness is considered the most important reason for participation, followed by being with family and friends, for fun/relaxation, and being outdoors and closer to nature.

Top Reasons for Resident Participation

1) For health/physical fitness
2) To be with family and friends
3) For relaxation/fun/enjoyment
4) To be outdoors/close to nature
5) To enjoy the scenery

The most important reason for tourist participation in outdoor recreation in Florida is for fun and relaxation, followed by being with family and friends and the attractiveness of Florida's recreation opportunities and climate.

Top Reasons for Tourist Participation

1) For relaxation/fun/enjoyment
2) To be with family and friends
3) Florida has good/attractive recreation opportunities/climate
4) To be outdoors/close to nature
5) Beach (specifically mentioned)

Satisfaction with Opportunities

The participation survey found that the overwhelming majority of Florida residents are satisfied with the outdoor recreation opportunities in their home county and support Florida maintaining its current levels of outdoor recreation services and opportunities. Among tourists, satisfaction with opportunities is even higher, and a large majority of tourists support maintaining the current levels of outdoor recreation services and opportunities in Florida. This is not to say there are no needs for improvement, but rather emphasizes the need for at least maintaining current levels of service as the population grows.

Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation Opportunities - *Residents and Tourists*

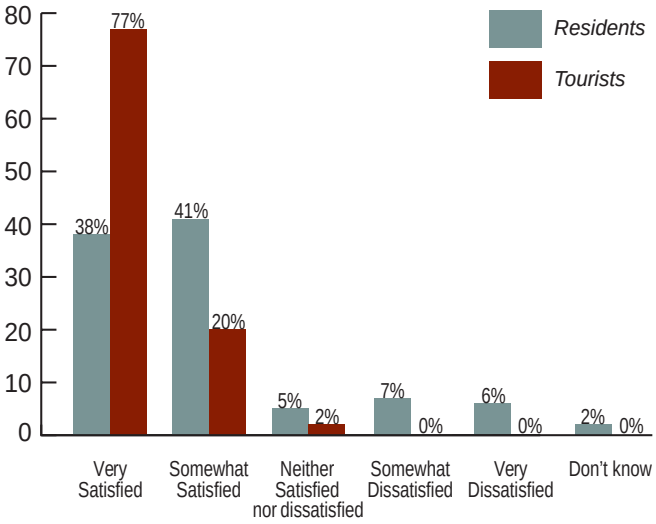


Figure 4.2

Respondents' opinions of the quality of facilities in their home counties are also positive, with nearly 80 percent rating the facilities excellent or good. On the other end, 20 percent rate them fair or poor, and without continued maintenance, this number is expected to rise.

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



Children enjoy the splash pad at Lake Mirror Park in Lakeland, credit Mary Anne Koos

COMPARING DEMAND AND SUPPLY

The resident and tourist demand figures derived from the participation study were compared to the supply data presented in Chapter 3. This produced estimates of the additional outdoor recreation resources and facilities that will be required to maintain current levels of services as resident and tourist populations increase in the future.

The level of service that is currently provided by each region's existing supply of resources and facilities was determined for each activity. "Level of service" as used in this plan means the amount of resources and facilities that are available to support an activity, expressed in terms of units of supply per 1,000 participants. For example, the level of service for hiking trails would be expressed as miles of trail per 1,000 participants. Levels of service were not calculated for certain outdoor recreation activities, such as saltwater and freshwater boating, since the resources that support them are so extensive that they can accommodate a virtually unlimited amount of demand (for example, the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the state's thousands of lakes and rivers).

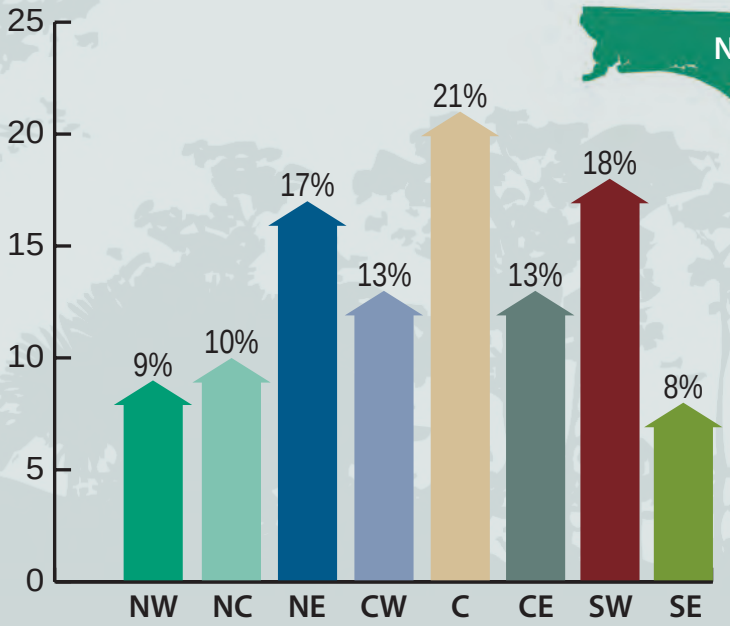
Regional Comparisons: Assessing Need

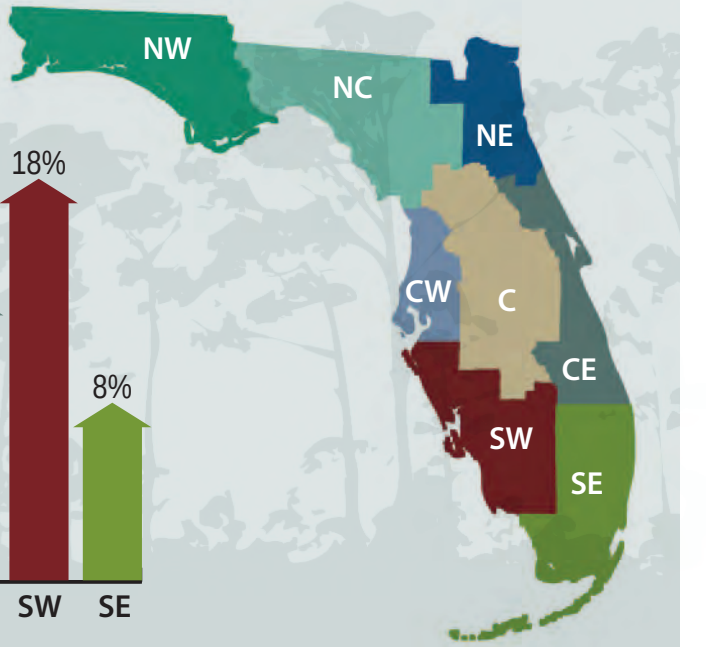
Each region's level of service was estimated for all 26 activities. To provide a standard by which the regions could be compared, the statewide median level of service for each activity was calculated. Table 4.1 (page 53) identifies whether each region's level of service falls above or below the statewide median for an activity.

The level of service comparisons are only one measure of outdoor recreation resource and facility needs in Florida. Outdoor recreation levels of service vary tremendously from community to community and are determined by complex factors that cannot be addressed practicably at a statewide level. The analysis is intended to reflect conditions in the region as a whole and should not be applied to particular communities. Additionally, level of

Spotlight

Predicted Percent Population Change by 2030





This chart shows projected population growth for each region. Regions with rapid growth will continue to see a rise in demand and strain on existing outdoor recreation resources.

service is heavily influenced by the resident and tourist populations. A region with a lower level of service does not necessarily have fewer facilities, but often has a greater number of participants using the facilities.

Despite these limitations, the analysis presented in the plan is useful for identifying regional and statewide patterns of outdoor recreation supply and demand and offering a reasonably sound understanding of regions with the greatest needs to support the demands of their population. Increasing opportunities should be a statewide priority, and not solely focused on regions below the statewide median. While these regions have greater relative needs to adequately supply their participants, all regions must continue to enhance their outdoor recreation opportunities to meet the needs of a growing population.

The results of the assessment are presented fully in Appendix H.

$$\text{Level of Service} = \frac{\text{Resources and Facilities for an Activity}}{\left(\frac{\text{Participants in the Activity}}{1{,}000}\right)}$$

Figure 4.3

Regional Distribution of Residents and Tourists (Potential Users)

The same outdoor recreation resources and facilities that make Florida a great place to live are also the primary reason people visit Florida. Day-to-day use by residents, combined with seasonal use by visitors, affect a region's level of service by increasing the overall number of users. Outdoor recreation resources and facilities see significantly greater use in regions with high tourism rates, which has the effect of reducing the overall level of service in that region.

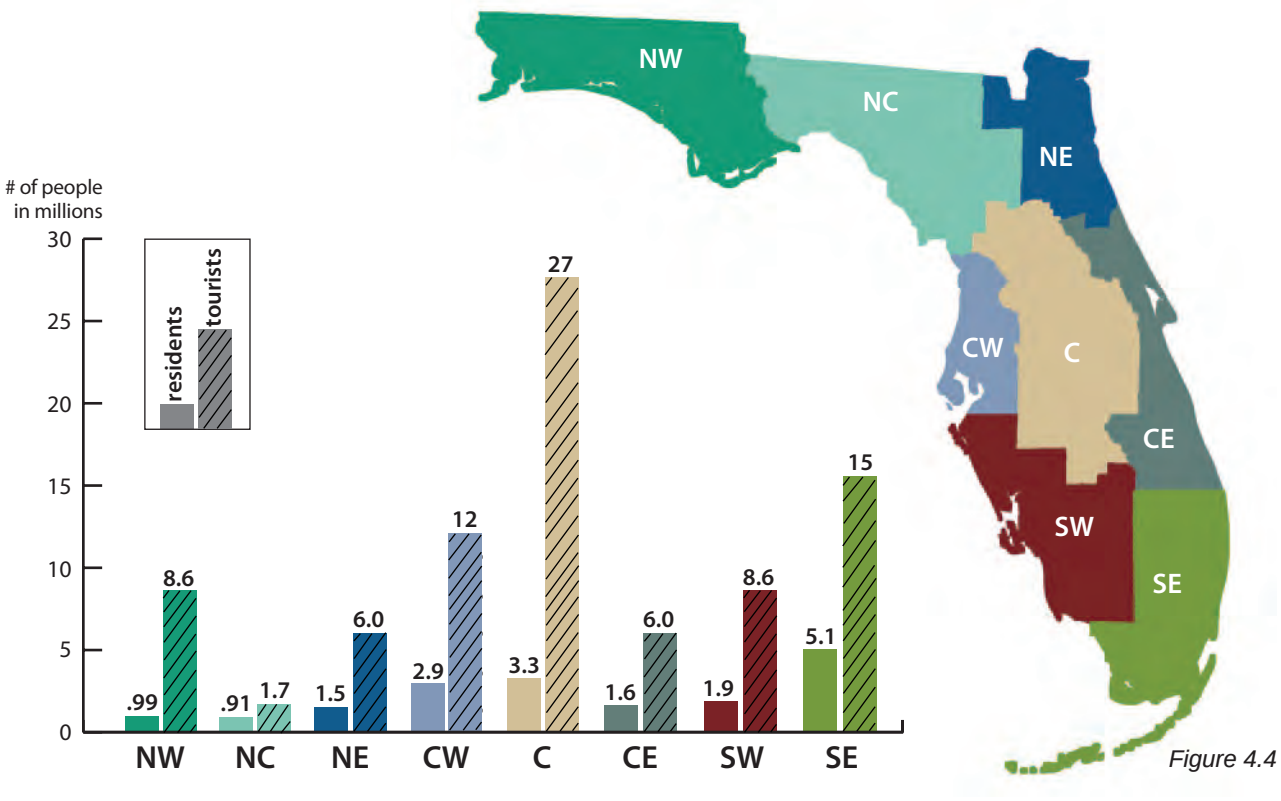


Figure 4.4

Regional Distribution of Recreation Resources and Facilities

The charts below show the relative distribution of the supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities by region. Dividing a region's amount of recreation resources and facilities **for each activity** by the number of residents and tourists who actually participate in the activity determines the level of service for each activity by region.

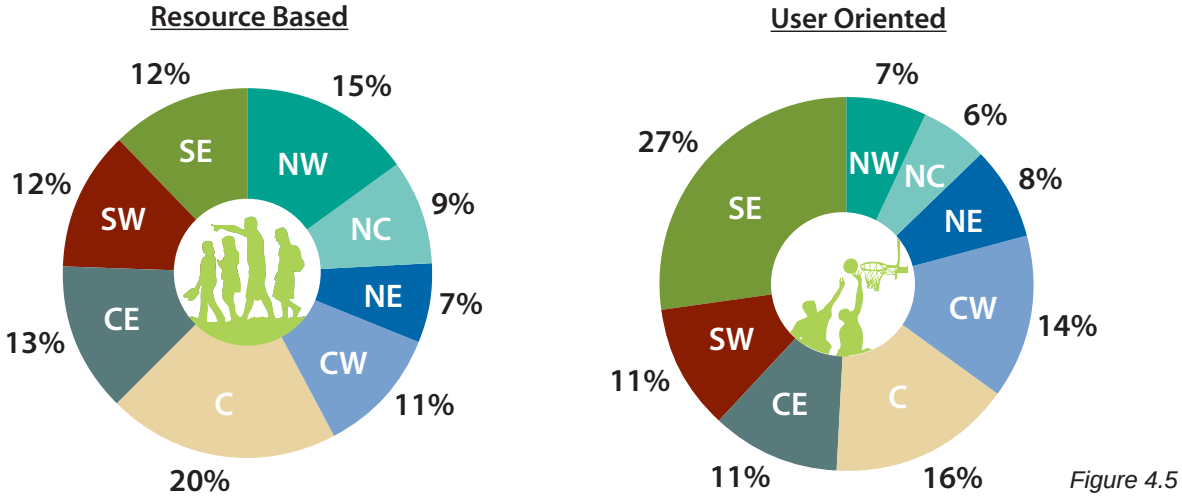


Figure 4.5

Comparing Regional Levels of Service to Statewide Median*

● Level of Service **Above** Statewide Median ○ Level of Service **Below** Statewide Median

Resource-Based Activities	Region							
	NW	NC	NE	CW	C	CE	SW	SE
Saltwater Beach Activities	●	○	●	○	NA	●	●	○
Freshwater Beach Activities	●	●	○	○	○	●	○	●
Saltwater Fishing Non-boat	●	○	○	○	NA	●	●	●
Freshwater Fishing Non-boat	○	●	○	●	●	○	●	○
Saltwater Boat Ramp	●	●	○	○	NA	●	●	○
Freshwater Boat Ramp	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Bicycling Paved	○	●	○	●	○	●	●	○
Bicycling Unpaved	○	●	●	○	○	●	●	○
Hiking	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	○
Horseback Riding	○	●	●	○	○	●	●	○
Off-Highway Vehicle Driving	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	○
Nature Study	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Picnicking	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●
Visiting Historical or Archaeological Sites	○	●	●	○	○	●	●	○
Tent Camping	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
RV or Trailer Camping	○	●	○	●	○	●	●	○
Hunting	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●

User-Oriented Activities	Region							
	NW	NC	NE	CW	C	CE	SW	SE
Swimming in Public Outdoor Pool	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●
Baseball or Softball	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Outdoor Basketball	○	●	●	●	○	●	○	○
Outdoor Tennis	○	●	○	○	○	●	●	●
Soccer	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Football	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○
Golf	○	○	●	○	○	●	●	●

* Table shows SCORP planning regions as either above or below the statewide median level of service, per activity.
See Appendix G for regional level of service calculations per activity.

Table 4.1

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this chapter is to identify regional and statewide patterns of outdoor recreation supply and demand, offering a reasonably sound understanding of regions with the greatest needs to support the demands of their population. Regions with dense populations, such as the Northeast, Central West, Central and Southeast regions tend to have the greatest needs, a trend which will likely continue if these needs are not adequately addressed.

The steady rise of Florida's population will lead to an increasing demand in all regions, calling for a continuing need for the provision of outdoor recreation facilities and the conservation of natural and cultural resources. It is critical to ensure that these resources and facilities enjoyed by the over 100 million residents and tourists today are there for those in the future.

Chapter Five - Outdoor Recreation Issues and Recommendations

Understanding outdoor recreation issues and anticipating emerging trends is an important element of the state's outdoor recreation plan. Florida is among the largest and most dynamic states in the nation. Changes in the state's social, economic, and environmental systems will affect many aspects of people's lives, including how they recreate. Although these considerations do not lend themselves readily to quantitative analysis, it is nonetheless important that they be well understood in future decision making. This chapter discusses issues affecting outdoor recreation in Florida, and outlines recommendations for implementing the state's outdoor recreation plan. The issues and recommendations outlined in this chapter are the product of a variety of methods for input, including: the SCORP workgroup, meetings with outdoor recreation stakeholders, research of nationwide trends and issues, the 2011 Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey, public workshops and online questionnaires.

A SYSTEM OF LANDS

Florida's diverse public and private outdoor recreation lands, facilities, programs and managing agencies are bound together by a universally common trait – their ability to provide public recreational opportunities of one type or another. These various areas and the users they serve can be viewed together as an interconnected system. While tremendous progress has been made in acquiring the needed lands and providing the facilities and programs to support public use of the lands, relatively little has been done to integrate the efforts of the providers. The following statement is intended to describe an ideal, but as yet unrealized, recreation system for the state.

> *Florida's ideal outdoor recreation system will be a diverse, connected and balanced system of outdoor recreation resources, facilities and programs that provides the state's residents and visitors with a full*



An online questionnaire regarding outdoor recreation issues in Florida yielded nearly 4,000 responses. The word map above is an abstract representation of input received in an open response item of the questionnaire, with the size of the word reflecting frequency of mention.

range of outdoor recreation opportunities, regardless of their age, gender, ethnic background, economic status, physical or mental ability, or location within the state. The system will be coordinated at the state level with all agencies and suppliers working in tandem, and with ample opportunity for the public to participate in decision making. It will further the public's understanding and appreciation of Florida's environment and outdoor recreation resources.

ISSUES, GOALS AND STRATEGIES: A METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Three overarching issue areas have been identified as impacting recreation in Florida. In this chapter, each issue is broken down by related topics. A discussion of each topic is followed by specific goals and strategies to address the issues and implement the plan.

ISSUE 1: Raising awareness of the values and benefits of outdoor recreation

- ***Goal 1-1:*** Highlight the economic impact of outdoor recreation
- ***Goal 1-2:*** Emphasize outdoor recreation's impact on health and quality of life
- ***Goal 1-3:*** Ensure and identify future resources for programs essential to recreation

ISSUE 2: Improving public access through agency coordination

- ***Goal 2-1:*** Maintain and manage adequate availability of resources for a growing population
- ***Goal 2-2:*** Coordinate recreation providers to better connect lands and opportunities
- ***Goal 2-3:*** Increase and improve universal accessibility
- ***Goal 2-4:*** Protect Florida's waters while providing adequate public access

ISSUE 3: Reconnecting people to the outdoors

- ***Goal 3-1:*** Improve urban recreation opportunities
- ***Goal 3-2:*** Connect all people to the outdoors
- ***Goal 3-3:*** Facilitate participation through accessible information
- ***Goal 3-4:*** Encourage volunteerism, stewardship, and advocacy

Issue One: Raising awareness of the value and benefits of outdoor recreation

Summary: Educating the public on the benefits of outdoor recreation to individuals and communities is integral in maintaining support for recreation programs.

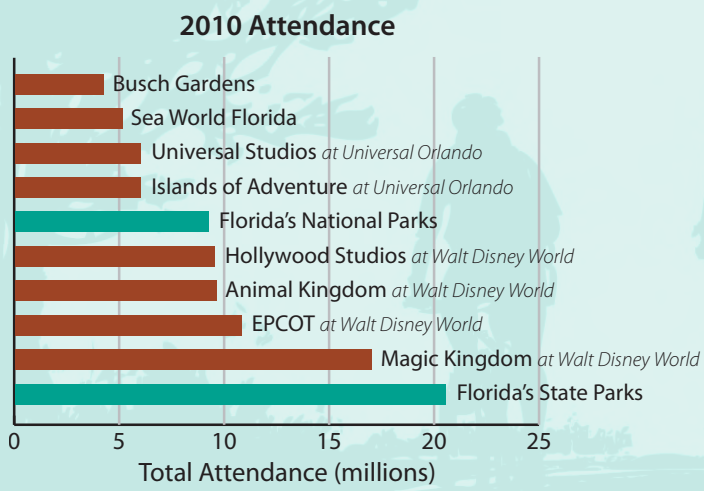
The Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation

For residents and tourists alike, outdoor recreation is an important part of everyday life. Florida's temperate climate, combined with outstanding cultural and natural resources, allows for recreation participation year round. Outdoor recreation stimulates the economy through the purchase of equipment necessary for participation, with money spent on trips and travel and through a host of direct and indirect ways.

Tourism: An Economic Driver

Florida has long been a destination for domestic and international travelers, and outdoor recreation is a major contributor to the state's tourism market. According to VISIT FLORIDA, Florida's tourism rates have seen a steady rise since 2009, leading to an estimated 87.3 million visitors in 2011. In 2011, recreation and/or leisure was the primary reason for more than 88 percent of domestic visits, 81 percent of Canadian visits, and 68.5 percent of international visits, showing the strong link between recreation and tourism. While relaxing and enjoying the outstanding natural and cultural resources that Florida has to offer, visitors are also making a significant contribution to Florida's economy. Total tourism spending was calculated at $67.2 billion in 2011, creating more than one million jobs to support the industry.

A recent study by the Outdoor Industry Association, *The Outdoor Recreation Economy*, determined that each year



Spotlight

Tourism & Resource-Based Recreation in Florida

While many associate Florida tourism with theme parks, the state's natural resources are immensely popular with visitors. The graph at left, based on information provided by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, compares 2010 attendance at the state's major theme parks with Florida's state and national parks. Combined attendance at Florida's state parks outpaced any other attraction.

Source: Florida State Parks, National Parks Service, and *The Global Attractions Attendance Report* (2010) from the Themed Entertainment Association.

more than $38 billion is spent on outdoor recreation in Florida, supporting 329,000 jobs across the state. In comparison, the Division of Recreation and Parks reports state parks provide a direct economic impact of $1 billion to local economies each year, while generating 19,347 jobs.

Quick Fact

Every 85 visitors creates one Florida job.

- VISIT FLORIDA®



Weeki Wachee Springs State Park

Nature-based tourism is an important component of the tourism industry. Fishing, hunting, boating, paddling and wildlife viewing are among the more popular examples of activities associated with this type of tourism. These activities have a huge impact on the state's economy. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), wildlife viewing, hunting, boating and fishing provide a total economic effect of $3.2 billion, creating more than 34,000 jobs. Wildlife festivals, ideal for generating interest, educating the public and distributing information, also provide great boosts to local economies. One example, the 2009 Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival had an impact of almost $1 million in Brevard County alone.

Recreation, Real Estate and Business Relocation

Parks and open space have been tied to an increase in property values since the 19th Century, and studies have consistently shown connections between property values and proximity to parks, trails and open spaces. Parks and trails are often a central piece in revitalization efforts of towns and neighborhoods, offering sustainable and appealing infrastructure which draws residents to areas previously considered undesirable. This increase in property value

provides additional property tax revenues to further the positive growth of a community.

Parks are also a contributing factor when seeking business relocation. Industry today is increasingly based on high-technology and service-sector companies, where information and knowledge are the main sources of economic growth and wealth. Companies in this industry are extremely mobile and can be more selective in the location of their businesses, and are interested in areas that will retain and attract talent. Quality of life in a community is a considerable contributing factor when making these decisions, with the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities playing a large role.

Raising Awareness

Multiple studies and reports highlight the significant impact of outdoor recreation on the economy. However, these reports are often agency or activity specific and utilize a variety of methods when determining the impact. Recreation providers and advocates could benefit from a comprehensive analysis of the total impact recreation has on Florida's economy, the report serving as a universal platform for educating the public on the importance of outdoor recreation. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) has contributed to this effort with a website titled The Economic Benefit of Eco-tourism, which compiles economic impact information from various state and federal programs onto one page. State agencies, in coordination with DEO, should look to further this effort. The following strategies will help recreation providers and stakeholders educate the public on the benefits of outdoor recreation to the economy.

Goal 1-1: Highlight the economic impact of recreation.

Strategies:

1) DEP and relevant state agencies, in coordination with all recreation providers, should produce a report on the overall economic impact of outdoor recreation in Florida.

2) Local recreation providers should work with local economic development councils to promote Florida's recreation opportunities as a means to attract businesses.

3) Recreation providers should communicate with private developers on the connection between property values and availability of natural landscapes and recreation opportunities.

Quality of Life

Active lifestyles and time spent outdoors are major contributors to a person's health and overall quality of life, as the connection between good health and physical activity is widely recognized. Public lands and waters provide opportunities for healthy exercise and physical activity, relaxation and solitude, and challenge and risk. Providing and facilitating access to public lands through high quality systems of parks, greenways and other natural areas is a major step towards creating and maintaining active, healthy communities. Even so, more must be done to ensure that the public understands and is receiving the full benefits recreation has to offer. A 2011 report by the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation determined Florida's adult obesity rate to be 26.1 percent, an 80 percent increase over the past 15 years. These striking figures illustrate either the lack of awareness of recreation's

Rising Obesity Rates Spotlight

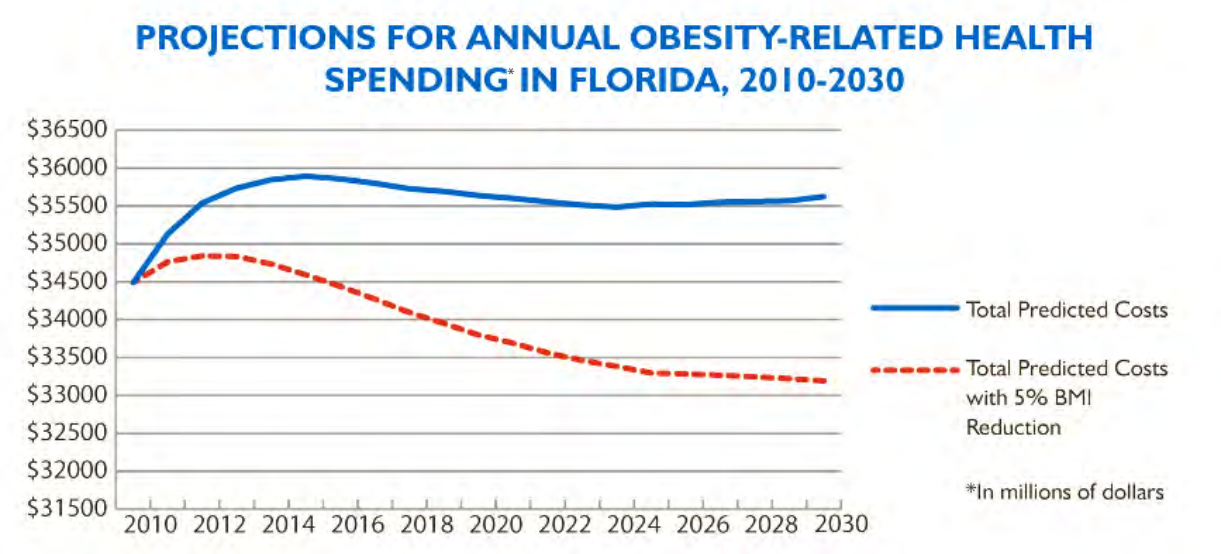
Adult Obesity Rates in Florida			
Obesity Rate in 1995	Obesity Rate in 2011	Projected Obesity Rate in 2030 based on current trajectory*	Projected Obesity Rate in 2030 if BMI Decreased by 5%*
14.3%	26.6%	58.6%	51.1%

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

Source: Trust for America's Health

Spotlight

Rising Costs Related to Obesity



Source: Trust for America's Health

impact on health and quality of life or a lack of motivation to get active. Both of these can be addressed by strengthening ties between recreation providers, public health departments and health care providers.

The outdoor recreation and public health communities, through different approaches, ultimately seek a similar result: active and healthy communities. The Florida Department of Health's State Health Improvement Plan recognizes this connection, and includes many recreation-related objectives in achieving their overall goal of improving public health in Florida. At the local level, recreation providers are linking up with health care providers to promote spending time outdoors through efforts such as the Whole Child Leon "95210" program, which works with local health care providers to "prescribe" patients a plan for achieving a "happy, healthy life." Working with health care providers and local health departments also provides different avenues for funding by including recreation as part of a greater community-based health initiative. One example is the Community Transformation Grant, a program managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which encourages community-level efforts to fight chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles, of which recreation plays a significant role. The following strategies for federal, state and local agencies will help raise public awareness of and support for recreation as a means to enhance health and quality of life.

Quick Fact

Every $1 spent on biking trails and walking paths could save approximately $3 in medical expenses.

- American Heart Association



Bikers on the Florida Legacy Trail
credit: Darcy Kiefel/The Trust for Public Land

Goal 1-2: Emphasize the impact of recreation on health and quality of life.

Strategies:

1) Public recreation providers should partner with county health departments and local health care providers to promote active, healthy lifestyles through community-level health improvement initiatives.

2) DEP should assist DOH in implementing recreation-related objectives in the State Health Improvement Plan.

3) DOH and county health departments should determine ways to further incorporate outdoor recreation opportunities into community health assessments, utilizing tools such as the Florida Outdoor Recreation Inventory to determine existing opportunities and measure their impact on community health.

Program Support

Continued support for outdoor recreation is an extremely important issue for Florida residents and recreation providers, as increasing population raises the demand for new facilities. Today, recreation providers are exploring a variety of alternatives to supplement traditional state and federal funding sources to support their programs. During the economic downturn, providers at all levels encountered budget limitations which affected parks and recreation services. This led to the development of new strategies for maintaining and improving recreation services, such as increasing the role of the private sector in public recreation areas and creating innovative public-private partnerships. Now, as the economy continues its recovery, these support models are bolstering recreation providers' abilities to meet the needs of the public.

Recreation management agencies should focus on using existing funds with maximum efficiency to ensure the highest needs and priorities are being met. Alternative funding sources, such as private sponsorships should be expanded at all levels of public recreation.

Goal 1-3: Ensure and identify alternative funding for programs essential to Florida's recreation program.

Strategies:

1) Recreation providers should seek partnerships with private sector companies that share the common vision of creating healthy, active and livable communities.

2) Recreation providers should work with stakeholders and the general public to advocate the provision of adequate funding for existing land and water conservation programs.

3) DEP should coordinate with DEO in working with local governments to identify sources of public and private grant funding to meet recreational programming and park development needs.

4) The Florida Recreation and Park Association, the Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy and other organizations should continue to provide technical assistance to local governments and citizen groups for identifying alternative sources of funding and enacting local land acquisition programs.

Issue Two: Improving public access through agency coordination

Recreation in Florida can be greatly improved through continued agency coordination in acquisition, management, and programming of public lands.

Access

Access to Florida's existing public lands continues to be an issue with the public. There is a perception that the land is "locked up" after purchase, that access which existed before acquisition is reduced or eliminated once the land comes into public ownership. Most public land is available for some type of public access, but not enough priority has always been given to opening land for appropriate recreational use. Given current economic realities, however, land management agencies are often focusing development efforts towards improving and enhancing existing access points. By focusing on existing infrastructure, limited funds can

be best used to improve and expand existing facilities.

Involving Local Communities

Public land mangers can improve access to their lands and water by better involving local communities. Outfitters, guide companies, and other businesses can directly provide supplemental services on public lands, expanding business opportunities while providing better public access. Through effective communication, land management agencies can provide information to help inform communities how they can benefit from public lands, and in return access to these lands can be improved. The following recommendations have been established to help continue to provide public recreational access in Florida.

Goal 2-1: Maintain and manage adequate availability of resources for a growing population.

Strategies:

1) Given Florida's current economic situation, public land management agencies should focus efforts on enhancing existing access points and facilities, as present resources allow.

2) By working with local business communities, land management agencies should work closely with local recreation suppliers and outfitters on how they can benefit from nearby public lands to stimulate local economies, create jobs and facilitate public recreational access.

3) Agencies should ensure that all public lands are open for appropriate public access as soon as possible after acquisition, without compromising the agencies' mission or the resources of the land.

4) Resource management and restoration activities on public lands should be greatly expanded. Activities such as prescribed burning, exotic species removal and hydrological restoration are vital to providing and maintaining the natural and cultural resources that support resource-based recreation.



St. George Island State Park

Connecting Opportunities: Agency Coordination

A recurring theme from the public input process was the need to better connect existing recreational opportunities in order to improve the overall quality and availability of recreation opportunities. Improving communication and coordination with community planners, transportation departments, and adjacent land management agencies at all levels of government can result in better-connected opportunities. Proper coordination can also reduce unnecessary duplication of resources or facilities while avoiding any deficits. At a community scale, such coordination can result in better distributed and connected parks and green spaces, as well as linked trail systems providing alternative methods of transportation. A well planned and coordinated park system facilitates recreation participation, providing healthier and more vibrant communities.

Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan

With connection of opportunities, discussion often revolves around trails. A well planned trail system can connect public lands, lengthen and enhance experiences, and provide a viable source for alternative transportation within and between communities. The Division of Recreation and Parks, through the Office of Greenways and Trails, provides a statewide vision for Florida's greenways and trails through the Florida Greenways

and Trails System Plan. This plan determines existing resources, identifies trail gaps, and offers a focused vision on connecting Florida's greenway and trail system. The fulfillment of this plan depends on coordination and collaboration of funding and resources from public, private and non-profit entities.

Goal 2-2: Coordinate recreation providers to better connect lands and opportunities.

Strategies:

1) State agencies should work cooperatively with VISIT FLORIDA to create a single, coordinated data source for accessing public information about outdoor recreation opportunities on Florida's public lands.

2) DEP, in cooperation with other groups, should continue to strengthen state agency coordination in conjunction with SCORP planning. This will keep open lines of communication on statewide recreation issues and trends and methods of addressing them.

3) DEP should pursue efforts to conduct a statewide forum on outdoor recreation to enhance the coordination of efforts among public and private suppliers.

4) Recreation agencies should continue sharing information for the SCORP outdoor recreation inventory and periodic assessments of demand to minimize unnecessary duplication of efforts and ensure a single data source that is kept accurate and up to date.

Universal Accessibility

Florida's public lands exist for the benefit and enjoyment of all people. Great efforts have been made by recreation providers across the board in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, but equality of access to public lands and the opportunities they provide still remains an issue. Along with the removal of physical barriers, the act also requires all reasonable efforts be made to ensure that facilities, programs and services are accessible.

The distribution of information is very important in providing universal accessibility. Programs and facilities designed for people with disabilities do little good if adequate and accessible information is not made available. Agencies should ensure that accessibility information regarding their parks or natural areas can be easily obtained through a variety of ways,



Hikers at the Miccosukee Greenway in Leon County, a green space coordinated between multiple agencies

Spotlight

Agency Coordination in Action: Get Outdoors Florida!

Get Outdoors Florida! is a coalition of public and private stakeholders in outdoor recreation, including federal and state land managers, state conservation, health, and education agencies, educators, healthcare providers, non-profits, and businesses.

The mission of Get Outdoors Florida! is:

"Engaging communities, families and individuals in outdoor experiences to achieve healthier lifestyles and sustain Florida's natural resources."

Get Outdoors Florida!℠

For more information, visit getoutdoorsflorida.com

Goal 2-3: All recreation providers should seek to increase universal accessibility.

Strategies:

1) State land management agencies should partner with organizations such as the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association to establish specific programs for visitors with disabilities to be uniformly available throughout the state.

2) Outdoor recreation providers should develop and implement schedules for identifying and eliminating architectural barriers in existing facilities under their management.

3) Upon construction or renovation of trails, agencies should complete UTAP trail assessments and provide trail accessibility information to the public.

4) All recreation providers should stay current on information technology, following best practices for distribution of information to the public.

5) Outdoor recreation providers should develop and strengthen partnerships with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and organizations such as Florida Disabled Outdoors Association to educate themselves and the public, and to provide recreation activities and programs for people of all ages and abilities.



Kayaking Card Sound Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve
Credit: Paul Marcellini

and should consider establishing outreach programs to encourage participation if they have not already done so.

Programs such as the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP) provide guidelines for assessing and reporting trail conditions – like slope, distance, grade and width – which may limit one's ability to participate. These objective reports provide information that allows potential users to decide if the trail is accessible to them and meets their needs and abilities.

Florida's Waters

Much of Florida's recreation participation is centered around water, and preserving these opportunities is essential to the state's recreation program. Protection of



Credit: FDOA

Spotlight

Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA)

Miracle Sports Program

The Florida Disabled Outdoors Association is a non-profit organization that seeks to provide access for all through the coordination of six unique programs and by providing accessibility consultation with agencies around the state.

Miracle Sports, an FDOA program in Tallahassee since 2008, provides access to athletics for everyone. The program takes place on a barrier-free field developed through a partnership with the City of Tallahassee, and has logged over 4,200 team sport recreation hours since its inception.

water resources is the most important step in maintaining freshwater and saltwater resources in a swimmable, fishable condition. This involves a complex and science-based system of federal, state, and local regulatory and enforcement programs, which must ensure that the greatest efforts are taken towards protecting and improving the quality of Florida's water resources. Florida's springs, a unique and very popular resource, continue to be threatened by nutrient pollution from sources such as excess fertilizer use, septic systems, and stormwater runoff. Community-based programs which combine regulation and enforcement with education and stewardship opportunities are necessary to ensure Florida's springs remain healthy and available for public use and enjoyment.

Access to Florida's waters faces increased pressure from shoreline development as populations continue to rise. A combined effort by federal, state, and local governments is needed to ensure funding for acquisition of land to provide public recreational access to waters. While the regional analysis of demand and need in this plan is not intended to identify local needs, it is certain that needs remain in the areas of developing additional boat ramps, canoe launches, docks, catwalks and piers, as well as support facilities such as parking areas and restrooms.

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



Honeymoon Island State Park, credit Kristin Crawford

Protecting water resources is a central theme in the America's Great Outdoors initiative. This nationwide initiative strives to connect Americans to the outdoors, with a focus on grassroots and community level conservation and restoration efforts. America's Great Outdoors has identified water resources as



Suwannee River State Park

essential to making these connections. Florida has made great strides in protecting and promoting its waterways, notably in efforts such as the Suwannee River Wilderness Trail and the Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail, which were established through multi-agency coordination and dependent on community involvement and support. Continued community-level promotion, stewardship and support of Florida's key water features will help ensure the preservation of these important resources. The following recommendations are made for protecting water resources and improving public access to Florida's waters.

Goal 2-4: Protect water resources while providing adequate public access.

Strategies:

1) All levels of government, working with the private sector, should identify alternative means of meeting public demand for water through developing alternative water supplies such as brackish surface and groundwater, stormwater and reclaimed wastewater.

2) DEP should continue to provide funding to support construction of public recreational facilities in springs, monitor spring water quality, and oversee other restoration activities to help ensure that springs remain available for public use.

3) DEO should continue to provide planning assistance to local governments protecting Florida's springs, consistent with reports "Protecting Florida's Springs: Land Use Planning Strategies and Best Management Practices" and "Protecting Florida's Springs: An Implementation Guidebook."

4) Funding should continue to be made available through the Florida Forever program to acquire land or conservation easements and fund capital improvements for increased public access, to conserve the state's natural and cultural heritage, including working waterfronts, and for environmental restoration, and water resource protection and supply.

5) Federal, state and local governments should work to reduce the amount of nutrient pollution that enters Florida's waters through programs that teach the public about where nutrients come from and what they can do to help.

6) Public agencies and private organizations should continue clean-up and rehabilitation efforts for specific water bodies, such as Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers, the Everglades and the waters surrounding the Florida Keys.

7) Local governments should maximize the use of local comprehensive planning processes to increase public access to Florida's waters by preserving recreational and commercial working waterfronts and identifying sites for public and private recreation.

8) Public recreation providers should identify water areas under their jurisdictions where inadequate recreational access exists or where existing water access can be improved, and give priority to making the needed improvements.

Issue Three: Reconnecting people to the outdoors and enhancing stewardship

Strengthening appreciation and participation in outdoor recreation requires both education and better connections to natural landscapes.

Urban Recreation

Providing recreation opportunities in urban areas is one of the most difficult but also most important issues in connecting people to the outdoors. With approximately 90



Outdoor yoga at the Ybor City Museum State Park

Quick Fact

Nearly 90 percent of Floridians reside in urban areas.

- Florida Department of Health



Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, credit Dr. D'Alessandro

percent of Floridians living in or near cities, accessing and experiencing the outdoors is heavily dependent on the availability of nearby opportunities. Urban parks and open spaces are vital in providing people opportunities for recreation and solitude, and to generally improve their quality of life. Parks are also important in preserving significant historic or cultural landmarks.

Urban recreation is key to providing an initial connection with natural landscapes. Local green spaces, parks and cultural sites often provide the stepping stone into the great outdoors, and local governments should ensure that these opportunities are provided. The provision of these opportunities cannot rest solely on local governments, however. Support for urban recreation should continue through programs like the Florida Recreation Development and Assistance Program (FRDAP) and the LWCF grant program.

By blending the built and natural environments, urban communities can facilitate and encourage participation in outdoor recreation, while reaping all the community benefits of a thriving, well-connected system of parks and open spaces. The following recommendations will help urban communities provide stronger connections to the outdoors.

Goal 3-1: Improve urban recreation opportunities.

Strategies:

1) Municipal planning and recreation departments, along with FDOT, should continue to incorporate walking and biking into transportation plans, with a focus on safe and connected opportunities.

2) Public recreation providers should continue and strengthen all federal, state and local initiatives which support the creation, enhancement and expansion of urban parks and open spaces.

3) Cities should create central, cornerstone parks to revitalize their communities and facilitate active, healthy living.

4) Communities should attempt to restore abandoned commercial developments, particularly sites of environmental concern, back to their natural state.

Connecting People and the Outdoors

Physical activity is essential to health and quality of life. However, time, competing priorities, and lack of motivation appear to be furthering an ongoing trend of disconnection between people and the outdoors. Recreation providers are always searching for innovative approaches to motivate people to take time to get outdoors through programming, the use of technology, marketing, and similar measures.

Youth

Children are notably susceptible to health-related problems due to sedentary lifestyles, yet many children continue to lack physical activity. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity prevalence among the nation's youth and adolescents has almost tripled since 1980. High obesity rates and inactivity are prompted by a de-emphasis of play time, physical education and outdoor activities in public schools combined with the

popularity of extra curricular activities such as playing video games, watching television and using home computers. Offering programs which reach youth both through schools and outside of school is essential to creating and strengthening ties to the outdoors.

Environmental Education

Environmental education increases public awareness and knowledge about environmental issues and provides the participants in its programs the skills necessary to make informed environmental decisions and to take responsible actions. It involves lifelong learning; its audiences are of all age groups, from very young children through senior citizens. National trends associated with environmental education including climate change, invasive species and sea level rise, are factors that will affect outdoor recreation and thus are trends for the public to be aware of. One of the best ways to connect children to the outdoors is through education-based environmental programs, particularly through the school system. However, budget constraints and a shift in focus have eliminated many programs which once provided children with outlets to structured and unstructured time outdoors. Budgets for field trips are almost non-existent in many cases, and both school boards and public recreation agencies must determine new ways to connect children to the outdoors and promote active, outdoor lifestyles. Federal environmental education initiatives include the "More Kids in the Woods" program through the U.S. Forest Service, the "Let's Go Outside" program through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Services Jr. Ranger and Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program, and the Hands-on-the-Land Network, which seeks to coordinate education on public lands. Statewide environmental education initiatives include the Department of Environmental Protection's Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) program, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network, the Get Outdoors Florida! Coalition, and 4-H programs. Various private and non-profit programs also exist around the state.



Enjoying the Wacissa River, credit FWC

Quick Fact

Sixty minutes of daily unstructured free play is essential to children's physical and mental health.

- American Academy of Pediatrics



At play on Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park

The Department of Environmental Protection's Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) program is an excellent example of partnering nearby natural resources with local schools to integrate environmental education into everyday learning. The LIFE program strives to reach a more diverse audience by engaging youth through their schools and connecting outdoor recreation with learning to build stewardship for the resource. Once DEP grants expire, programs at these sites continue though alternative funding sources such as private sponsorships, other grants or funding from local school boards. Service Learning is a component of the program, where students can participate in activities

which apply their learning and allows for students to participate in environmental events such as International Coastal Cleanup Day, Environmental Education Week, Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, World Water Monitoring Day and others. Service Learning can expand into citizen science efforts including LAKEWATCH and other programs, where environmental observations collected by the public can become data useful to land managers and scientists.

Working with the school system is only one of many ways to connect youth to the outdoors. Time away from school is similarly influential on a child's development, and programs which offer enriching outdoor activities to fill this time are important. Recently, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in partnership with the Wildlife Foundation of Florida, established the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network. This program employs a hub-and-spoke system of Wild Outdoor Centers (hubs) located within 45 minutes of major urban areas, and Near Outdoor Centers (spokes) which offer outdoor experiences closer to home. This concept of building skills and relationships with nature through a convenient, close to home setting while providing opportunities to experience nature at a grander scale is a good approach to getting children outdoors.

These programs are examples of the many environmental education programs that have been initiated by government, non-profit, and private entities. Funding for these programs is often difficult to obtain, and many programs have been successful in reaching outside the public sector for support. It is also important that outdoor connections are not solely focused on the youth, as family-centered programming will help unite different generations with a common sense of stewardship.

Addressing a Changing Population

Florida continues to see a steady rise in population, and the demographic composition is ever-changing. Two of the fastest growing demographics in the state are people of Hispanic origin and people over the age of 65. Recreation providers must do their best in meeting the needs of these populations in an effort to provide adequate access for all. Like with any demographic, it is important not to generalize a certain population, but instead, to gather input and information regarding this demographic at a local level to make better informed plans and decisions.

The Hispanic population is Florida's fastest growing segment of the population. Census data shows that the Hispanic population in Florida rose 57.4 percent between 2000 and 2010, compared to Florida's overall population increase of 17.6 percent. A majority of Hispanics in the state, approximately 55 percent, live in the Southeast counties of Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, Monroe and Broward. It is important that public recreation providers seek a better understanding of the

Spotlight

Emerging Activities: Stand-Up Paddleboarding

Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) is rapidly becoming a popular activity on Florida's rivers, lakes, and oceans. Stand-up paddleboards are larger and more buoyant than surfboards, incorporating long paddles which allow participants to stand and glide along the water. People are taking to SUP for a variety of uses like fishing, exercising, wildlife viewing and even yoga. The Outdoor Industry Association estimated that 1.24 million people nationwide participated in SUP in 2011, an 18 percent increase from 2010. Sales of stand-up paddleboards doubled between those same years, and many outfitters have begun renting the boards.



SUP in Walton County, credit: waltonoutdoors.com

trends and barriers of outdoor recreation participation within the Hispanic population when developing future recreation plans.

Another important subset of Florida's population is the 65 and older population. The baby boomer generation, which marked the sharpest period of population growth in our nation's history, is beginning to settle into retirement. Active lifestyles are equally as important for this age group as they are for youth, and ways must be found to keep people active and healthy. In order to do this, adequate and appropriate facilities and programs should be made available to all.

Goal 3-2: Connect all people to the outdoors.

Strategies:

1) All public recreation providers should encourage family-centered programming that appeals to both youth and adults. This multi-generational approach will join all ages in a shared appreciation for natural resources.

2) Public schools in Florida, in partnerships with Department of Education, should continue to integrate environmental education throughout their curricula to increase awareness of the benefits of and threats to Florida's natural systems. Schools should seek funding through grants, partnerships and sponsorships with public and private entities to fund environmental education-based activities such modeled after best practices identified by the Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) Program.

3) Agencies should establish and promote packaged interest programs, which harness interest in natural and cultural resource-based recreational, interpretive or educational activities to stimulate interest and lead participants to greater participation in the outdoors.

4) Recreation providers should adapt recreation programs and facilities to meet the needs of a changing population, particularly the needs of Hispanics and seniors.

Technology and Information

Technology is rapidly advancing and changing the way we live, learn and even recreate. Today, the typical participant is equipped with some electronic device when recreating. It is important that recreation providers recognize how technology is used and can be used more in a recreation setting, and then apply this knowledge as one way to better connect with the population.

The advancement and prevalence of smart phones and applications is enormous, and it is important that recreation providers find ways to utilize this technology to enhance, but not replace, outdoor recreation experiences. Smartphone applications, simply called apps, are one of many viable ways to distribute information and education to visitors, and these types of apps should continue to be developed. As of mid- 2012, 13 states, from Wyoming to Delaware, had developed PocketRanger mobile apps for their state park systems. These apps provide information such as park locations, available activities,



Parks by Nature, PocketRanger Mobile App

and wildlife education and are very beneficial in providing quick, accessible information. Technology like this is especially beneficial in connecting with the younger generation.

Following a recommendation from the 2008 SCORP, the Division of Recreation and Parks developed one-stop, comprehensive website for all recreation opportunities in Florida. The site provides an interactive map which features all recreation opportunities entered into the Florida Outdoor Recreation Inventory. The map can be searched by activity, location or agency. Continual development of the site to make it more user friendly, along with the contribution of timely and accurate updates from recreation providers, will make this tool even more beneficial to both the public and recreation planners. The following recommendations are proposed to help ensure recreation providers continue to incorporate technology into facilitating participation.

Goal 3-3: Facilitate participation in outdoor recreation through easily-accessible information and technological advancements.

Strategies:

1) DEP should continue to develop and enhance the Florida Outdoor Recreation Inventory website centralizing comprehensive information about outdoor recreation opportunities in Florida.

2) Recreation providers should continue to incorporate technological advancements as means to facilitate and encourage outdoor recreation participation, such as smartphone applications and interactive maps online.

3) Recreation providers should offer technology-driven programs and events, blending technology with traditional outdoor recreation activities.

Stewardship and Advocacy

Participation in outdoor recreation and enjoyment of natural resources is only one link in fully connecting people to the outdoors. A strong sense of stewardship, volunteerism and advocacy for recreation opportunities and conservation brings the participant full circle as they not only enjoy the resources, but help preserve them for future generations. User groups, non-profit organizations and citizen support organizations are some of the strongest advocates for recreation and conservation, and given appropriate tools and education, can provide tremendous help in securing support and resources. Volunteerism is another outstanding resource for public programs, as volunteer programs help improve natural areas while connecting people with the resources, and providing a significant financial boost to recreation programs. For example, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-2012, 1.4 million volunteer hours, equivalent to 625 full time employees, contributed an effort valued at $27.8 million to the Division of Recreation and Parks. Volunteers for the Florida Forest Service contributed 58,400 hours in FY 2011-12. By providing meaningful and enjoyable experiences, recreation providers can gather and retain volunteers, an incredible resource during tough economic times.

Goal 3-4: Encourage volunteers, stewardship, and advocacy.

Strategies:

1) All park and recreation agencies should maximize the use of volunteers and citizen-based support organizations to supplement their existing resources and personnel. Agencies should develop new, innovative and enjoyable volunteer opportunities that engage all generations and retain volunteers for future projects.

2) Agencies should coordinate the distribution of information regarding volunteer opportunities to potential volunteer groups.

3) Recreation providers should work with organizations such as FRPA, the Trust for Public Land, and other recreation groups and businesses to educate the public about the benefits of volunteerism on public lands and encourage expanded opportunities for the public to participate in volunteer programs.

Outdoor Recreation in Florida 2013

A Comprehensive Program for Meeting Florida's Outdoor Recreation Needs

Appendices



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Appendix A - Terms and Definitions

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES - The physical evidence or remains of known historic or prehistoric human life, activity or culture. Significant ruins, artifacts, inscriptions, structural and/or human remains may be considered archaeological resources.

BEACH - The zone of unconsolidated material that extends landward from the mean low water line to the place where there is marked change in material or physiographic form, or to the line of permanent vegetation, usually the effective limit of storm waves. "Beach," as used in the coastal management element requirements is limited to oceanic and estuarine shorelines.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WAYS - Any road, path or way which is open to bicycle travel and traffic afoot and from which motor vehicles are excluded.

BUFFER AREA - An area or space separating an outdoor recreation area from influences which would tend to depreciate essential recreational values of the outdoor recreation area. Especially needed in cases such as wilderness areas where the values involved are fragile or volatile or where the outside influences are of a particularly harsh and incompatible nature, as in urban or industrial areas, or along a busy highway.

CARRYING CAPACITY - The amount of outdoor recreation which a given outdoor recreation area, resource or facility can actually accommodate or provide at any given time under existing conditions.

COMMUNITY PARK - A park located near major roadways and designed to serve the needs of more than one neighborhood.

COMPATIBLE OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES - Outdoor recreational activities conducted on the same resource base without interfering with each other and which are not harmful to the environment.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - Plan that meets the requirements of Section. 163.3177 and 163.3178, F.S., and thus contains the guidelines, principles and standards for the orderly, coordinated and balanced future economic, social, physical, environmental and fiscal development of the area.

CONCURRENCY - The necessary public facilities and services to maintain the adopted level of service standards are available when the impacts of development occur.

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS (CARL) - Land acquisition program administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to acquire property from willing property owners to protect environmentally endangered lands for state parks, forest, wildlife management areas, beaches and recreation areas which are sensitive due to the presence of unique or rare habitats, endangered or threatened species, or unique historical, archaeological or geological features.

CONSERVATION USES - Activities or conditions within land areas designated for the purpose of conserving or protecting natural resources or environmental quality, including areas designated for flood control and floodplain management, and the protection of quality or quantity of ground or surface water, commercial or recreational fish and shellfish habitat, or vegetative communities or wildlife habitats.

CULTURAL RESOURCES - Archaeological and historical sites and properties. The significance of these resources is derived not only from individual artifacts but also from the spatial arrangement of the artifacts in both horizontal and vertical planes.

DEMAND - See "OUTDOOR RECREATION DEMAND."

DENSITY - An objective measurement of the number of people or residential units allowed per unit of land, such as residents or employees per acre.

DEVELOPMENT - The act of physically altering an area, site or resource to increase its ability or capacity to serve outdoor recreation purposes; also a representative result of such improvement. Development usually implies improvement by degrees and pertains primarily to the process of opening up, landscaping, erecting structures and facilities, etc. It is a more comprehensive term than "improvement."

ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT - An integrated approach to the management of Florida's green infrastructure of native landscapes and communities recognizing the biological, physical and chemical elements of discrete environments conducted through the use of tools such as planning, land acquisition, environmental education, regulation and pollution prevention designed to maintain, protect and improve the state's natural managed and human communities.

ECOTOURISM - Tourism based principally upon natural and archaeological/historical resources that involves traveling to relatively undisturbed or uncontaminated natural areas with the specific object of admiring, studying and enjoying the scenery and its wild plants and animals, as well as any existing cultural features (both past and present) found in these areas.

EXTENSIVE USE - (As contrasted with "intensive use.") Use of an outdoor recreation area for outdoor recreation activities which require a relatively high "land/man" ratio or large amount of resource per user served, e.g. hunting, wilderness camping, etc.

FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS SYSTEM - Statewide system proposed to link natural areas, open spaces and trails in Florida, consisting of large or medium-sized hubs, smaller sites and extensive to small connective landscape features.

FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAY - Any public road on the State Highway System that is designated by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Section 335.093, F.S.

FUNDING ASSISTANCE - The awarding of funds for assistance in financing the acquisition and development of an outdoor recreation project.

> ***COST SHARING*** - The awarding of funds for financial assistance in the acquisition and development of an outdoor recreation project which is matched in varying amounts by the project's sponsor.
>
> ***MATCHING BASIS*** - The awarding of funds for financial assistance in the acquisition and development of an outdoor recreation project which is matched equally by the project's sponsor.

GREENWAY - A linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley or ridgeline, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road or other route; any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage; an open space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features or historic sites with each other and populated areas; or a local strip or linear park designated as a parkway or greenbelt.

HABITAT FRAGMENTATION - Human activity such as agriculture, road building and suburb and city development, resulting in the creation of small isolated areas that are poorly suited to maintaining ecological function and support smaller populations of remaining species. Two components of habitat fragmentation which may result in extinction include the reduction in total habitat area, resulting in reduction in population sizes and redistribution of the remaining area into distinct fragments, affecting dispersal and immigration rates.

HISTORIC RESOURCES - All areas, districts or sites containing properties listed on the Florida Master Site File, the National Register of Historic Places or designated by a local government as historically, architecturally or archaeologically significant.

INFRASTRUCTURE - Man-made structures which serve the common needs of the population, such as sewage disposal systems, potable water systems, potable water wells serving a system, solid waste disposal sites or retention areas, stormwater systems, utilities, piers, docks, wharves, breakwaters, bulkheads, seawalls, bulwarks, revetments, causeways, marinas, navigation channels, bridges or roadways.

INTENSITY - An objective measurement of the extent to which land may be developed or used, including the consumption or use of the space above, on or below ground, the measurement of the use of or demand on natural resources, and the measurement of the use of or demand on facilities and services.

INTENSIVE USE - (As contrasted with "extensive use.") Use of an outdoor recreation area for outdoor recreation activities which requires a relatively low "land/man" ratio or small amount of resource per user served, e.g. swimming, picnicking, sightseeing, etc.

LAND ACQUISITION - Obtaining land and related resources for public outdoor recreation by various means.

LAND PURCHASE - The acquisition of land and related resources in which title to the property is obtained by transaction involving payment to the grantor.

LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY - The study of native landscape structure, function and change at the scale of entire landscapes, as well as the application of the results to the design and management of both natural and human-dominated areas.

LEVEL OF SERVICE - An indicator of the extent or degree of service provided by, or proposed to be provided by, a facility based on and related to the operational characteristics of the facility. Level of service shall indicate the capacity per unit of demand for each public facility.

MANAGEMENT AREA - An area devoted to specialized management for either game (wildlife management area) or sport fish (fish management area) and declared to be such by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

MARINE WETLANDS - Areas with a water regime determined primarily by tides and the dominant vegetation is salt tolerant plant species.

MITIGATION BANKING - Preserving, restoring or enhancing wetland areas for the purpose of setting them aside to compensate for future conversions of wetlands for development activities. A wetland bank may be created when a government agency, corporation or nonprofit organization undertakes such activities under a formal agreement with a regulatory agency. The value of a bank is determined by quantifying the wetland values restored or created in terms of "credits."

MULTI-PURPOSE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY - (As contrasted to a "single purpose facility.") An outdoor recreation facility which is designed for more than one activity use, e.g. athletic field or racquetball/handball court.

MULTIPLE USE - A land management objective seeking to coordinate several environmental, recreational, economic, historic, cultural and/or social values in the same geographic area in a compatible and sustainable manner.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - A park which serves the population of a neighborhood and is generally accessible by bicycle or pedestrian walkways.

OPEN SPACE - Undeveloped lands suitable for some types of recreation activities or conservation uses.

OUTDOOR RECREATION - The pursuit of leisure-time activities which occur in an outdoor setting. For clarification on types of outdoor recreation, see "resource-based outdoor recreation" and "user-oriented outdoor recreation."

OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITY - A specific, individual type of outdoor recreation. Activities are divided into two categories: active activities are those which involve some direct and specialized physical manipulation by the participant such as swimming, hiking, boating, etc. and passive activities are those which are more mental than physical, such as sightseeing, nature study, scenic appreciation, etc.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA - Generally, any expanse of real estate, of no particular size, used for outdoor recreation. Used in the plural it is all-inclusive, although in specific usage it would be contrasted with an "outdoor recreation site" by being larger and broader in purpose.

OUTDOOR RECREATION DEMAND - The quantity of outdoor recreation necessary to satisfy all prospective participants during any given time period. Demand is not strictly a matter of desire, but rather of desire tempered by such limiting factors as opportunity, awareness, financial ability, physical ability, and competing uses of available time.

OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES - Those improvements or artificially installed accessories which facilitate the use of an area or a resource for outdoor recreation. Facilities are divided into two categories, primary facilities are those that are essential or extremely desirable for conducting a particular outdoor recreation activity, such as launching ramps for boating, trails for cycling, roads for access to areas, etc. and secondary facilities are those that are desirable as a further enhancement of the recreational experience but are still dispensable, such as outdoor grills for picnicking and camping, docks for boating, etc.

OUTDOOR RECREATION INVENTORY - The sum of all public and private outdoor recreation areas, resources and facilities making up a complete outdoor recreation system. Also, the process of assembling and cataloging information on such a system.

OUTDOOR RECREATION NEED - The amount by which outdoor recreation demand exceeds available outdoor recreation supply in a given area. Used in the plural, "needs" usually refers to the actual resources and facilities which comprise "need."

OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITY - The availability of a preferred type of outdoor recreation to a potential user or participant. Used in a collective sense, it refers to the total amount of potential outdoor recreation available at any given time.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN - An overall framework for the planning and provision of

balanced outdoor recreation opportunities for potential and actual users.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM - An ongoing series of related and coordinated efforts designed to further a common outdoor recreation purpose.

OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCE AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS - The total amount of actual outdoor recreation resources and facilities necessary to supply a specified amount of outdoor recreation demand at a given time.

OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCE AND FACILITY GUIDELINE - Hypothetical measures of outdoor recreation opportunities expressed as park, resource or facility units which are intended to represent conditions of use and optimum levels of supply for the individual user, a given population of residents or a specific service area within a city or county.

> ***USE GUIDELINE (OR USE STANDARD)*** - A hypothetical measure of use conditions for outdoor recreation resources and facilities, e.g. the number of hikers per unit of trail, the number of bathers per unit of beach, etc. Use guidelines are used to translate outdoor recreation supply (expressed in physical units of measure) into outdoor recreation demand (expressed in user-occasions).
>
> ***POPULATION GUIDELINE*** - An optimum ratio of a given quantity of resources and facilities to a hypothetical number of people, e.g. one tennis court per 2,000 population. Population guidelines are provided for both resource-based and user-oriented activities and are used primarily by local government and private development agencies.
>
> ***SITE GUIDELINE*** - An estimate of local park and recreation area acreage proposed for serving various specific service areas or particular populations residing within a given radius, e.g. two acres of neighborhood park per 1,000 population, serving not more than 5,000 people and a population residing within 1/4 to 1/2 mile of the park.

OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES - Those natural resources used for the support of outdoor recreation, such as land, water, wildlife, natural scenery, etc. A special case is made where historical and archaeological remains are concerned. Although not natural resources, they are included because of their limited, non-renewable character.

OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE - An outdoor recreation area of relatively small size.

OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLIER - An agency, organization, group or individual, either public or private, with a broad area of responsibility for providing public outdoor recreation, distinguished on the basis of both the nature of the supplier and the nature of the outdoor recreation supplied. Six categories of outdoor recreation suppliers have been defined: federal and state government, county and municipal government, private commercial enterprise, private non-profit, private club and private un-inventoried.

OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY - The total amount of potential outdoor recreation afforded at any given time by an outdoor recreation system.

OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY CAPACITY - The amount of outdoor recreation which a given outdoor recreation area, resource, facility or site can accommodate or provide at any given time under a specified measure of use conditions.

OUTDOOR RECREATION SUPPLY POTENTIAL - The amount of potential outdoor recreation afforded in the future by any outdoor recreation system.

OUTDOOR RECREATION SYSTEM - A purposeful assemblage of physical units or elements made up of recreation areas, resources and facilities designed to meet the demands of a given segment of the public.

OUTDOOR RECREATION USE - The involvement of outdoor recreation areas, resources or facilities in the purpose for which they were intended.

OUTDOOR RECREATION USER - One who uses outdoor recreation areas, resources or facilities.

PARTICIPANT ACTIVITIES - Those outdoor recreation activities which involve direct participation, either active (as in the case of swimming) or passive (as in the case of nature study), by the individual. See "spectator activities."

PARTICIPANTS-PER-FACILITY RATIO - A need methodology that compares the number of one time activity users per unit of supply.

PER CAPITA PARTICIPATION RATE - The rate at which a person participates in a particular outdoor recreation activity, expressed in number of times per year.

PLAYGROUND - A recreation area with play apparatus.

PRIORITY - The ranking or order of precedence assigned to each project or need to establish its place with respect to all others under consideration at any given time.

PRIVATE RECREATION SITES - Sites owned by private, commercial or non-profit entities available to the public for purposes of recreational use.

PROJECTION - An extrapolation or extension of known data to derive comparable working data for selected target dates.

PUBLIC ACCESS - The ability of the public to physically reach, enter or use recreation sites including beaches and shores.

PUBLIC LANDS - Any lands in the state which are owned by, leased by or otherwise assigned to the state or any of its agencies and which are used by the general public for recreational purposes.

PUBLIC RECREATION SITES - Sites owned or leased on a long-term basis by a federal, state, regional or local government agency for purposes of recreational use.

RECREATION - The infinite variety of activities which people elect to occupy their leisure time and satisfy their need for diversion.

REGIONAL PARK - A park which is designed to serve two or more communities.

RESOURCE-BASED OUTDOOR RECREATION - Types of outdoor recreation activities dependent on natural and cultural resources, contrasted with "user-oriented" outdoor recreation. For this plan, activities include saltwater beach activities, bicycle riding, boating, camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, nature study, off-highway vehicle riding, picnicking, freshwater swimming and visiting archaeological and historical sites.

RESOURCE/FACILITY REQUIREMENTS - The total amount of outdoor recreation resources/facilities necessary to accommodate the total outdoor recreation demand at any given time.

RESOURCE TYPE - A class of outdoor recreation resource which can be specifically identified, such as a freshwater lake, an ocean beach, a hardwood forest, etc.

RURAL AREAS - Low density areas characterized by social, economic and institutional activities which may be largely based on agricultural uses or the extraction of natural resources in unprocessed form, or areas containing large proportions of undeveloped, unimproved or low density property.

SERVICE AREA - The surrounding land area from which an outdoor recreation resource, area, site or facility draws its participants.

SHORELINE OR SHORE - The interface of land and water, as used in the coastal management element requirements, and is limited to oceanic and estuarine interfaces.

SINGLE-PURPOSE FACILITY - (As contrasted to "multi-purpose.") A specialized type of outdoor recreation facility which is designed for one recreational activity, e.g. tennis court.

SPECTATOR ACTIVITIES - Those outdoor recreation activities which are carried on primarily for the visual benefit of others rather than for the direct enjoyment of the active participants, such as stadium sports, horse races, etc.

STAKEHOLDER - Group or individual who can affect, or is affected by, the achievement of the organization or program's mission. Examples include managers, employees, policy makers, suppliers, vendors, citizens and community groups.

STEWARDSHIP - Sense of responsibility for, desire to participate in, or taking charge of the protection and management of land and water resources.

SUITABILITY - The degree to which the existing characteristics and limitations of land and water are compatible with a proposed use or development.

SYSTEMS PLANNING - The process of assessing the park, recreation, open space and greenway facility needs of a community and translating that information into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial and facility requirements to satisfy those needs.

OUTDOOR RECREATION USE - The involvement of outdoor recreation areas, resources or facilities in the purpose for which they were intended.

PUBLIC RECREATION SITES - Sites owned or leased on a long-term basis by a federal, state, regional or local government agency for purposes of recreational use.

TRAIL - Linear corridor and any adjacent support parcels on land or water providing public access for recreation or authorized alternative modes of transportation.

Trail Types:

HIKING - Path used solely for backpacking or long distance hiking.

BICYCLE - Designated trail or system of trails used primarily for bicycling.

INTERPRETATIVE/NATURE - Trail designed or marked for nature interpretation and study.

HORSEBACK - Improved or unimproved trail designated and used primarily for horseback riding.

CANOE AND KAYAK- Distance along most commonly used route on a designated or undesignated waterway used for canoeing.

EXERCISE/PARCOURSE - Course designed generally for jogging, but which may or may not have exercise stations.

MULTIPURPOSE, MULTI-USE OR SHARED - Trail used for more than one of the above activities.

URBAN AREA - An area of, or for development, characterized by social, economic and institutional activities which are predominantly based on the manufacture, production, distribution or provision of goods and services in a setting which typically includes residential and nonresidential development uses other than those which are characteristic of rural areas.

URBAN SPRAWL - Urban development or uses which are located in predominantly rural areas, or rural areas interspersed with generally low-intensity or low-density urban uses, and which are characterized by one or more of the following conditions: (a) The premature or poorly planned conversion of rural land to other uses; (b) The creation of areas of urban development or uses which are not functionally related to land uses which predominate the adjacent area; or (c) The creation of areas of urban development or uses which fail to maximize the use of existing public facilities or the use of areas within which public services are currently provided. Urban sprawl is typically manifested in one or more of the following land use or development patterns: Leapfrog or scattered development; ribbon or strip commercial or other development; or large expanses of predominantly low-intensity, low-density, or single-use development.

USER-ORIENTED OUTDOOR RECREATION - Types of outdoor recreation that can be placed at the convenience of the user to take advantage of proximity to population centers. For this plan, these activities include golf, tennis, baseball/softball, football/soccer, handball/racquetball, shuffleboard, basketball, volleyball and outdoor pool swimming. Land areas for space is usually the only consideration dealing with the natural resource base. Some types of outdoor recreation may be either "user-oriented" or "resource-based" depending on the setting they utilize and the conjunctive values involved, as with the case of swimming, bicycling, picnicking, camping, etc.

USER-PREFERENCE - The exercise of choice of outdoor recreation activities by a potential participant. The total impact of user-preference is the determination of activity distribution in outdoor recreation demand.

USER-SATISFACTION - The measure of the extent to which an outdoor recreation experience satisfies the desires of the participant. Also sometimes referred to as user-enjoyment.

WETLANDS - Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and a duration sufficient to support, and [that] under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils. Soils present in wetlands generally are classified as hydric or alluvial, or possess characteristics that are associated with reducing soil conditions. The prevalent vegetation in wetlands generally consists of facultative or obligate hydrophytic macrophytes that are typically adapted to areas having soil conditions described above. Florida wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bayheads, bogs, cypress domes and strands, sloughs, wet prairies, riverine swamps and marshes, hydric seepage slopes, tidal marshes, mangrove swamps and other similar areas.

WILDERNESS - An undeveloped area of land which has essentially retained its primeval character and influence without permanent alteration.

WILDLIFE - Animals such as birds, fish, insects, mammals, amphibians and reptiles that are living in natural or wild environments. Wildlife does not include animals living in aquariums, zoos and other artificial surroundings, or domestic animals such as pets and livestock.

Appendix B - Acronyms

CAMA	Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas
CARL	Conservation and Recreation Lands
CERP	Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
DEO	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
DEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DFFM	Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management
DHGM	Division of Hunting and Game Management
DHR	Division of Historical Resources
DLE	Division of Law Enforcement
DMFM	Division of Marine Fisheries Management
DOS	Florida Department of State
DOT	Florida Department of Transportation
DRP	Division of Recreation and Parks
DSL	Division of State Lands
DWRM	Division of Water Resource Management
FCT	Florida Communities Trust
FDOA	Florida Disabled Outdoors Association
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FGTS	Florida Greenways and Trails System
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIND	Florida Inland Navigation District
FRDAP	Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
LATF	Land Acquisition Trust Fund
LIFE	Learning in Florida's Environment
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
NWFWMD	Northwest Florida Water Management District
OGT	Office of Greenways and Trails
PAWV	Office of Public Access and Wildlife Viewing
RTP	Recreational Trails Program
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
SJRWMD	St. Johns River Water Management District
SRWMD	Suwannee River Water Management District
SWFWMD	Southwest Florida Water Management District
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDOD	United States Department of Defense
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UTAP	Universal Trail Assessment Process
WCIND	West Coast Inland Navigation District

Appendix C - Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Maps

The Office of Greenways and Trails oversees the FGTS trail maps which include the following: The Land Trails Opportunity Map represents the existing, planned and conceptual non-motorized trails that form a land-based trail network of state and regional importance. This map is a synthesis of trail planning efforts being conducted by cities, counties, transportation planning organizations, and other agencies and non-profits throughout Florida. This map does not include all existing, proposed and conceptual trails in Florida, but focuses on linear trails of state and regional significance to form a comprehensive connected system of multiple and single-use trails to accommodate uses such as: walking, hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, horseback riding, skating, and wildlife viewing.

The Paddling Trails Opportunity Map represents the vision for a comprehensive water-based trails system, this map includes waterways that are designated as part of the FGTS or are appropriate for future designation. Because water trails are not consistently captured in local and regional planning efforts like land trails typically are, it is important to establish basic criteria for inclusion. Therefore, to be included in the Paddling Trails Opportunity Map, a waterway shall: represent an existing or potential destination trail that reaches beyond the local area due to its scenic qualities and diversity of experiences; be at least three miles in length, preferably longer; and be navigable during the majority of months in an average year. The Priority Trails Map encompasses the most important corridors and connections within the FGTS Land Trails Opportunity Map and Paddling Trails Opportunity Map. To the greatest extent possible, the corridors and connections within the Priority Trails Map:

1) Support and further national, state or regional trail projects, plans and initiatives that encompass multiple counties.

2) Include existing and planned long-distance trails and trail loops that serve as destinations to support nature-based tourism and economic development.

3) Include the State Trails, the Cross Florida Greenway and other major connecting trails of greatest length (five miles or longer).

4) Connect major population centers to provide access for the greatest number of Floridians.

5) Build on past and programmed state and federal investment in trails, particularly when matched by funding from local and private sources.

6) Coincide with transportation, utility and canal corridors that facilitate major connections.

7) Coincide with the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.

8) Connect natural, recreational, cultural and historical sites providing a range of experiences.

9) Provide a safe, accessible and high quality experience for users.

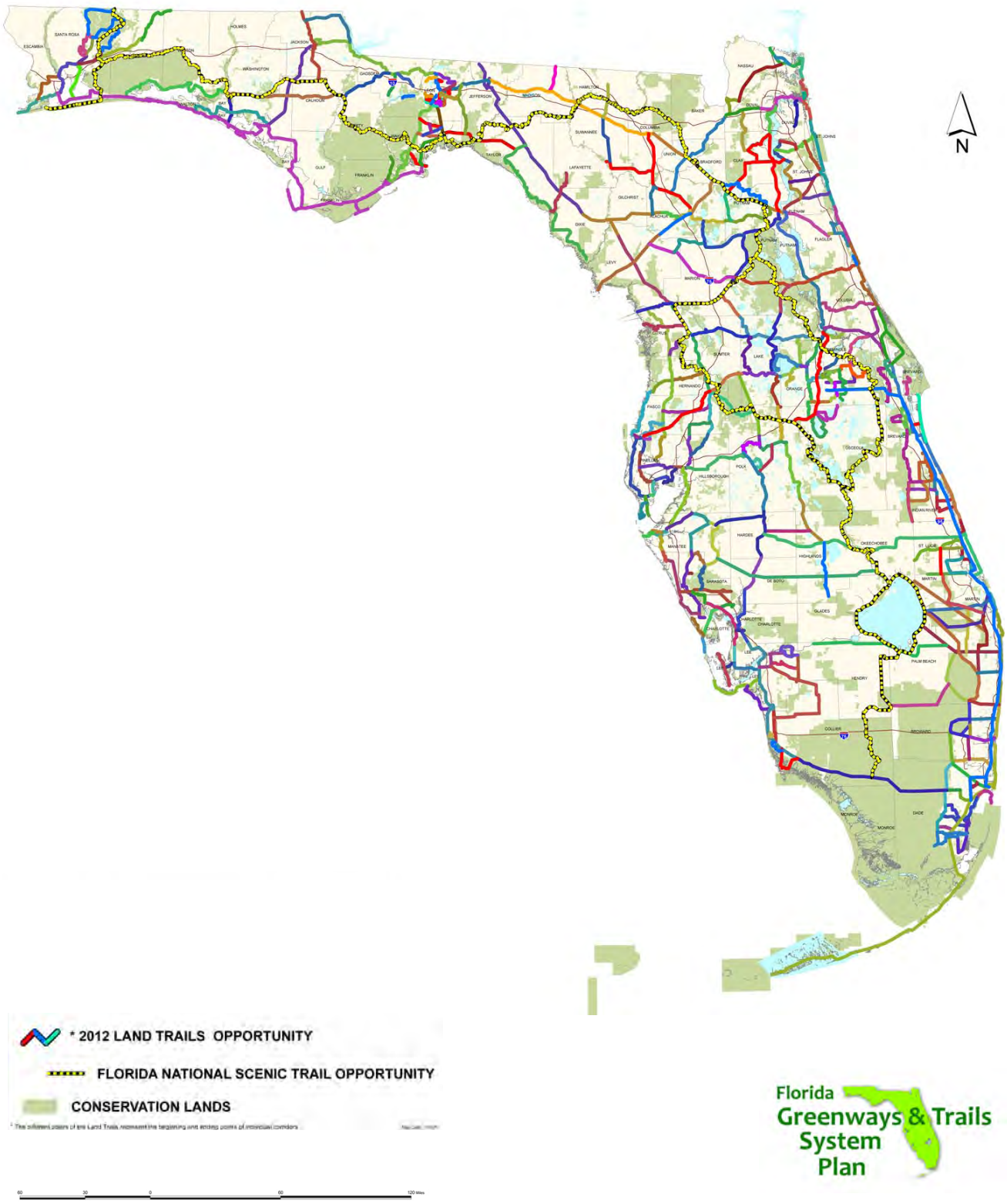
PRIORITY TRAILS



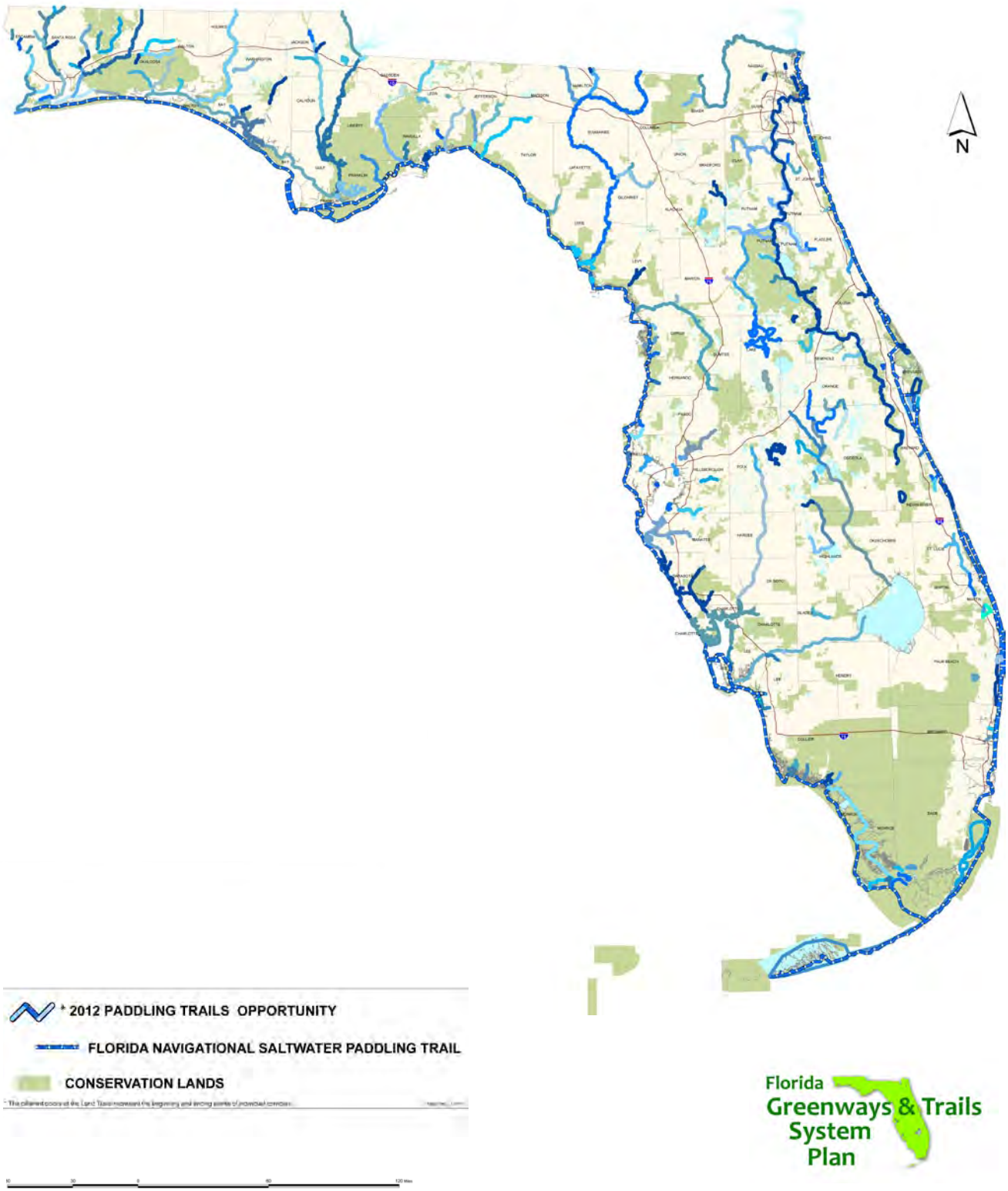
The Priority Trails Map encompasses the most important corridors and connections within the FGTS Land Trails and Water Trails Opportunity Maps. Following completion of this map in late 2012, the gaps will be identified and prioritized in 2013. The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) corridor included on this Priority Trails Map reflects the route currently proposed for designation by the US Forest Service. Whatever FNST route results from the current designation process will be included on the Priority Trails Map.

Florida Greenways & Trails System Plan

LAND TRAILS OPPORTUNITY MAP



PADDLING TRAILS OPPORTUNITY MAP



Appendix D- Open Project Selection Process

Grants in aid to local governments in Florida from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program must be administered to assure equal opportunity for all eligible applicants and all sectors of the general public to participate in the processes and benefits of the programs. In addition, LWCF grants administration must enable the State to insure that the program is directed toward meeting the priority outdoor recreation needs identified in the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. The processes and procedures for the administration of the LWCF in Florida are contained with Chapter 62D-5 Part VII, of the Florida Administrative Code (FAC). This rule serves to implement Section 375.021(4), Florida Statutes.

The rule states that the Department of Environmental Protection shall publicize the dates of the application submission period and other pertinent application information specified in this rule in the Florida Administrative Weekly. The Department shall announce additional application submission periods if sufficient funds remain after the initial funding cycle. An applicant may submit only one application during each announced application submission period. The application may contain no more than one project site except for sandy beach access sites.

The LWCF grants program is administered on an annual cycle subject to federal fund availability. It begins with letters that are sent to all eligible applicants announcing the application deadline. The Secretary of the Interior issues the apportionment letter to the governor which notifies the State of the amount available to Florida from the LWCF.

The reoccurring funding schedule is:

November	A public notice is sent to all local governmental entities with the legal responsibility for providing public outdoor recreational sites and facilities.
March	Deadlines for applications for that fiscal year.
April / May	Applications are reviewed, analyzed, inspected, evaluated, and ranked by staff.
July	The State Liaison Officer and staff selects a list of successful projects for the available funds. All applicants are notified of the decisions.
August / September	Selected projects are forwarded to the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service for approval and fund obligation.

LWCF grants shall only be awarded to grantees for projects that are for the sole purpose of providing outdoor recreational opportunities to the public.

Each eligible project application shall be evaluated on the basis of the information provided in the application and in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria contained in Section 62D-5.072 FAC. Each application shall be assigned a total point score pursuant to this criteria and an eligible application's standing among competing eligible applications shall be determined by the extent to which it is determined to meet the criteria as follows:

(1) GENERAL CRITERIA

Points shall be awarded as follows:

(a) The project implements the applicant's adopted local comprehensive plan and is included in their capital improvement plan or schedule (CIP) during the current or next three fiscal year = 20 points.

OR

is included as part of the plan through an adopted resolution committing the applicant to amend its CIP and complete the project should it receive program funds = 10 points.

(b) The extent to which the project would implement the outdoor recreation goals, objectives and priorities specified in the Plan = 4 points.

(c) The extent to which the project would provide for priority resource or facility needs in the region as specified in the Plan = 7 points.

(d) The project has been considered in the applicant's public participation process = 21 maximum points.

Points shall be awarded as follows:

1. Presentation at an advertised public meeting solely for the discussion of the proposed project = 10 points.
2. Presentation at a regularly scheduled advisory board meeting = 7 points.
3. Presentation to community organizations, neighborhood associations, or taking of an opinion survey = 4 points.

(e) The project is for a linear park purpose = 13 points.

(f) The project is for preservation purposes such as historical, archaeological, or cultural preservation and the site has been verified in writing by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources = 7 points.

(g) The applicant has the capability to develop, operate and maintain the project = 8 maximum points.

Points shall be awarded as follows:

1. Has a full-time recreation or park department staffed to provide facility development, programming, and maintenance capabilities = 8 points.
2. Has demonstrated the existence of a full-time ability to provide facility development, programming, and maintenance capabilities = 4 points.

(2) DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

Points shall be awarded as follows:

(a) The project provides for new development of entirely undeveloped property = 5 points.

(b) The project provides new or additional recreation facilities and opportunities:

3 or more facilities or opportunities = 15 points.
2 facilities or opportunities = 10 points.
1 facility or opportunity = 5 points.

(c) The project provides renovation of existing recreation facilities:

3 or more facilities = 13 points.
2 facilities = 9 points.
1 facility = 4 points.

(d) The project provides new or renovated support facilities and improvement to existing recreation areas = 15 points.

(e) The project provides developed pedestrian access to or along water resources, such as trails, boardwalks, or dune walkovers = 7 points.

(f) The project provides facilities for recreational use of water resources, such as boat ramps, swimming docks, or fishing piers = 12 points.

(g) The project provides a facility identified in the priority of new facilities needs or renovation/ repair needs within the applicant's population density set forth in the study entitled "An Infrastructure Assessment of Local Government Recreation and Park Department Facility Needs in the State of Florida" = 12 points.

(h) The project addresses the priority of infrastructure funding needs set forth in the applicant's population density in the study entitled "An Infrastructure Assessment of Local Government Recreation and Park Department Facility Needs in the State of Florida" identified in (g), above:

1. Higher priority in Infrastructure Assessment or combination of new construction and renovation/repairs = 13 points.
2. Lower priority in Infrastructure Assessment = 8 points.

(3) ACQUISITION CRITERIA

Points shall be awarded as follows:

(a) The Project assists in conserving and protecting environmentally unique, irreplaceable and valued ecological resources such as flora, fauna, natural communities, or other special features identified in the "Florida Natural Areas Inventory" = 13 points.

(b) The project provides frontage on wetlands or water bodies such as rivers, lakes, or oceans = 6 points.

(c) The project provides for development of facilities identified in the top three priority ranked index clusters of outdoor facilities needs for new construction identified within the applicant's population density set forth in the Department's study entitled "Infrastructure Assessment of Local Government Recreation and Park Department Facility Needs in the State of Florida" identified in (2) (g) above = 15 points.

(d) The project provides the following pursuant to the applicant's adopted local comprehensive plan = 23 maximum points.

Points shall be awarded as follows:

1. Needed acreage = 15 points.
2. Needed distribution of acreage = 8 points.

(e) The applicant has:
Identified development of the property in their capital improvement plan (CIP) or schedule during the current or next three fiscal years = 6 points.

OR

The applicant has included development of the property as part of the plan through an adopted resolution committing the applicant to amend its CIP and develop the property should it receive program funds = 3 points.

(4) TIE BREAKER SYSTEM

If two or more applications receive the same score as a result of the above evaluation, the following tie breaker system will be used to decide the priority ranking among them. Tied applicants will be evaluated according to each step of the tie-breaker system in order and will be assigned their priority accordingly. If Step 1 does not break the tie, Step 2 shall be used.

(a) Step 1 - Funding History. An order of priority among those applications with equal scores shall be established based on the per capita amount of funds previously received by the applicant from LWCF during the previous five fiscal years. The application from the applicant having the lowest per capita amount of funds receives the highest priority. Other applications will be arranged in descending order inversely to their applicants' per capita amount of funds received. The resident population within the applicant's jurisdictional boundaries shall be utilized to compute the applicant's per capita amount of funds received.

(b) Step 2 - Per Capita Operating Budget. The applicant with the lowest per capita expenditure of general operating funds receives the highest priority. The resident population within the applicant's jurisdictional boundaries will be divided into the applicant's total general operating budget for the applicant's current fiscal year to obtain the per capita operating fund amount.

Applications are assigned a total point score by the Department. A grading report addressing the extent to which each criterion has been met is filed with each application evaluated.

Each spring the State Liaison Officer submits to the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, for formal consideration, a recommended priority ranked listing (in descending order of the total point scores) of all program applications evaluated. The list includes the Deputy Secretary's recommendations for program grant awards.

In order to encourage effective participation by all potential program participants, annual program announcements are sent to all counties and municipalities and other agencies having primary recreational responsibilities. Workshops are held periodically to promote program benefits and to explain program requirements, particularly the need for local projects to be well supported by local recreation planning and public involvement and to support the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan and action program.

Technical assistance in preparing and submitting grant applications, site design, planning, needs analysis, management, funding sources, public participation, permitting, and other common needs of potential applicants is provided by the Department of Environmental Protection upon request. Further technical guidance is given to local governments through Recreation Assistance Program mail outs, telephone contacts, lending library services, on-site visits, workshops, and conferences with Department staff.

Appendix E - Responsive Management Methodology & Survey

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine Florida residents' and tourists' participation in outdoor recreation and their outdoor recreation needs. The study was undertaken in support of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The study entailed two telephone surveys: the first of Florida residents and the second of tourists who visit Florida. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

Multi-Modal Survey Design

For the survey of residents, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Florida residents. The survey of tourists used a multi-modal approach: the primary contact method was through telephone, supplemented with online contacts.

Design of Questionnaires

The telephone survey questionnaires were developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Department, based on the research team's familiarity with outdoor recreation, as well as SCORP studies for various other states. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaires to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the surveys. The tourist survey questionnaire was modified as necessary to create the online survey, and a pretest was conducted of this, as well.

Survey Samples

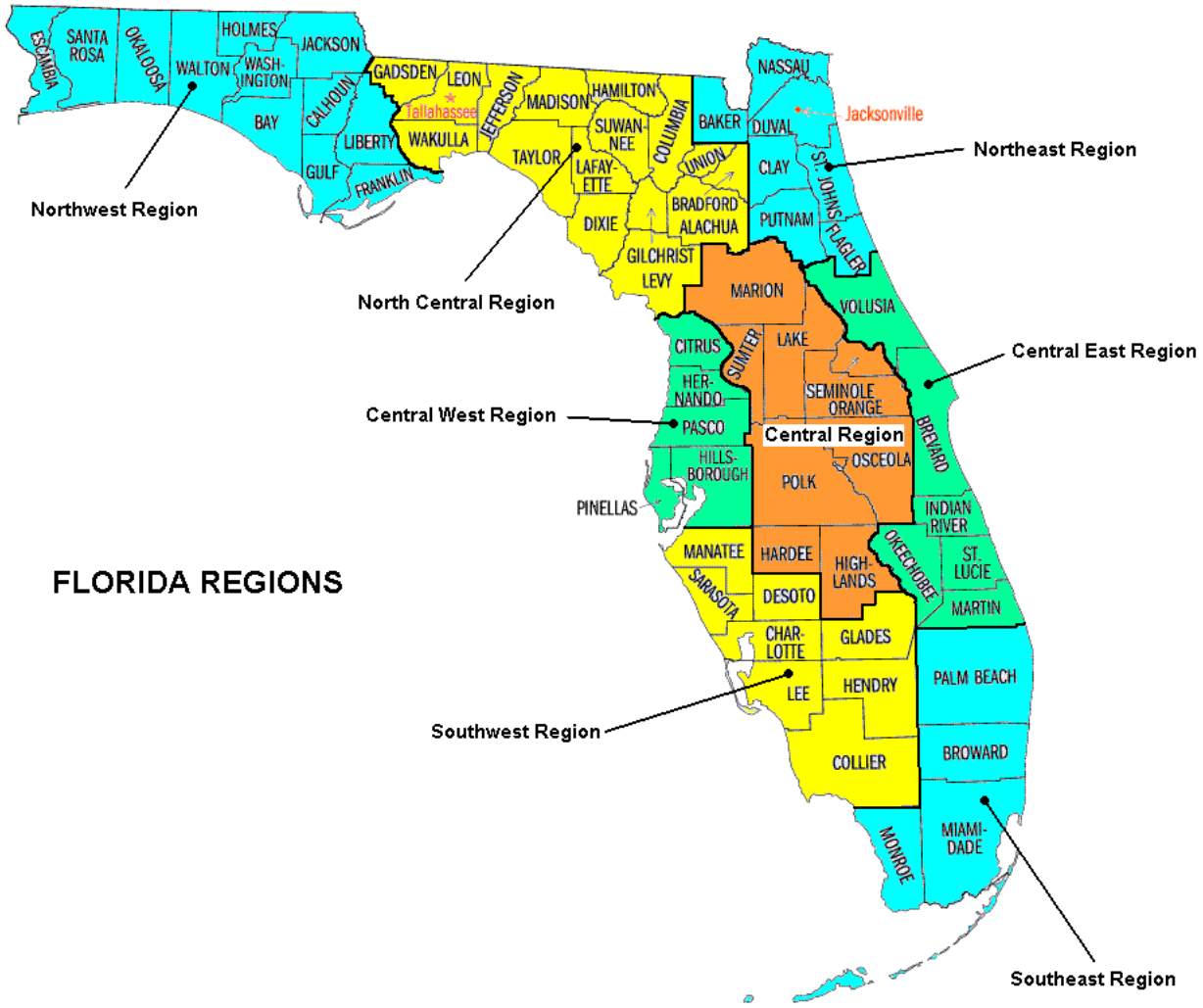
The sample of Florida residents was obtained from Survey Sampling International and Database 101, firms that specialize in providing scientific samples for human dimensions studies. Residents were sampled to ensure each of eight regions of Florida had enough respondents for valid results (see map of Florida Regions on the following page). For statewide analyses, the regions were then weighted so that the results were representative of all residents of Florida ages 18 and older.

The tourist sample was obtained from several sources to represent a cross-section of tourists to the state. The sampling was conducted in three distinct waves to ensure proper temporal representation of tourists. The tourist sampling plan, in part, mirrored panel methods employed by Visit Florida, the official not-for-profit arm of the Florida Commission on Tourism.

Telephone Interviewing and Date Management Facilities

A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the telephone interviews and data collection from both the telephone and online surveys. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing and data management facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of outdoor recreation and natural resources.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council



of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted a project briefing with the interviewers prior to the administration of these surveys. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey questionnaires, reading of the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaires.

Interviewing Dates and Times

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The online survey could be accessed at any time at the convenience of the respondent. The survey of residents was conducted in April through September 2011. The survey of tourists was conducted in three waves to account for the seasonality of Florida's tourism season: May, August and October 2011.

Survey Data Collection and Quality Control

The software used for telephone survey data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey questionnaires were programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. The survey questionnaires themselves contained error checkers and computation statements to ensure quality and consistent data. Once the data were obtained, QPL software exported the data into the project database in a format compatible with Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

The online survey data were imported into the project database in SPSS using interfacing software as part of the online survey program.

After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Responsive Management obtained a total of 3,961 completed surveys with Florida residents and 2,890 completed surveys with Florida tourists (of the latter, 2,306 had participated in outdoor recreation and received the full survey).

Florida SCORP Resident Survey
Responsive Management

Introduction
Hello, my name is _____, and I'm calling on behalf of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee to ask some questions about outdoor recreation in Florida. I am not selling anything, and your answers will be kept strictly confidential. Your responses will be used to determine the future plans for outdoor recreation facilities and resources in Florida. Do you have a few minutes to answer some questions for me?

Are you at least 18 years of age?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Yes (CONTINUE SURVEY)
- No (ASK TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE)
- DNR: Don't know (ASK TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE)

General Opinions on the Importance of and Satisfaction With Outdoor Recreation in Florida
In general, how important is outdoor recreation in Florida to you personally?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important
- DNR: Don't know

Overall, how satisfied are you with outdoor recreation opportunities IN YOUR COUNTY?
(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- DNR: Don't know

Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities in Florida
Next, I'd like to know about your participation in outdoor recreation activities. I am going to read a list of activities, and I would like to know if YOU have personally participated in each IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN FLORIDA. For each activity you have participated in, I will also have a couple questions about your participation. Again, please tell me about your participation in each activity ONLY during the past 12 months in Florida.
First,…

(ASKED FOR EACH ACTIVITY)
What about [ACTIVITY]? (Have you personally participated in this activity in the past 12 months in Florida?)
(LIST OF ACTIVITIES)

- Taking a trip at least 1 mile from home for the primary purpose of viewing wildlife
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Horseback riding
- Horseback camping
  (IF ASKED: Horseback camping refers to camping specifically in a designated horse camping area or using a horse as a mode of transportation to access a primitive area for camping. Designated horse camping areas can include camping in tents, primitive structures, travel trailers, or recreation vehicles (RVs) in areas that are specifically designated for camping with horses. If your camping location was NOT designated as a horse camping area, only camping in primitive areas accessed by horseback is considered horseback camping.)
- RV or Trailer camping, NOT including horseback camping
- Tent camping, NOT including horseback camping
- Nature study
- Visiting historical or archeological sites
- Geocaching
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Hunting
- Sport shooting
- Off-road vehicle driving, such as driving an ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle), a three-wheeler, a dune buggy, a dirt bike, or other type of off-highway vehicle
- Saltwater fishing
- Saltwater beach activities, NOT including fishing
- Freshwater
- Freshwater beach activities, NOT including fishing
- Bicycling
- Swimming in public outdoor pools
- Golf (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Outdoor tennis (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Baseball or softball (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Football (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Soccer (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Outdoor basketball (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)

(RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR EACH ACTIVITY)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes
- No
- DNR: Don't know

(IF PARTICIPATED IN SALTWATER FISHING)
You said you went saltwater fishing in the past 12 months in Florida. Did you go saltwater fishing from…?
(READ LIST; CHECK IF YES)

- a boat
- a pier, jetty, or catwalk
- a shore
- DNR: None of these
- DNR: Don't know

(IF PARTICIPATED IN FRESHWATER FISHING)
You said you went freshwater fishing in the past 12 months in Florida. Did you go freshwater fishing from…?
(READ LIST; CHECK IF YES)

- a boat
- a pier, jetty, or catwalk
- a shore or bank
- DNR: None of these
- DNR: Don't know

(IF PARTICIPATED IN BICYCLING)
You said you went bicycling in the past 12 months in Florida. Did you go bicycling on…?
(READ LIST; CHECK IF YES)

- paved roads and trails
- roads and trails that are not paved
- DNR: None of these
- DNR: Don't know

Did you use SALTWATER boat ramps in the past 12 months in Florida?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes
- No
- DNR: Don't know

Did you use FRESHWATER boat ramps in the past 12 months in Florida?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes

- No
- DNR: Don’t know

(IF PARTICIPATED IN ANY ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN FLORIDA)
Now I have some questions about each activity you did participate in during the past 12 months in Florida.

(ASKED FOR EACH ACTIVITY RESPONDENT HAS PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN FLORIDA, INCLUDING USE OF BOAT RAMPS)
You said you [PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITY / USED SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS / USED FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS] during the past 12 months in Florida. How many days total during the past 12 months did you [PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITY / USE SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS / USE FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS] in Florida?
(IF ASKED: Portions of a day count as a whole day; multiple outings / uses within one day count as a single day.)
(ENTER NUMBER OF DAYS)

(ASKED FOR EACH ACTIVITY RESPONDENT HAS PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN FLORIDA, INCLUDING USE OF BOAT RAMPS)
In what counties did you [PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITY / USE SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS / USE FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS] during the past 12 months in Florida?
(ENTER COUNTY CODES FOR ALL COUNTIES)

And thinking about the area you visited the most, approximately how many miles from your home is this area located?
(ENTER MILES)

In general, do you expect or plan to personally participate in outdoor recreation activities in Florida more, about the same, or less than you did during the past 12 months?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- More
- About the same
- Less
- DNR: Don’t know

Reasons for Participating in Outdoor Recreation Activities in Florida

What are the MOST IMPORTANT reasons you participate in outdoor recreation activities in Florida?

(DO NOT READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- I live close to a park or other outdoor area
- It is affordable
- To be with family and friends
- To spend time by myself
- To enjoy the scenery
- For my health (general / non-specific)
- For my mental well being
- For my physical fitness
- For relaxation
- For the challenge
- To be close to nature
- Because of the variety of opportunities available in Florida
- Other (ENTER OTHER)
- Don't know

Next, please tell me how important or unimportant each of the following is to you when participating in outdoor recreation activities in Florida.

How about [FACTOR]?

(How important or unimportant is this to you when participating in outdoor recreation activities in Florida.)

(LIST OF FACTORS; ADMINISTER IN RANDOM ORDER)

- spending time with family and friends
- being active or healthy
- to be close to nature

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER FOR EACH FACTOR)

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant
- DNR: Don't know

Opinions on Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Opportunities in Florida

Thinking about the outdoor recreation activities you have participated in during the past 12 months in Florida, please tell me how you would rate the quality of the FACILITIES IN YOUR COUNTY for participating in these activities.

(Would you say they are excellent, good, fair, or poor?)

What about the AMOUNT of OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR COUNTY for participating in these activities?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- DNR: Don't know

In your opinion, do you support or oppose maintaining the current levels of outdoor recreation services and opportunities in Florida?
(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly support
- Moderately support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Moderately oppose
- Strongly oppose
- DNR: Don't know

Desire / Need for Additional Outdoor Recreation Facilities
Are there any outdoor recreation facilities you would like to see built or provided IN YOUR COUNTY?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes
- No
- DNR: Don't know

(IF YES)
What outdoor recreation facilities would you like to see built or provided IN YOUR COUNTY?
(DO NOT READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Community parks
- Playgrounds for children
- Campgrounds
- Fishing areas
- Outdoor public swimming pools
- Biking paths
- Paved walkways
- Hiking / walking trails
- Horseback riding trails
- Nature / interpretative trails
- Saltwater boat access or ramps
- Freshwater boat access or ramps
- Access for canoes or kayaks
- Fishing piers
- Beach access / parking

- Hunting areas
- Off-road vehicle areas / trails
- Wildlife viewing areas / overlooks
- Off-leash dog areas
- Football fields
- Soccer fields
- Public tennis courts
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Public golf courses
- Baseball fields
- Softball fields
- Other(s) (ENTER OTHERS)

Demographics
Great! We are just about through. The final questions are for background information and help us analyze the results.

What county do you live in?
(ENTER COUNTY CODE)

What is your zip code?
(ENTER ZIP CODE)

Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area NOT on a farm or ranch?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Large city or urban area
- Suburban area
- Small city or town
- Rural area on a farm or ranch
- Rural area NOT on a farm or ranch
- DNR: Don’t know
- DNR: Refused

How many children, age 17 or younger, do you have living in your household?
(ENTER NUMBER OF CHILDREN)

What is the highest level of education you have completed?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Not a high school graduate
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Some college or trade school degree
- Bachelor’s degree
- Master’s degree

- Professional or doctorate degree (e.g., M.D. or Ph.D.)
- DNR: Don't know
- DNR: Refused

Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?
(READ LIST; CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Under $20,000
- $20,000-$39,999
- $40,000-$59,999
- $60,000-$79,999
- $80,000-$99,999
- $100,000-$119,999
- $120,000 or more
- DNR: Don't know
- DNR: Refused

What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African-American
- Hispanic or Latino (includes Mexican, Central American, etc.)
- Native American or Alaskan native or Aleutian
- Native Hawaiian
- Middle Eastern
- East Asian (from Japan, China, Korea, Philippines, etc.)
- South Asian (from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc.)
- African (NOT African-American)
- DNR: Other (ENTER OTHER)
- DNR: Don't know
- DNR: Refused

May I ask your age?
(ENTER AGE)

That's the end of the survey. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

(OBSERVE AND RECORD GENDER)

- Male
- Female
- Don't know

Florida SCORP Tourist Survey
Responsive Management

Introduction
Hello, my name is _____, and I'm calling on behalf of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. We are assisting the Department in a study to better understand tourists' opinions on their visits to Florida. I am not selling anything, and your answers will be kept strictly confidential. Your responses will be used to help determine the future plans for tourist activities in Florida. Do you have a few minutes to answer some questions for me?

Are you at least 18 years of age?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Yes (CONTINUE SURVEY)
- No (ASK TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE)
- DNR: Don't know (ASK TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE)

Characteristics of Visits to Florida
Did you visit Florida in the past 12 months?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Yes
- No (END SURVEY: I'm sorry, but right now we are only interviewing those who have visited Florida in the past 12 months. Thank you for your time and willingness to help.)
- Don't know (END SURVEY: I'm sorry, but right now we are only interviewing those who have visited Florida in the past 12 months. Thank you for your time and willingness to help.)

What are the main reasons you visited Florida in the past 12 months?
(DO NOT READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
- Fun / pleasure / vacation
- To visit family / friends
- Outdoor recreation / outdoor activities
- Fishing
- Work
- Other (ENTER OTHER)

Did you participate in ANY outdoor recreation activities during your visit(s) to Florida in the past 12 months? For this survey, outdoor recreation includes ANY activity that takes place in a park, on a playground, at the beach, in nature, or other outdoor environment.
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Yes

- No (END SURVEY: That's the end of the survey. Thank you for your time and cooperation.)
- Don't know (END SURVEY: That's the end of the survey. Thank you for your time and cooperation.)

How many trips did you take to Florida in the past 12 months?
(ENTER NUMBER OF TRIPS)

How many days total did you visit Florida in the past 12 months?
(Please include ALL trips.)
(ENTER NUMBER OF DAYS)

(IF MORE THAN ONE TRIP TO FLORIDA)
On how many of your [XX] trips to Florida in the past 12 months did you participate in outdoor recreation activities?
(ENTER NUMBER)

How likely are you to visit Florida in the next 12 months?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not at all likely
- DNR: Don't know

General Opinions on the Importance of and Satisfaction With Outdoor Recreation in Florida
Next, I have some questions about outdoor recreation.

In the next 12 months, do you expect or plan to personally participate in outdoor recreation activities in Florida more, about the same, or less than you did during the past 12 months?
(IF ASKED: For this survey, outdoor recreation includes ANY activity that takes place in a park, on a playground, at the beach, in nature, or other outdoor environment.)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- More
- About the same
- Less
- DNR: Don't know

In general, how important is outdoor recreation to you personally?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important
- DNR: Don't know

Overall, how satisfied are you with outdoor recreation opportunities IN FLORIDA? (READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- DNR: Don't know

Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities in Florida

Next, I'd like to know about your participation in outdoor recreation activities in Florida. I am going to read a list of activities, and I would like to know if YOU have personally participated in each IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN FLORIDA. For each activity you have participated in, I will also have a couple questions about your participation. Again, please tell me about your participation in each activity ONLY during the past 12 months in Florida.

First,…

(ASKED FOR EACH ACTIVITY)

What about [ACTIVITY]? (Have you personally participated in this activity in the past 12 months in Florida?)

(LIST OF ACTIVITIES)

- Taking a trip at least 1 mile from home for the primary purpose of viewing wildlife
- Hiking
- Picnicking
- Horseback riding
- Horseback camping
  (IF ASKED: Horseback camping refers to camping specifically in a designated horse camping area or using a horse as a mode of transportation to access a primitive area for camping. Designated horse camping areas can include camping in tents, primitive structures, travel trailers, or recreation vehicles (RVs) in areas that are specifically designated for camping with horses. If your camping location was NOT designated as a horse camping area, only camping in primitive areas accessed by horseback is considered horseback camping.)
- RV or Trailer camping, NOT including horseback camping
- Tent camping, NOT including horseback camping
- Nature study
- Visiting historical or archeological sites
- Geocaching
- Canoeing or kayaking
- Hunting
- Sport shooting

- Off-road vehicle driving, such as driving an ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle), a three-wheeler, a dune buggy, a dirt bike, or other type of off-highway vehicle
- Saltwater fishing
- Saltwater beach activities, NOT including fishing
- Freshwater
- Freshwater beach activities, NOT including fishing
- Bicycling
- Swimming in public outdoor pools
- Golf (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Outdoor tennis (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Baseball or softball (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Football (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Soccer (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)
- Outdoor basketball (Again, please tell me if YOU have personally participated in this activity. This does NOT include watching an event.)

(RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR EACH ACTIVITY)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes
- No
- DNR: Don't know

(IF PARTICIPATED IN SALTWATER FISHING)
You said you went saltwater fishing in the past 12 months in Florida. Did you go saltwater fishing from…?
(READ LIST; CHECK IF YES)

- a boat
- a pier, jetty, or catwalk
- a shore
- DNR: None of these
- DNR: Don't know

(IF PARTICIPATED IN FRESHWATER FISHING)
You said you went freshwater fishing in the past 12 months in Florida. Did you go freshwater fishing from…?
(READ LIST; CHECK IF YES)

- a boat
- a pier, jetty, or catwalk
- a shore or bank
- DNR: None of these
- DNR: Don't know

(IF PARTICIPATED IN BICYCLING)
You said you went bicycling in the past 12 months in Florida. Did you go bicycling on…?
(READ LIST; CHECK IF YES)

- paved roads and trails
- roads and trails that are not paved
- DNR: None of these
- DNR: Don't know

Did you use SALTWATER boat ramps in the past 12 months in Florida?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes
- No
- DNR: Don't know

Did you use FRESHWATER boat ramps in the past 12 months in Florida?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes
- No
- DNR: Don't know

(IF PARTICIPATED IN ANY ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN FLORIDA)
Now I have some questions about each activity you did participate in during the past 12 months in Florida.

(ASKED FOR EACH ACTIVITY RESPONDENT HAS PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN FLORIDA, INCLUDING USE OF BOAT RAMPS)
You said you [PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVITY / USED SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS / USED FRESHWATE BOAT RAMPS] during the past 12 months in Florida. How many days total during the past 12 months did you [PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITY / USE SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS / USE FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS] in Florida?
(IF ASKED: Portions of a day count as a whole day; multiple outings / uses within one day count as a single day.)
(ENTER NUMBER OF DAYS)

(ASKED FOR EACH ACTIVITY RESPONDENT HAS PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS IN FLORIDA, INCLUDING USE OF BOAT RAMPS)
In what city or town did you [PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITY / USE SALTWATER BOAT RAMPS / USE FRESHWATER BOAT RAMPS] during the past 12 months in Florida?
(ENTER CITY OR TOWN NAME VERBATIM FOR ALL)

Reasons for Participating in Outdoor Recreation Activities in Florida

What are the MOST IMPORTANT reasons you participated in outdoor recreation activities during the past 12 months in Florida?
(DO NOT READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- I visited / stayed close to a park or other outdoor area
- It is affordable
- To be with family and friends
- To spend time by myself
- To enjoy the scenery
- For my health (general / non-specific)
- For my mental well being
- For my physical fitness
- For relaxation
- For the challenge
- To be close to nature
- Because of the variety of opportunities available in Florida
- Florida has good / excellent / attractive recreation opportunities
- Florida has outdoor recreation opportunities my home area does not
- Other (ENTER OTHER)
- Don't know

Next, please tell me how important or unimportant each of the following is to you when participating in outdoor recreation activities in Florida.
How about [FACTOR]?
(How important or unimportant is this to you when participating in outdoor recreation activities in Florida.)
(LIST OF FACTORS; ADMINISTER IN RANDOM ORDER)

- spending time with family and friends
- being active or healthy
- to be close to nature

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER FOR EACH FACTOR)

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neither important nor unimportant
- Somewhat unimportant
- Very unimportant
- DNR: Don't know

Opinions on Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Opportunities in Florida

Thinking about the outdoor recreation activities you have participated in during the past 12 months in Florida, please tell me how you would rate the quality of the FACILITIES for participating in these activities.
(Would you say they are excellent, good, fair, or poor?)

What about the AMOUNT of OPPORTUNITIES for participating in these activities?
(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- DNR: Don't know

In your opinion, do you support or oppose maintaining the current levels of outdoor recreation services and opportunities in Florida?
(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Strongly support
- Moderately support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Moderately oppose
- Strongly oppose
- DNR: Don't know

Desire / Need for Additional Outdoor Recreation Facilities

Are there any outdoor recreation facilities you would like to see built or provided in the areas you visited?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Yes
- No
- DNR: Don't know

(IF YES)
What outdoor recreation facilities would you like to see built or provided in the areas you visited?
(DO NOT READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Community parks
- Playgrounds for children
- Campgrounds
- Fishing areas
- Outdoor public swimming pools
- Biking paths
- Paved walkways
- Hiking / walking trails
- Horseback riding trails
- Nature / interpretative trails
- Saltwater boat access or ramps
- Freshwater boat access or ramps
- Access for canoes or kayaks

- Fishing piers
- Beach access / parking
- Hunting areas
- Off-road vehicle areas / trails
- Wildlife viewing areas / overlooks
- Off-leash dog areas
- Football fields
- Soccer fields
- Public tennis courts
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Public golf courses
- Baseball fields
- Softball fields
- Other(s) (ENTER OTHERS)

Demographics
Great! We are just about through. The final questions are for background information and help us analyze the results.

What state do you live in?
(ENTER STATE CODE)

What is your zip code?
(ENTER ZIP CODE)

Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area NOT on a farm or ranch?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Large city or urban area
- Suburban area
- Small city or town
- Rural area on a farm or ranch
- Rural area NOT on a farm or ranch
- DNR: Don’t know
- DNR: Refused

How many children, age 17 or younger, do you have living in your household?
(ENTER NUMBER OF CHILDREN)
What is the highest level of education you have completed?
(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Not a high school graduate
- High school graduate or equivalent
- Some college or trade school degree

- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional or doctorate degree (e.g., M.D. or Ph.D.)
- DNR: Don't know
- DNR: Refused

Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?
(READ LIST; CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- Under $20,000
- $20,000-$39,999
- $40,000-$59,999
- $60,000-$79,999
- $80,000-$99,999
- $100,000-$119,999
- $120,000 or more
- DNR: Don't know
- DNR: Refused

What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- White or Caucasian
- Black or African-American
- Hispanic or Latino (includes Mexican, Central American, etc.)
- Native American or Alaskan native or Aleutian
- Native Hawaiian
- Middle Eastern
- East Asian (from Japan, China, Korea, Philippines, etc.)
- South Asian (from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc.)
- African (NOT African-American)
- DNR: Other (ENTER OTHER)
- DNR: Don't know
- DNR: Refused

May I ask your age?
(ENTER AGE)

That's the end of the survey. Thank you for your time and cooperation.

(OBSERVE AND RECORD GENDER)

- Male
- Female
- Don't know

Appendix F - Online Questionnaires

In April 2012, two questionnaires were sent out - one to public outdoor recreation providers, and another to the general public. The purpose of these questionnaires was to provide a better understanding of recreation-related issues impacting our state, and to determine any additional issues. Items in the questionnaire were focused on issues formed primarily by the SCORP workgroup and meetings with outdoor recreation stakeholders. The results of these questionnaires helped to fine tune the issues, goals and strategies presented in Chapter 5 of this document.

PUBLIC PROVIDERS

SCORP Recreation Issues Survey
Survey A (Public Provider)

Welcome! This survey is being conducted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks. The purpose of this survey is to get your ideas about recreation-related issues, the things that affect your program's ability to provide adequate outdoor recreation opportunities. Participation in this survey is both **voluntary and anonymous**. Thank you!

1. Please select the level of government you work in:
- City
- County
- State
- Federal
- Other:

2. I think our program's primary governing body (town council, county commissioners, state Legislature, etc) sees outdoor recreation as contributing to the overall health and quality of life of the citizens we serve.
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Unsure

3. I think our program's primary governing body sees outdoor recreation as essential to the economic stability of the region we serve.
- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Unsure

4. Within the constraints of the current economic situation, I think a sincere effort is made to support our program with funding and other resources.

- Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Disagree
- Unsure

5. In thinking about the population you serve, how would you describe the following indicators of public support for recreation?

- We have a thriving volunteer base and our user-groups are vocal in their advocacy for their interests as well as our program
- Volunteerism is inconsistent, user-groups exist but are not vocal in their advocacy for our program
- Finding and retaining volunteers is difficult, there is a lack of user-groups in our community
- Other:

6. What are the current realities regarding the acquisition and development of lands by your program or agency? (Choose all that apply)

- Funds are available for both acquisition and development of lands.
- Acquisition is possible, but funding for construction and development is insufficient.
- Lands are available for purchase, but there is limited funding to do so.
- Urban development has increased the price of available lands out of our price range.
- There is little public support for the acquisition of lands.
- Other:

7. If applicable, which aspects of your program have been impacted by the economic downturn?

- Acquisition
- Maintenance
- Programming
- Construction of new facilities
- Staffing
- Other:
- 7b. From the list above, which aspect of your program has been **most** impacted?

8. Rank these **recreation-related** issues in terms of their importance to you, with "1" being the most important.

_ Impact of urban development on conservation of lands
_ Economic impact of recreation-based tourism on local communities
_ Rising energy costs

_ Inadequate public access to waters
_ Reconnecting youth to the outdoors
_ Inadequate funding for programs and facilities
_ Inadequate access to public lands
_ Other:

9. Please list other recreation-related issues that impact your program.
   - Open response, 100 word max.

10. What city or county do you live in?
    - Open Response

GENERAL PUBLIC

SCORP Recreation Issues Survey
Survey B (General Public)

Welcome! This survey is being conducted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks. The purpose of this survey is to get your ideas about recreation-related issues, the things that affect your city, county and state governments' and private businesses' abilities to provide the outdoor recreation opportunities you need. Participation in this survey is both **voluntary and anonymous**. Thank you!

1. Are you a member of a recreation based user group/association?
   - Yes/No
   - 1a. If yes, which of the following functions does your group provide: (choose all that apply)
     - Organization of events
     - Sharing of information
     - Funding and/or constructing recreation facilities
     - Operation of recreation facilities
     - Advocating for recreation activity or recreation program
     - Other:
   - 1b. If yes, list the recreational activity your group is affiliated with (if applicable): (open response)

2. How would you describe public access to Florida's coastline and waterways?
   - Very convenient
   - Somewhat convenient
   - Somewhat inconvenient
   - Not at all convenient
   - Unsure

3. How would you describe public access to recreational trails in your community?
   - Very convenient
   - Somewhat convenient
   - Somewhat inconvenient
   - Not at all convenient
   - Unsure

4. If applicable, which of the following may hinder *your* ability or desire to participate in outdoor recreation?

- Competing priorities (school, work, family, etc)
- Lack of accessible information on programs and facilities offered
- Cost of participation (registration, entrance fees, equipment, etc.)
- Travel distance to recreation opportunities and associated travel costs
- Lack of programs/facilities that appeal to your interests
- Other:

5. I think there is adequate funding for public recreation in Florida.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know

6. I think outdoor recreation is essential to the *economic* health of my community.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

7. I think outdoor recreation is essential to my health and quality of life.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

8. What effect do travel costs have in determining where you recreate?

- None
- Small effect
- Moderate effect
- Large effect

9. What are your primary sources of information when planning outdoor recreation activities?

- Printed Publications
- Internet
- Recommendations from friends
- Calling recreation providers
- Other:

10. Rank these **recreation-related** issues in terms of their importance to you, with "1" being the most important.

_ Impact of urban development on conservation of lands

_ Economic impact of recreation-based tourism on local communities
_ Rising energy costs
_ Inadequate public access to waters
_ Reconnecting youth to the outdoors
_ Inadequate funding for programs and facilities
_ Inadequate access to public lands
_ Other:

11. Please list other recreation-related issues that impact you.
- Open response, 100 word max.

12. What city or county do you live in?
- Open response

End of survey Thank You Screen…

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey! Your input is important to us, as it allows for a better understanding of recreation-related issues in Florida. Responses from this survey will be used as part of the 2013 update of *Outdoor Recreation in Florida*, the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP). Thank you!

Appendix G - Outdoor Recreation Participation by Activity

Activity	Residents		Tourists	
RESOURCE BASED	% of Residents Participating	Number of Participants	% of Tourists Participating	Number of Participants
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
Hiking	26%	4,888,341	22%	19,030,000
Saltwater Boat Ramp Use	25%	4,700,328	7%	6,055,000
Freshwater Beach Activities*	22%	4,136,288	14%	12,110,000
Freshwater Boat Ramp Use	19%	3,572,249	3%	2,595,000
Nature Study	18%	3,384,236	8%	6,920,000
Tent Camping	17%	3,196,223	7%	6,055,000
Bicycle Riding - Unpaved Trails	16%	2,978,127	4%	3,511,900
Off-Road Vehicle Driving	15%	2,820,197	8%	6,920,000
Sport Shooting	11%	2,068,144	2%	1,730,000
Hunting	11%	2,068,144	3%	2,595,000
RV or Trailer Camping	9%	1,692,118	9%	7,785,000
Horseback Riding	6%	1,128,079	6%	5,190,000
Geocaching	3%	564,039	3%	2,595,000
Horseback Camping	1%	188,013	5%	4,325,000
USER-ORIENTED				
Swimming in Public Outdoor Pools	29%	5,452,380	29%	25,085,000
Golf	15%	2,820,197	11%	9,515,000
Baseball or Softball	15%	2,820,197	3%	2,595,000
Outdoor Basketball	15%	2,820,197	4%	3,460,000
Outdoor Tennis	12%	2,256,157	5%	4,325,000
Soccer	11%	2,068,144	2%	1,730,000
Football	11%	2,068,144	2%	1,730,000

*Beach activities do not include fishing

Appendix H - Level of Service Charts and Activity Profiles

WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES

Saltwater Beach Activities

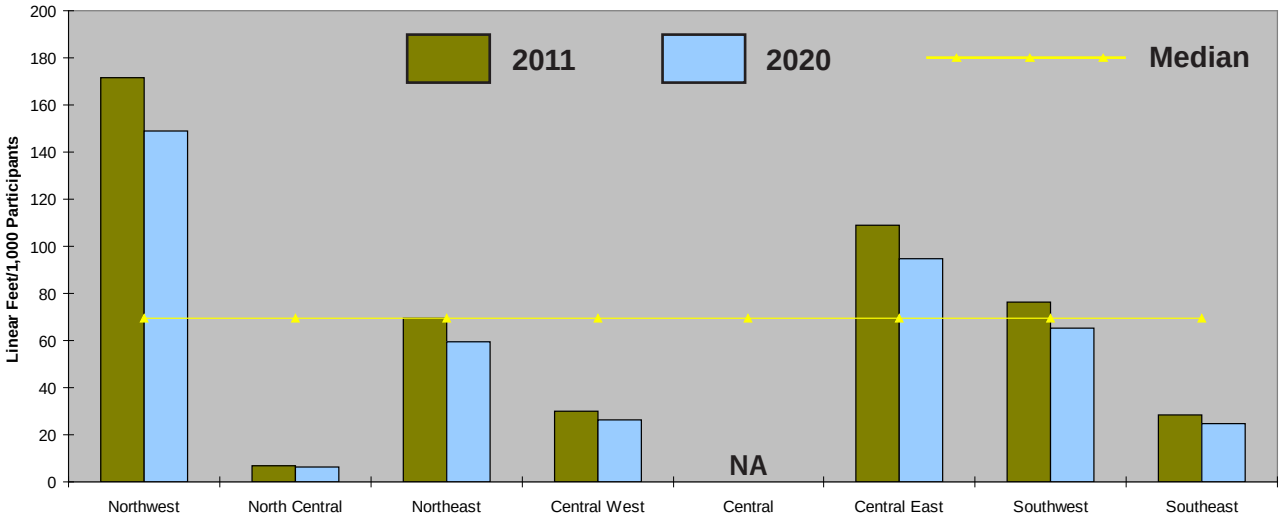
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Linear Feet/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	56	49	4,797,766	5,529,272	171.65	148.94
North Central	61	49	1,401,282	1,594,591	**6.9**	**6.06**
Northeast	64	49	3,936,970	4,576,776	69.32	59.63
Central West	66	49	7,864,074	9,063,856	**30.08**	**26.10**
Central	58	49	15,470,090	18,041,492	NA	NA
Central East	60	49	3,951,010	4,559,720	109.03	94.48
Southwest	69	49	5,542,199	6,460,991	76.15	65.32
Southeast	64	49	11,237,444	12,766,640	**28.18**	**24.80**
Statewide	63	49	54,229,825	62,631,758	46.32	40.11

* *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 particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Saltwater Beach Activities: Level of Service Comparisons



Saltwater beach activities continue as the most popular form of resource-based recreation in Florida. Overall, 63 percent of residents and 49 percent of tourists participated statewide. Residents of the Southwest, Central West, Southeast and Northeast regions had the highest

participation rates of all regions. Resident rates were lowest in the Northwest and Central region. Traveling long distances is necessary to reach any beach area in the Central region.

Tremendous regional variations in levels of service exist for saltwater beach activities. The Northwest region, where a relatively small population is combined with the highest availability of beaches, stands out as having by far the highest level of service of any region. In contrast, the North Central region, where the availability of sandy beaches is low due to the low-energy Gulf coastline has the lowest level of service. In the Southeast region, high populations of both residents and tourists combined with reduced access due to private coastal development results in a lower level of service. Unfortunately, the provision of additional beach resources will not be possible as the amount of remaining undeveloped beaches dwindles to zero. Increasing public access to the state's existing saltwater beaches will be required to accommodate future demands.

Freshwater Beach Activities

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020
Northwest	26	14	1,470,659	1,688,662
North Central	37	14	577,979	651,527
Northeast	21	14	1,165,988	1,355,704
Central West	22	14	2,338,791	2,693,312
Central	29	14	4,828,645	5,647,306
Central East	17	14	1,126,517	1,300,120
Southwest	20	14	1,588,884	1,852,380
Southeast	16	14	3,081,836	3,507,920
Statewide	22	14	16,246,288	18,747,852

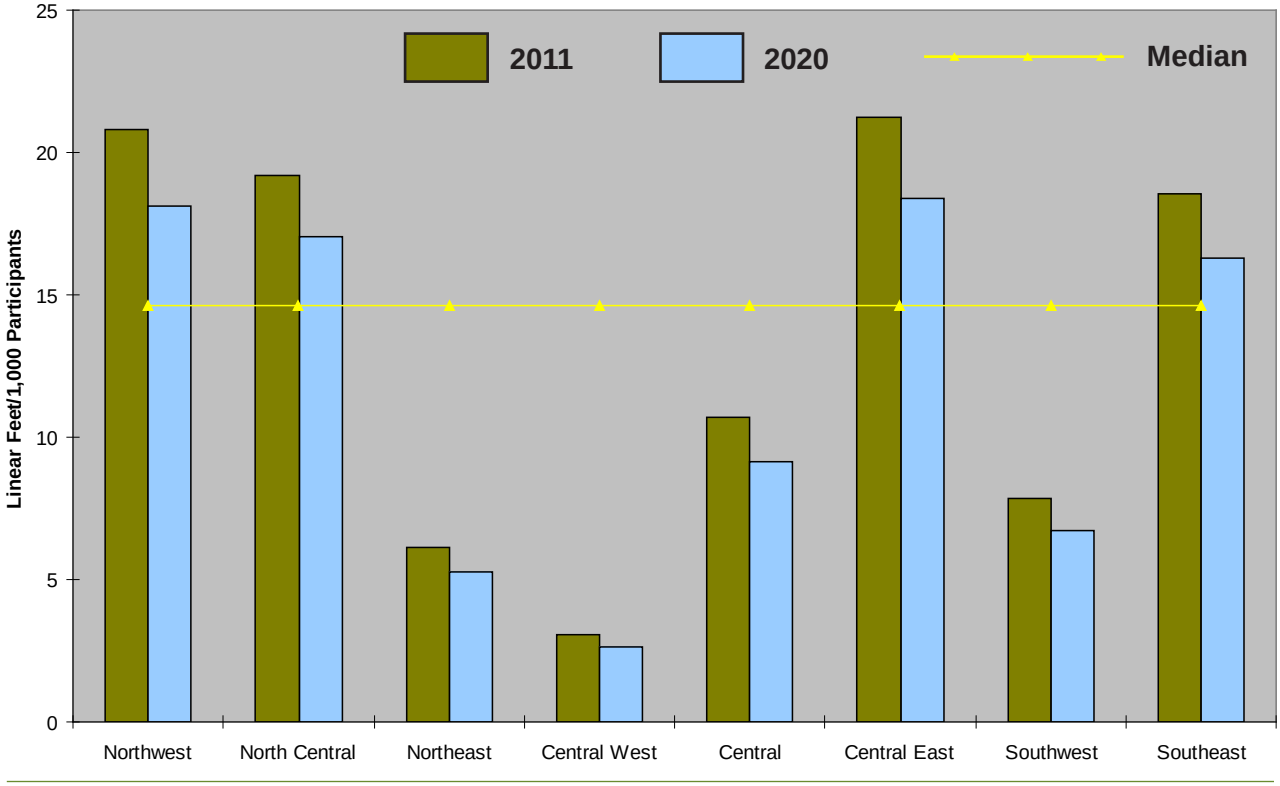
* *Percent of participation represents the percentage of residents and tourists who participated in activity at least one time during the year*

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

Freshwater swimming areas are widely distributed in Florida and are often more convenient to residents than a long drive to a saltwater beach, though only 22 percent of residents participate in freshwater beach activities. Tourists are more likely to prefer a swim in an outdoor swimming pool over a visit to a freshwater lake or river, with only 14 percent participating. One exception is Florida's freshwater springs which attract large numbers of residents and tourists alike. The Northwest, North Central and Central regions had the highest resident participation rates in this activity.

The Northwest, North Central and Central East regions had the highest levels of service in the state. Some of the state's highest concentrations of freshwater lakes and springs are found in these regions. The Central region is known for having an abundance of lakes, but higher populations and residential lakefront developments contribute to the regions lower level of service. Levels of service were lowest in the Northeast and Central West regions, where freshwater swimming resources are in relatively short supply.

Freshwater Beach Activities: Level of Service Comparisons



Saltwater Boat Fishing

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Linear Feet/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	24	14	1,467,386	1,686,315	0.15	0.13
North Central	29	14	507,023	573,453	0.10	0.09
Northeast	27	14	1,263,581	1,469,611	**0.054**	**0.046**
Central West	31	14	2,637,622	3,031,069	**0.07**	**0.06**
Central	25	14	4,746,577	5,545,892	NA	NA
Central East	27	14	1,300,669	1,497,944	0.19	0.17
Southwest	29	14	1,772,642	2,069,267	0.11	0.10
Southeast	24	14	3,572,451	3,686,867	**0.084**	**0.082**
Statewide	27	14	17,284,148	19,929,676	0.07	0.06

* *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 particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Florida's coastline has tremendous potential for saltwater boating and boat fishing. Approximately 17.3 million residents and tourists participated in saltwater boat fishing in 2011. It is predominantly a resident activity, both statewide and in the regions, with 27

percent of statewide residents, but only 14 percent of visitors participating. In this region, high quality saltwater fishing areas are easily accessible to visitors who trailer their boats from nearby southeastern states.

The Central West region had the highest rate of resident participation at 31 percent. The proximity of prime fishing areas undoubtedly contribute to the popularity of saltwater boating and boat fishing there. The Southwest and North Central regions also had high resident participation rates at 29 percent. Because the resources involved in this activity are virtually unlimited, levels of service and future need comparisons were not calculated.

Saltwater Non-Boat Fishing

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Feet of Pier, Jetty, Catwalk/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	18	7	783,866	897,242	94.47	82.53
North Central	11	7	222,378	252,283	**27.19**	**23.97**
Northeast	15	7	653,775	760,530	**40.45**	**34.77**
Central West	20	7	1,438,743	1,650,365	**40.51**	**35.32**
Central	13	7	2,351,198	2,747,556	NA	NA
Central East	21	7	761,383	874,748	98.20	85.48
Southwest	18	7	938,605	1,096,637	88.38	75.64
Southeast	13	7	1,839,717	1,902,730	52.74	51.00
Statewide	16	7	8,984,244	10,350,684	43.75	40.54

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

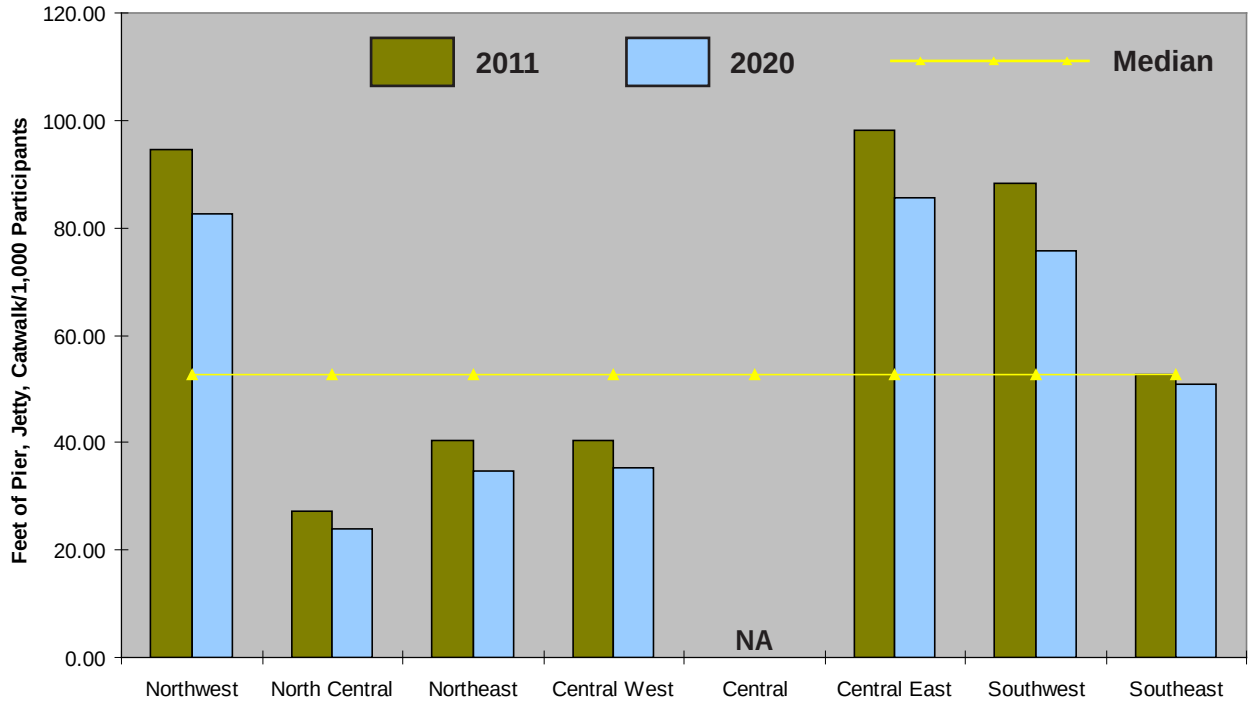
** *Total participants represents the combined number of residents and tourists who particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Nearly 93 miles of fishing piers, jetties and catwalks offer saltwater fishing opportunities to shoreline fishermen along Florida's coastline. Unlike boat fishing, the cost of equipment required to participate in non-boat fishing is low and affordable to most people. The level of experience and physical effort required to participate are low as well. Statewide, 16 percent of residents participated, but only 7 percent of tourists. Resident participation rates were highest in Central East and Central West regions (21 percent and 20 percent, respectively).

Regional levels of service were highest in the Northwest and Central East regions. Many of the states most popular fishing piers are located in these regions, including the Pensacola Beach Fishing Pier, the Sunglow Fishing Pier in Daytona, and the Cocoa Beach Pier. Many coastal communities in these regions have at least one county or city-operated pier or other type of shoreline fishing facility, which tend to draw resident fishermen and tourists alike. Levels of service were lowest in the North Central, Northeast and Central West regions. In the North Central and in portions of the Central West regions, much of the coastline is of a shallow, low-energy nature.

Saltwater Non-Boat Fishing: Level of Service Comparisons



Saltwater Boat Ramp Use

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Ramp Lanes/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	20	7	805,238	920,540	0.27	0.23
North Central	30	7	393,353	440,890	0.13	0.12
Northeast	23	7	772,451	899,152	**0.09**	**0.08**
Central West	28	7	1,666,562	1,907,248	**0.12**	**0.10**
Central	23	7	2,693,780	3,160,542	NA	NA
Central East	30	7	915,880	1,049,960	0.28	0.24
Southwest	25	7	1,077,855	1,261,275	0.18	0.16
Southeast	23	7	2,386,577	2,670,685	**0.13**	**0.11**
Statewide	25	7	10,755,328	12,359,650	0.12	0.10

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

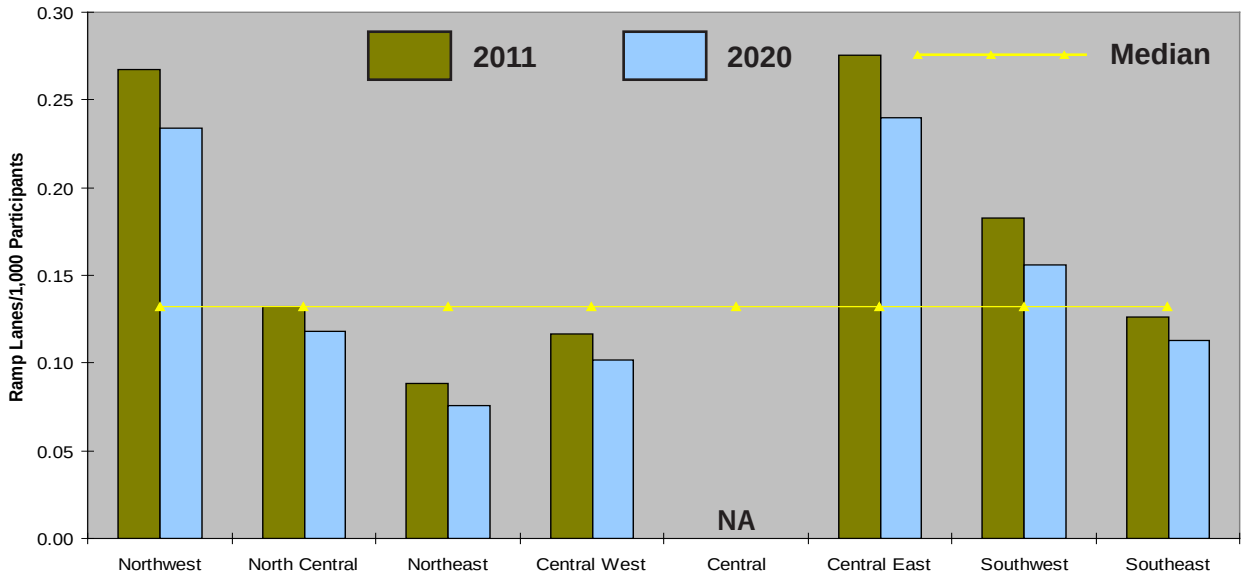
** *Total participants represents the combined number of residents and tourists who particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Recreational boating access to Florida's coastal waters is highly valued by boaters, fishermen, hunters and other sportsmen. This activity was considerably more popular among residents than tourists. Statewide, 25 percent of residents participated in saltwater boat ramp use but only 7 percent of tourists. Resident participation was highest in the North Central and Central East regions.

The Northwest and Central East regions had the highest levels of service in the state. Level of service was lowest in the Northeast and Central West regions. Continued population and tourism increases will continue to strain these valued resources. Maintenance of existing facilities and construction of new boat ramps will important in supporting this important aspect of Florida's recreation program.

Saltwater Boat Ramp Use: Level of Service Comparisons



Freshwater Boat Fishing

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020
Northwest	22	4	565,346	640,654
North Central	26	4	308,610	344,410
Northeast	19	4	526,689	613,429
Central West	19	4	1,031,826	1,179,464
Central	24	4	1,882,969	2,220,440
Central East	18	4	530,252	607,777
Southwest	14	4	609,654	713,342
Southeast	6	4	956,688	984,877
Statewide	16	4	6,452,039	7,409,685

* *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 particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

Florida is dotted with thousands of lakes and rivers that provided freshwater boat fishing opportunities for an estimated 6.5 million participants in 2011. Even more than saltwater boat fishing, it is almost exclusively a resident pastime, with only four percent of tourists participating statewide. The St. Johns River, Lake Okeechobee, Lake Tohopekaliga and many

other waters are nationally known for their excellent trophy (10 pounds or more) largemouth bass fishing and major fishing tournaments. Freshwater fishing is a major theme of nature-based tourism marketing efforts in these regions as well.

Among residents, three regions had participation rates exceeding 20 percent. The highest rates were in the North Central and Central regions. In the North Central region, large rivers and smaller creeks provide convenient fishing opportunities to residents. High resident participation rates also occurred in the Central region where dozens of large lakes and hundreds of smaller ones are widely distributed. Because of the vast supply of open water area that is available for freshwater boat fishing, levels of service and estimates of future needs comparisons were not calculated.

Freshwater Non-Boat Fishing

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Feet of Pier, Jetty, Catwalk/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	6	2	235,017	268,590	**86.87**	**76.01**
North Central	10	2	122,240	136,868	249.66	222.97
Northeast	10	2	267,965	312,096	**96.58**	**82.92**
Central West	9	2	507,869	580,802	125.85	110.05
Central	8	2	829,526	974,819	142.07	120.90
Central East	7	2	238,380	273,612	**116.89**	**101.84**
Southwest	5	2	270,066	315,507	196.62	168.30
Southeast	5	2	574,843	596,589	**49.56**	**47.75**
Statewide	7	2	3,072,042	3,530,982	159.44	138.72

* *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 particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

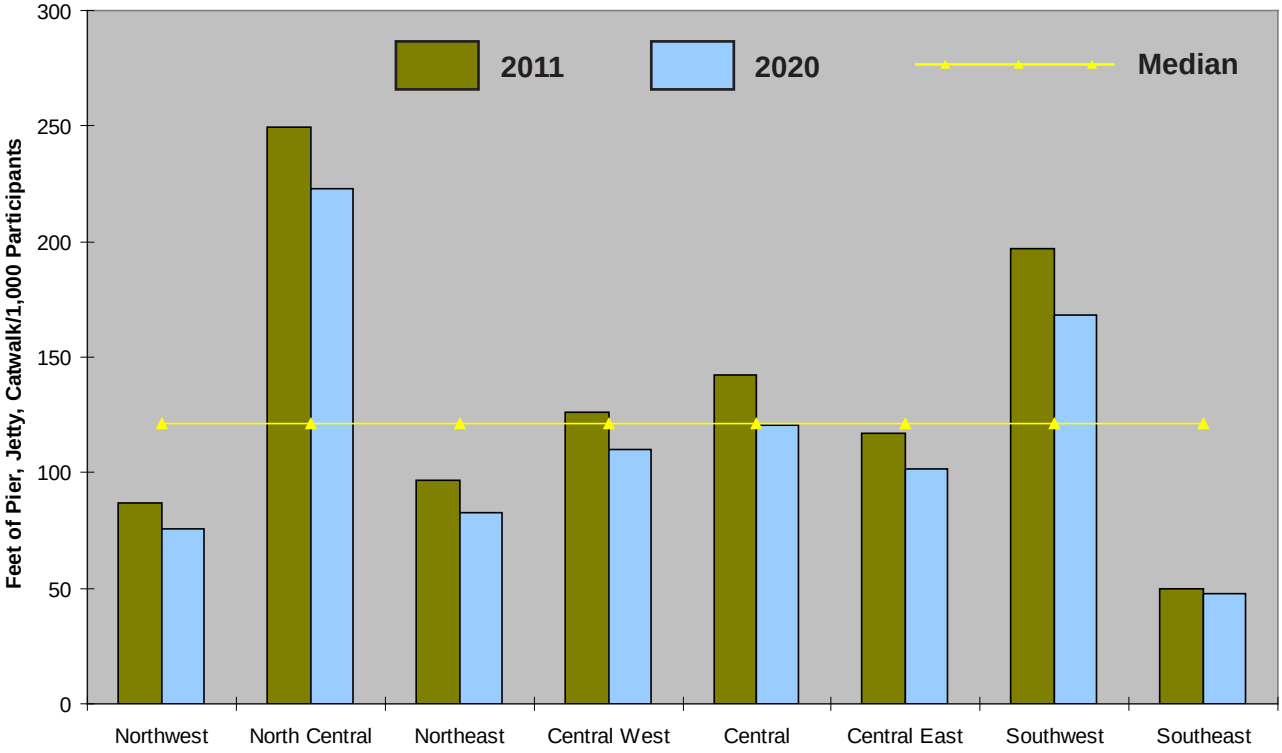
***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Freshwater shoreline fishing is a very popular activity and is enjoyed by a wide range of people. It is a traditional activity that is common along waterways in rural communities. Like its saltwater counterpart, neither elaborate equipment nor special skills are required to enjoy a day of this type of fishing. It is also essentially a resident activity, with two percent of tourists taking part statewide. Resident participation rates were highest in the Northeast and North Central regions, where the Apalachicola, Suwannee and St. Johns Rivers and their many tributaries provide ample shoreline and excellent fishing.

The North Central and Southwest regions had the highest levels of service compared with the other regions. In addition to the high concentrations of freshwater resources in these regions, many local governments have constructed piers and catwalks that facilitate this activity. Levels of service were lowest in the Southeast and Northwest regions.

Level of Service Comparison Chart on following page

Freshwater Non-Boat Fishing: Level of Service Comparisons



Freshwater Boat-Ramp Use

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Ramp Lanes/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	25	3	509,172	573,375	0.60	0.53
North Central	37	3	387,679	430,647	0.71	0.64
Northeast	23	3	530,251	618,032	0.31	0.27
Central West	20	3	948,201	1,081,200	**0.16**	**0.14**
Central	33	3	1,915,355	2,271,762	**0.30**	**0.25**
Central East	21	3	526,071	601,440	0.33	0.29
Southwest	12	3	486,230	569,268	**0.24**	**0.20**
Southeast	7	3	861,741	969,965	**0.18**	**0.16**
Statewide	19	3	6,167,249	7,064,054	0.31	0.27

* *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 particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

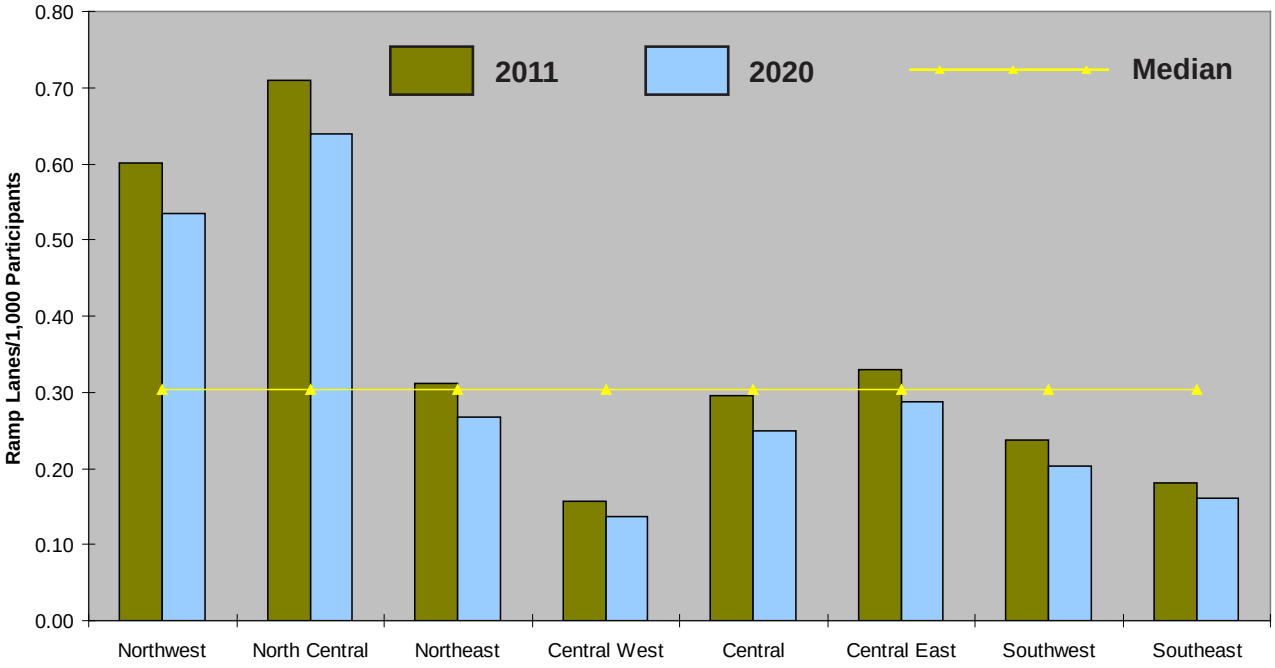
***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Just as for saltwater boat ramps, freshwater boat ramps provide vital access to Florida's public waters for millions of boaters who lack other means of access. A large disparity exists between resident and tourist participation, as is the case for other boating-related activities.

Resident participation was highest in the North Central and Central regions (37 percent and 33 percent, respectively).

Regional levels of service were highest in the North Central, Northwest and Central East regions. Levels of service were lowest in the Central West and Southeast regions. Resident participation rates in the Southeast region are lowest in the state.

Freshwater Boat-Ramp Use: Level of Service Comparisons



Canoeing/Kayaking

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 particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

Canoeing and kayaking appear to have gained in popularity in recent years, with participation rates similar to motorized boating, as 26 percent of residents and 10 percent of tourists participated in 2011. The requirements of this activity in terms of equipment, time and physical ability are such that most people can participate, and the availability of canoe rentals and outfitting services is improving in much of the state. Popularity among residents is greatest in the Southwest, Central West and North Central regions where miles of excellent paddling trails exist. These regional participation rates correspond generally with the availability of designated canoe trails and commercial canoe rental and outfitting services.

Better trail mapping and increased public awareness efforts regarding canoeing and kayaking trails are occurring at all levels of supply and by many businesses and user groups. Resident and tourist participation in this activity can be expected to increase as these efforts continue. Due to the virtually unlimited canoeing and kayaking resources in Florida, levels of service and future needs were not calculated. Additional efforts are needed to identify suitable trails to support the nearly 15.5 million participants projected by 2020.

LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

Visiting Archaeological and Historic Sites

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Sites/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	34	26	2,588,554	2,980,558	**0.11**	**0.10**
North Central	43	26	840,030	952,553	0.56	0.49
Northeast	48	26	2,301,815	2,677,072	0.24	0.21
Central West	35	26	4,172,177	4,808,720	**0.034**	**0.030**
Central	36	26	8,380,387	9,780,104	**0.031**	**0.027**
Central East	39	26	2,213,939	2,552,680	0.27	0.23
Southwest	44	26	3,080,344	3,593,316	0.12	0.10
Southeast	40	26	6,303,290	7,143,320	**0.05**	**0.04**
Statewide	39	26	29,822,511	34,421,374	0.1	0.09

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

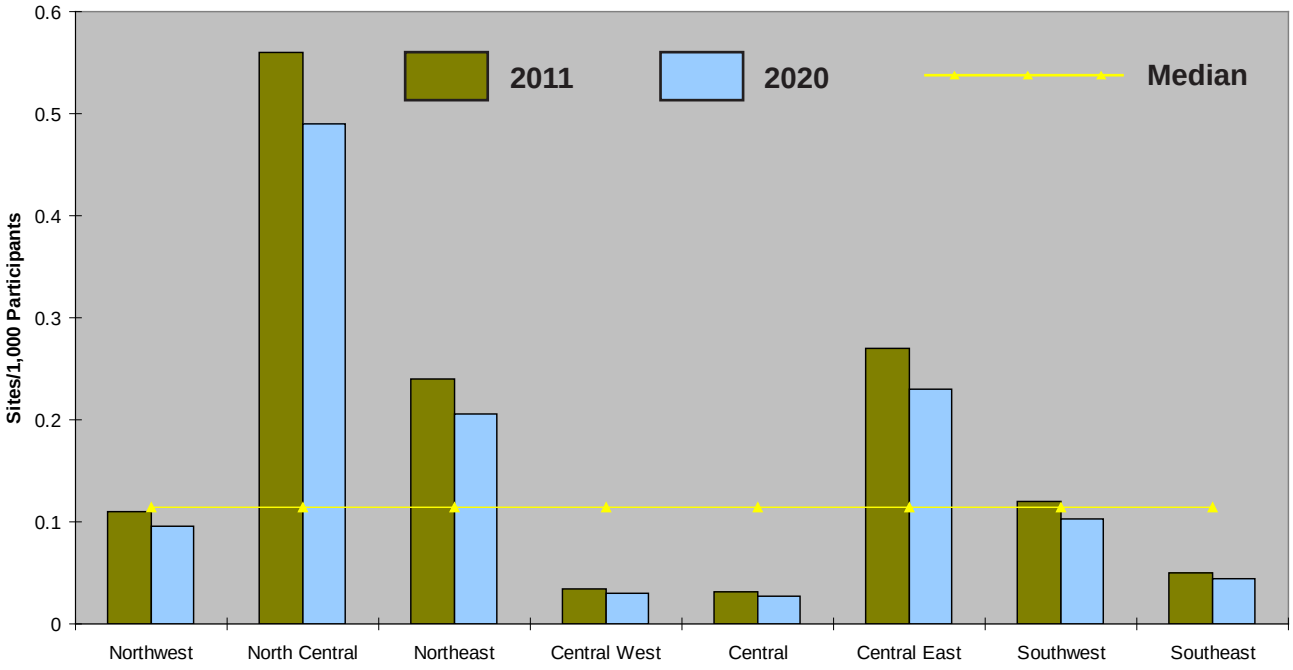
** *Total participants represents the combined number of residents and tourists who particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Considering the richness of Florida's history and the wealth of archaeological sites that are protected under public ownership, it is not surprising that visiting these areas was the most popular land-based recreation activity among both residents and tourists. Nearly 39 percent of statewide residents and 26 percent of tourists participated. Much attention has been given to educating Florida residents about their state's cultural heritage and promoting these areas to out-of-state visitors has been a mainstay of heritage tourism efforts. Nearly every Florida community has one or more historic sites within a short drive's distance and these areas can make excellent day trip destinations for families. The Northeast, Southwest, and North Central regions had the highest resident participation rates, with more than forty percent of their residents participating.

Regional levels of service were highest in the North Central, Central East, and Northeast regions. Significantly higher numbers of inventoried sites occur in these regions. Level of service was lowest in the highly populated Central Region.

Visiting Archaeological and Historic Sites: Level of Service Comparisons



Wildlife Viewing

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020
Northwest	47	47	4,534,884	5,230,489
North Central	55	47	1,312,231	1,494,365
Northeast	52	47	3,633,991	4,223,768
Central West	46	47	7,036,973	9,063,856
Central	50	47	14,653,471	17,081,860
Central East	56	47	3,764,306	4,344,760
Southwest	57	47	5,142,469	5,992,123
Southeast	45	47	9,854,876	11,244,015
Statewide	49	47	49,867,642	57,638,034

* *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 particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

Florida's diverse wildlife, from exotic birds to the beloved manatee, offers unique and popular wildlife viewing opportunities. In 2011, 49 percent of residents and 47 percent of tourists took

a trip for the primary purpose of viewing wildlife, making it the second most popular activity in the state. The highest levels of resident participation were in the Southwest, North Central and Central East regions. Big Cypress National Preserve, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge are all examples of popular areas in these regions for wildlife viewing.

Maintaining Florida's wildlife viewing opportunities is largely contingent on the continued effort to conserve large tracts of undeveloped lands and connecting existing lands. A combination of protection, education and acquisition will help ensure that Florida remains a primary destination for wildlife viewers. No level of service was conducted for this program.

Nature Study

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Miles of Trail/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	15	8	841,803	966,505	0.3	0.26
North Central	18	8	301,752	340,838	0.75	0.66
Northeast	14	8	696,592	810,096	0.23	0.20
Central West	19	8	1,524,456	1,751,024	**0.13**	**0.12**
Central	17	8	2,773,316	3,244,018	**0.12**	**0.11**
Central East	17	8	763,217	878,440	0.26	0.23
Southwest	22	8	1,107,672	1,294,658	**0.23**	**0.20**
Southeast	19	8	2,316,768	2,606,945	**0.09**	**0.08**
Statewide	18	8	10,304,236	11,870,788	0.17	0.16

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

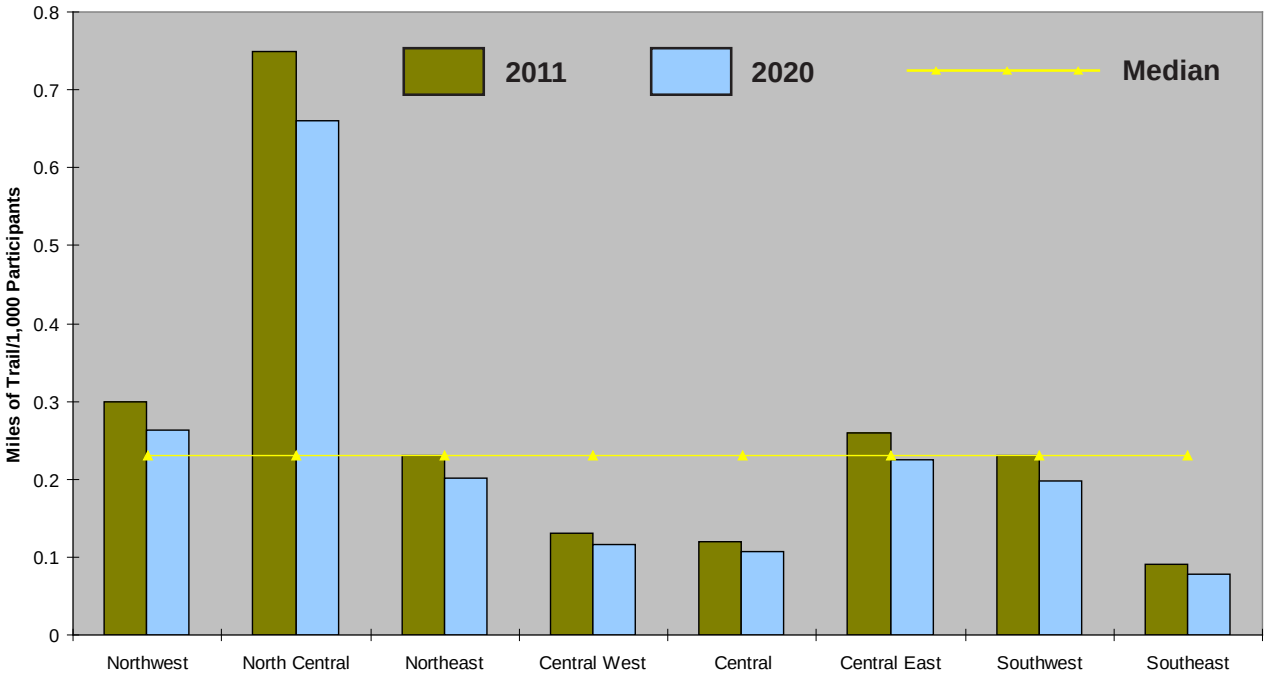
** *Total participants represents the combined number of residents and tourists who particpated in activity at least one time during the year*

***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

The great diversity of Florida's natural communities makes it a paradise for the study of nature. In 2011, an estimated 11.1 million residents and tourists participated in nature study. Anyone with sufficient interest can participate. Although no specialized facilities or equipment are required, trails that have been designed for educating visitors and interpreting the natural landscape can add tremendously to the enjoyment of the experience, particularly for those who are disabled or are less well-initiated in natural settings. The popularity of this activity is likely to increase even further as public education and nature-based tourism marketing efforts continue. Regional participation rates for residents were highest in the Southwest, Southeast and Central East regions, where extensive protected lands are convenient to highly populated urban areas.

Level of service for nature study is based on the availability of nature and interpretive trails, which offer the common participant a better understanding of their natural surroundings. The less populated North Central Region, where there are many miles of trails and smaller resident and tourist populations, had the highest level of service. The lowest levels of service were found in the densely populated Central and Southeast regions. Additional nature study trails will be needed in all regions to maintain current levels of service.

Nature Study: Level of Service Comparisons



Picnicking

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Tables/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	33	37	3,530,067	4,074,071	**2.77**	**2.40**
North Central	44	37	1,039,405	1,183,444	6.85	6.01
Northeast	40	37	2,846,612	3,308,520	**2.10**	**1.81**
Central West	40	37	5,650,502	6,519,760	3.22	2.79
Central	38	37	11,490,942	13,393,452	**2.41**	**2.07**
Central East	43	37	2,945,593	3,400,160	4.50	3.90
Southwest	39	37	3,937,373	4,586,021	4.60	3.95
Southeast	41	37	8,072,367	9,192,355	**2.16**	**1.89**
Statewide	40	37	39,525,524	45,678,640	3.61	2.57

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

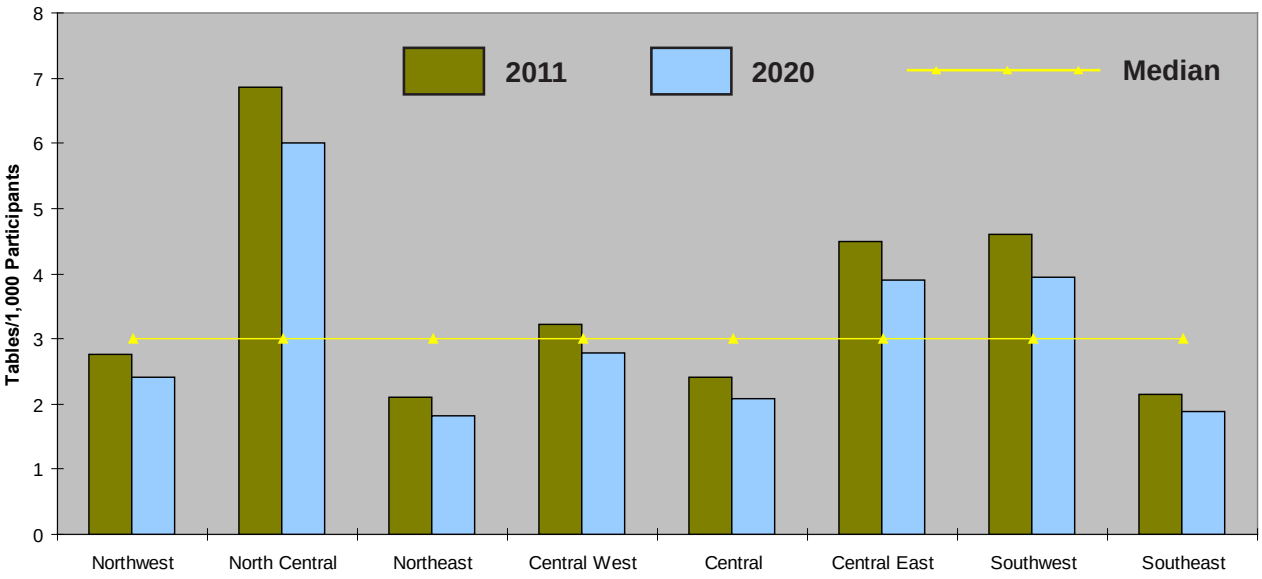
BOLD *numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Because of its simplicity and its relationship to so many other recreational pursuits, picnicking is one of the most popular outdoor activities in the state. It is largely a family-type of activity, although in Florida, many large social groups also enjoy picnicking, and it requires only that the participant enjoy a meal outdoors. Picnicking is the third most popular activity for residents and fourth most popular amongst tourists. Participation among residents was

highest in the North Central, Central East and Southeast regions. Participation for most regions was around 40 percent, except for the Northwest region which had a 33 percent participation rate.

The North Central region, which had the highest participation rate, also boasts the highest level of service, followed by the Southwest and Central West regions. Levels of service were lowest in the Northeast and Southeast regions.

Picnicking: Level of Service Comparisons



Bicycle Riding - Paved Trails

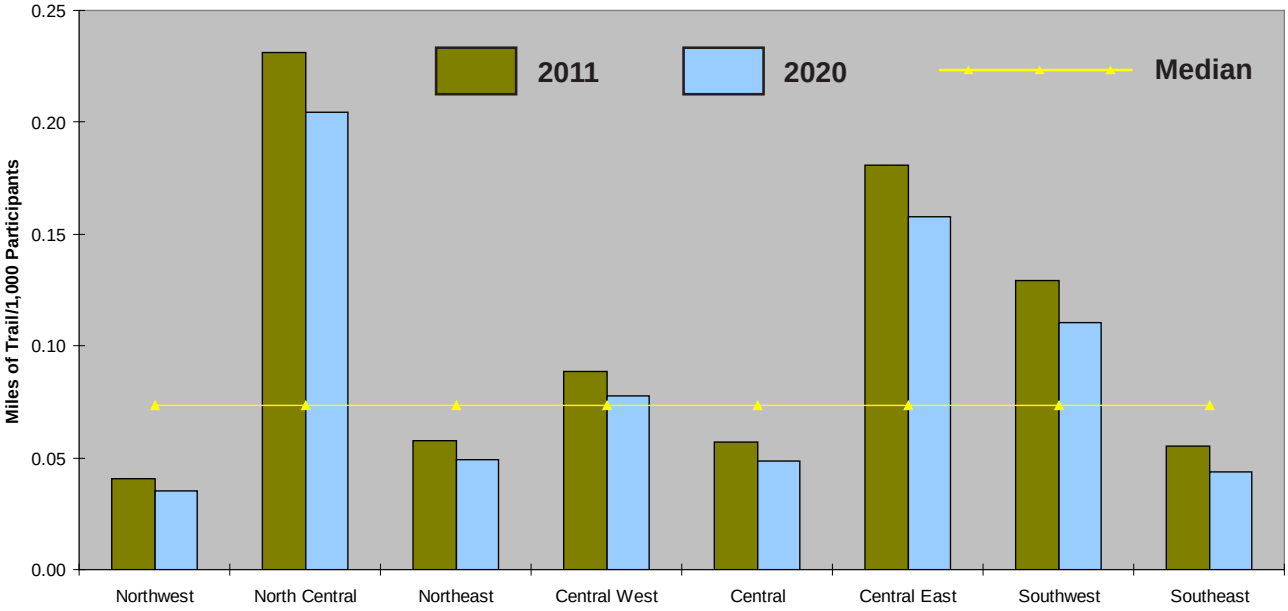
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Miles of Trail/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	33	13	1,418,469	1,623,222	**0.040**	**0.035**
North Central	28	13	469,542	530,513	0.23	0.20
Northeast	43	13	1,411,176	1,642,728	**0.06**	**0.05**
Central West	40	13	2,682,795	3,075,587	0.09	0.08
Central	36	13	4,673,897	5,478,123	**0.06**	**0.05**
Central East	41	13	1,441,275	1,654,824	0.18	0.16
Southwest	45	13	1,942,406	2,272,976	0.13	0.11
Southeast	43	13	4,373,075	7,143,320	**0.06**	**0.04**
Statewide	40	13	18,427,044	21,189,571	0.08	0.07

* *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*

***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Bicycle Riding - Paved Trails: Level of Service Comparisons



In theory, one could ride a bicycle for recreation almost anywhere in Florida due to the easy availability of public roadways. In reality, however, paved trails that are specifically designed for bicycling are actually quite limited and are vital for full and safe public enjoyment of this activity. The participation rates identified in Responsive Management's resident and tourist surveys reflected both types of bicycling. Bicycling on paved surfaces is a very popular activity in Florida, accounting for more than 14.8 million participants. Statewide, 40 percent of residents and 13 percent of visitors participated. Resident participation rates were highest in the Southwest, Southeast and Northeast regions with the Central East and Central West regions following closely.

The North Central, Central East and Southwest regions had the three highest levels of service in the state. Levels of service were lowest in the Southeast and Northwest regions. While the Southeast has a comparable amount of opportunities, high demand and greater population contribute to the regions lower level of service. Paved biking trails remain a statewide need, as they provide not only recreation opportunities, but allow for safer alternative transportation.

Bicycle Riding - Unpaved Trails

Unpaved trails are the preferred surfaces for "mountain biking," a more rugged and athletic style of bicycle riding than its paved surface counterpart. Despite the physical requirements and somewhat specialized equipment that are needed to participate in the activity, biking on unpaved trails was enjoyed by nearly 6.5 million participants. It is mostly a resident activity, with only four percent of tourists participating. Resident participation was distributed fairly evenly across regions, Central East region leading the others.

Similar to bicycle riding on paved trails, levels of service were highest in the North Central, Central East and Southwest regions. These regions had some of the highest supply levels of all the regions. Level of service was lowest in the Southeast region, where high demand and larger populations strain a short supply.

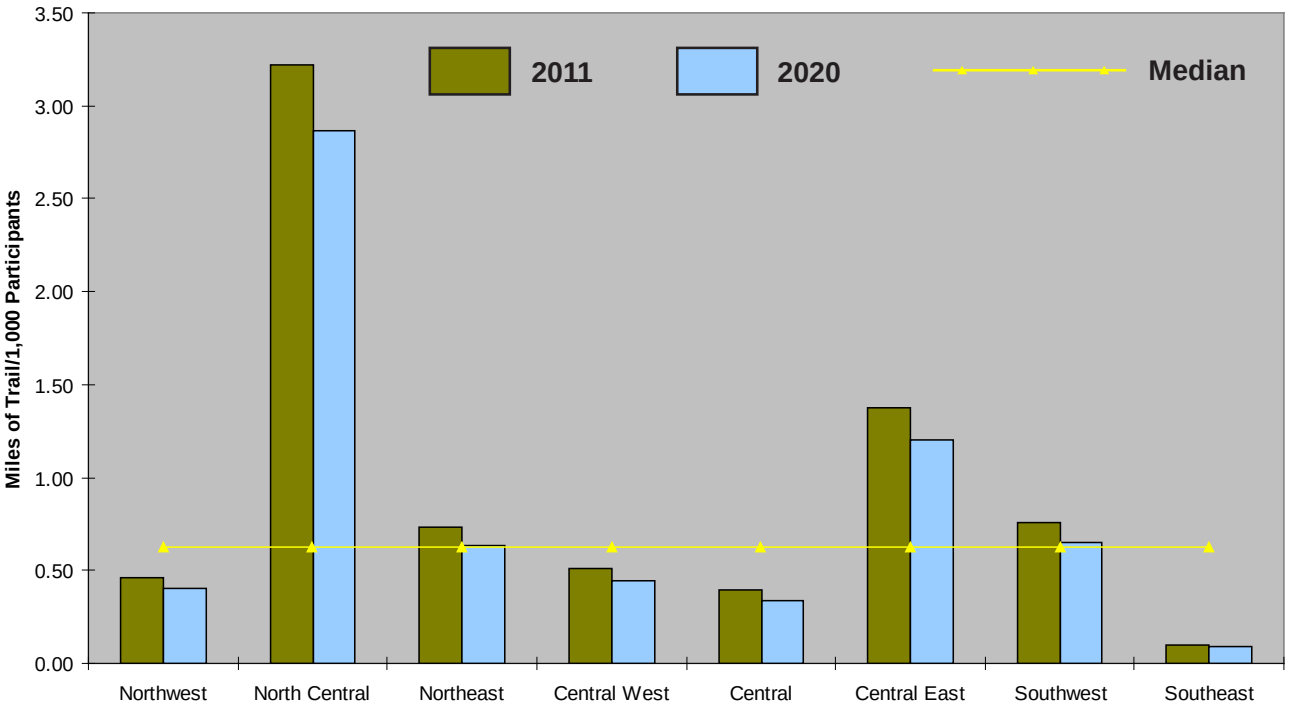
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Miles of Trail/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	11	4	459,548	525,748	**0.46**	**0.40**
North Central	15	4	205,004	230,188	3.22	2.87
Northeast	17	4	509,405	593,209	0.73	0.63
Central West	15	4	919,229	1,052,783	**0.51**	**0.45**
Central	14	4	1,595,599	1,873,145	**0.40**	**0.34**
Central East	18	4	548,923	629,065	1.38	1.20
Southwest	17	4	668,612	782,919	0.76	0.65
Southeast	17	4	1,586,045	1,666,208	**0.10**	**0.09**
Statewide	16	4	6,490,027	7,454,373	0.58	0.51

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

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***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Bicycle Riding - Unpaved Trails: Level of Service Comparisons



Hiking

Like other recreational trail activities, hiking's popularity has increased in recent years as a result of increased public education and promotion and the volunteer efforts of the Florida Trail Association. Florida has more than 11,000 miles of trails open to hiking, most of which are located on the state's public lands. They provide a diverse range of hiking experiences,

from a day's hike to a long-distance trek, from one end of the state to the other. Nearly 24 million people participated in hiking during 2011, with relatively equivalent participation rates between residents and tourists, 21 percent and 22 percent, respectively. Among residents, the highest participation rates were in the North Central, Central East and Northwest regions.

Along with having the highest participation rates, the North Central, Central East and Northwest regions also had the highest levels of service. Levels of service were lowest in the Central and Southeast regions. Hiking trails are in short supply in the Southeast region, and both regions have high resident and tourist populations.

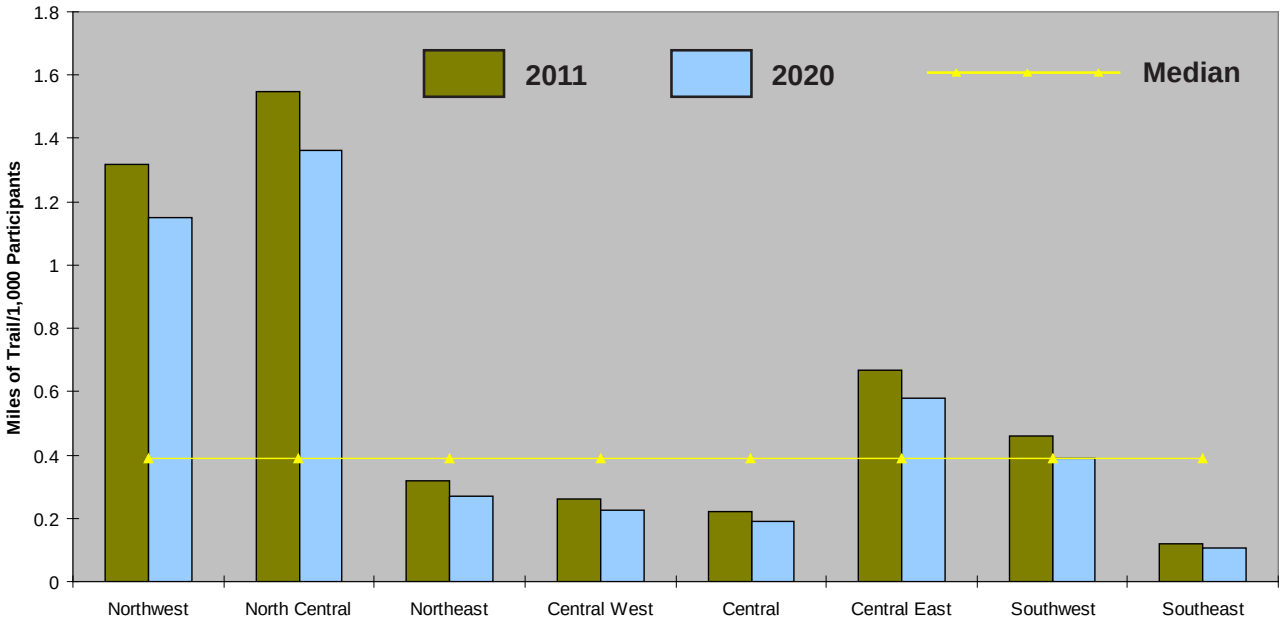
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Miles of Trail/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	30	22	2,202,607	2,535,410	1.32	1.15
North Central	32	22	671,004	762,112	1.55	1.36
Northeast	25	22	1,711,014	1,988,760	**0.32**	**0.27**
Central West	29	22	3,512,307	4,048,624	**0.26**	**0.22**
Central	29	22	7,043,045	8,217,546	**0.22**	**0.19**
Central East	32	22	1,856,932	2,141,360	0.67	0.58
Southwest	27	22	2,413,143	2,811,953	0.46	0.39
Southeast	13	22	4,609,322	5,259,255	**0.12**	**0.11**
Statewide	21	22	23,918,341	27,632,916	0.77	0.40

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

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Hiking: Level of Service Comparisons



RV/Trailer Camping

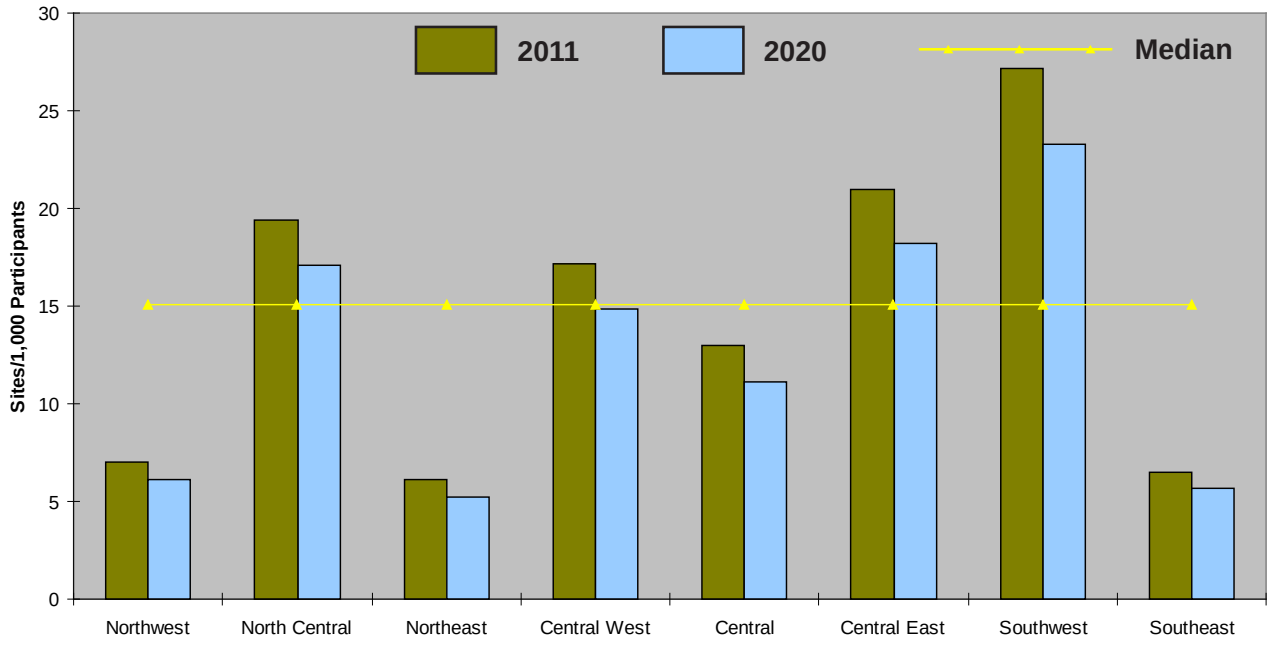
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Sites/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	10	9	878,369	1,012,470	**7.04**	**6.1**
North Central	12	9	264,601	300,852	19.4	17.1
Northeast	10	9	696,516	809,560	**6.1**	**5.2**
Central West	10	9	1,382,351	1,594,800	17.17	14.9
Central	13	9	2,918,606	3,406,762	**13**	**11.1**
Central East	9	9	692,559	799,920	21	18.2
Southwest	9	9	948,548	1,104,651	27.2	23.3
Southeast	6	9	1,739,564	1,993,170	**6.5**	**5.7**
Statewide	9	9	9,477,118	10,955,394	13.6	11.8

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***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

RV/Trailer Camping: Level of Service Comparisons



RV camping in Florida is changing and changes can be expected in the way that residents and tourists participate in this activity. Many private campgrounds have been sold for development in recent years increasing the relative importance of public areas to maintaining the overall supply of RV sites. Full-time RV camping is a reality for many retirees who are searching for an active lifestyle and affordable housing costs. Rising gasoline prices will dampen demand for this activity, but the long-term effects on participation are not certain. In 2011, Florida hosted an estimated

9.5 million resident and tourist RV/trailer campers. Resident and tourist participation rates were both 9 percent, with the highest rates clustered in the Central and North Central regions.

Significant regional differences in levels of service were found. The Southwest region stood out as having the highest level of service of any region, followed by the Central East. The Northeast region, where fewer sites exist and demand is high, had the lowest level of service.

Tent Camping

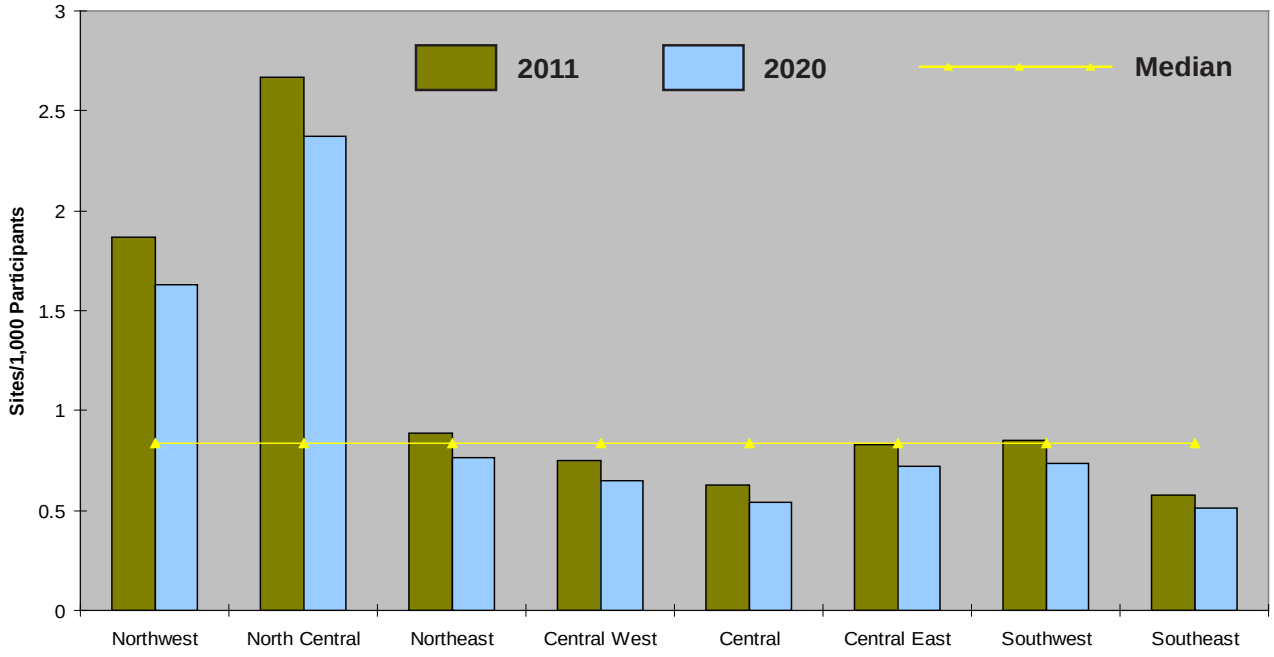
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Sites/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	15	7	755,303	866,105	1.87	1.63
North Central	22	7	320,752	360,802	2.67	2.37
Northeast	20	7	726,981	846,040	0.89	0.76
Central West	18	7	1,374,111	1,577,488	**0.75**	**0.65**
Central	21	7	2,628,026	3,081,274	**0.63**	**0.54**
Central East	18	7	719,068	826,760	**0.83**	**0.72**
Southwest	13	7	851,124	993,207	0.85	0.73
Southeast	13	7	1,822,804	2,059,535	**0.58**	**0.51**
Statewide	17	7	9,251,223	10,653,522	0.79	0.75

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

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Tent Camping: Level of Service Comparisons



To most participants, tent camping is a distinctly different recreational experience than RV/trailer camping. While many tent campers enjoy having the same amenities as their counterparts in recreational vehicles, most prefer to camp in areas that have been designated specifically for tent camping. Tent campers have the added advantage of being able to take their equipment with them to more remote sites that offer the solitude not found in most RV campground settings. Tent camping more popular among residents than tourists (17 percent of residents participated compared to 7 percent of tourists). Statewide, more than 10 million people went tent camping in 2011. The North Central, Central and Northeast regions showed the highest participation rates among residents.

The highest levels of service were found in the Northwest and North Central regions. Levels of service were lowest in the Central and Southeast regions, where populations are much higher and fewer state and federal lands provide tent camping.

Off-Highway Vehicle Riding

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Miles of Trail/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	12	8	811,843	933,844	0.46	0.40
North Central	23	8	347,128	390,893	0.2	0.18
Northeast	15	8	711,748	827,800	0.07	0.06
Central West	15	8	1,407,476	1,619,120	**0.021**	**0.019**
Central	21	8	2,904,826	3,402,554	**0.044**	**0.038**
Central East	13	8	697,613	804,040	**0.05**	**0.04**
Southwest	11	8	899,836	1,048,929	0.06	0.05
Southeast	13	8	1,978,504	2,240,255	NC	NC
Statewide	15	8	9,740,197	11,230,990	0.07	0.06

* *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*

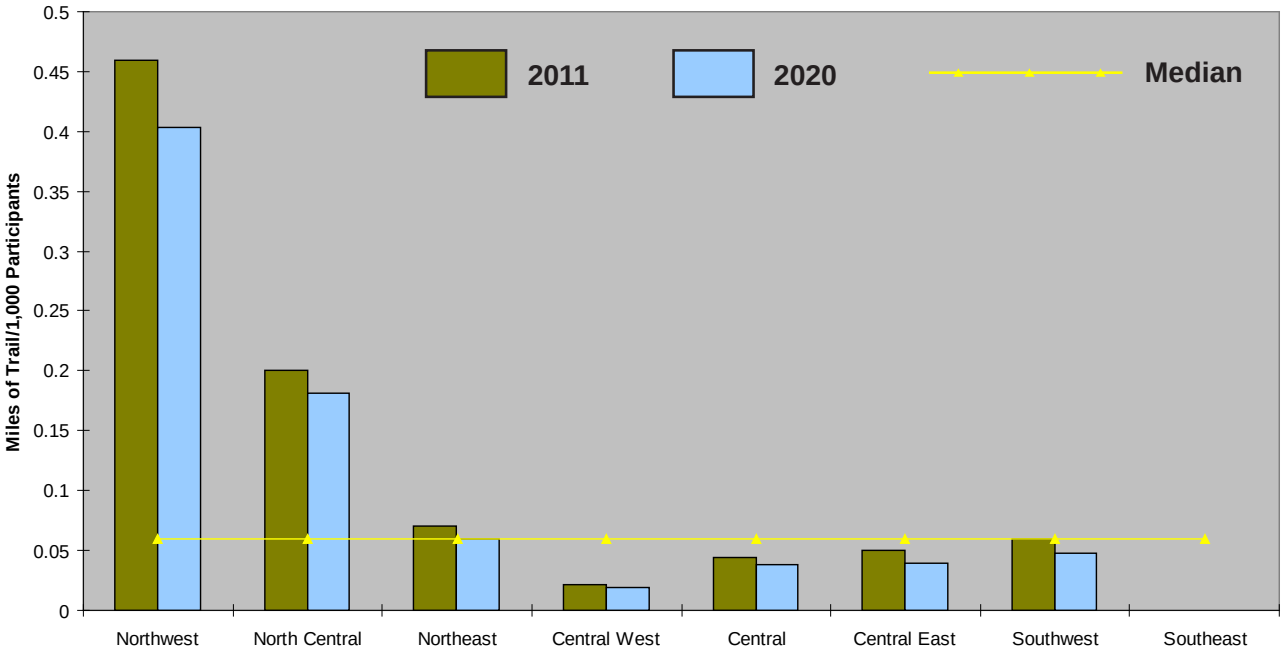
***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Riding off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is growing in popularity in Florida, especially among families, and participation is expected to increase as new areas for OHV riding are provided. However, it is not an activity that reaches a large segment of the public. Nevertheless, more than 8.8 million people were estimated to have participated in OHV riding in 2011. The South, East Central and Tampa Bay regions displayed the highest number of participants; the North Central and Central regions had the highest rates of resident participation.

Regional levels of service were highest in the Southwest and Central East regions. Levels of service and resource/facility requirements could not be calculated in five regions because no inventoried OHV trails existed in those regions. However, all of those regions displayed significant participation in OHV riding among residents and measurable levels of participation among tourists. OHV trails undoubtedly exist in these regions, but are located on lands that could not be practicably inventoried for this plan. Statewide, nearly 180 miles of additional

trails will be needed by 2020 just to maintain current levels of service. All regions have considerable needs for additional miles of OHV trails.

Off-Highway Vehicle Riding: Level of Service Comparisons



Horseback Riding

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Miles of Trail/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	6	6	578,921	667,722	**0.26**	**0.22**
North Central	9	6	185,476	210,579	3.29	2.90
Northeast	6	6	454,239	527,904	0.87	0.75
Central West	6	6	902,070	1,041,216	**0.4**	**0.35**
Central	13	6	1,956,697	2,284,386	**0.34**	**0.29**
Central East	7	6	478,107	551,880	1.4	1.21
Southwest	6	6	632,365	736,434	0.53	0.45
Southeast	4	6	1,159,709	1,328,780	**0.19**	**0.16**
Statewide	6	6	6,318,079	7,303,596	0.54	0.47

* *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*

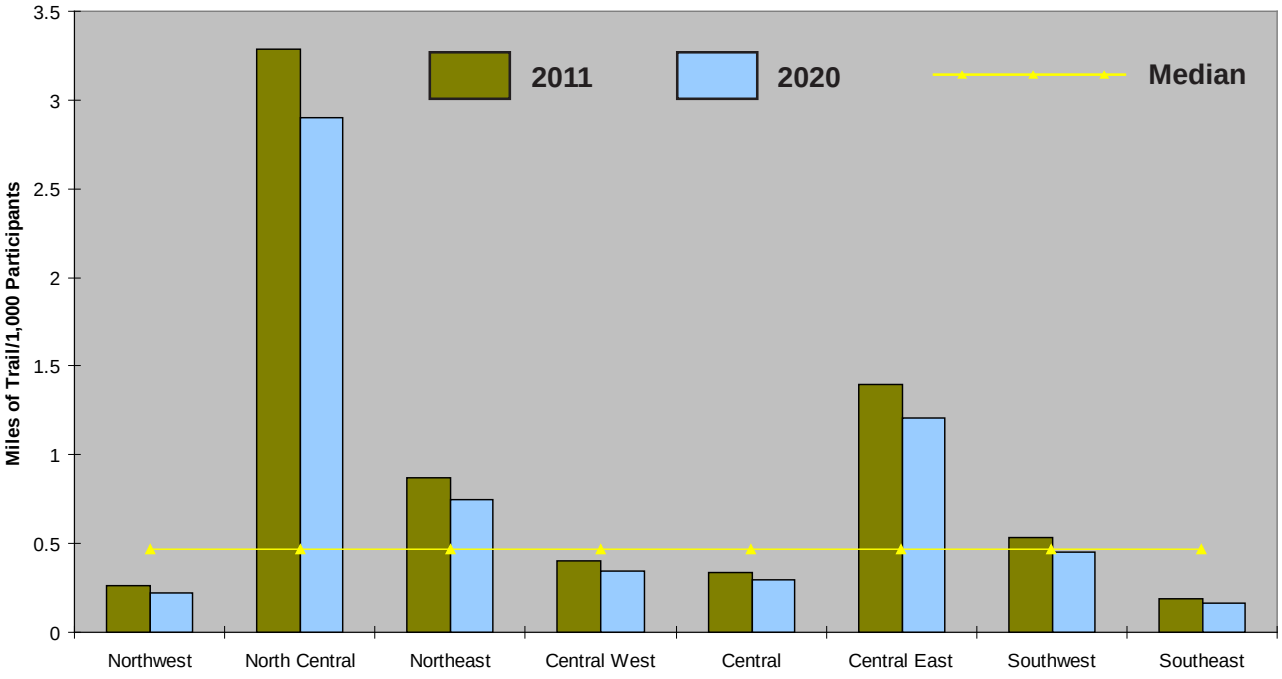
***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

More than six million people participated in horseback riding in 2011. Despite its growth in popularity in recent years, horseback riding is done by a relatively small portion of the population (6 percent of residents and tourists alike). The expense of owning a horse is relatively

high and most people lack the necessary space to quarter horses. This can be alleviated to some extent in areas where horses are available for rent. Resident participation rates were highest in some of the Central and North Central regions. Future participation in horseback riding will be influenced by the continued availability of trails on private land and whether the loss of opportunities on those areas is compensated by new opportunities on public lands.

The highest levels of service were found in the North Central and Central East regions. These regions have some of the largest supplies of horseback riding trails in the state. Levels of service were lowest in the Northwest and Southeast regions where trails are in shorter supply.

Horseback Riding: Level of Service Comparisons



Hunting

Hunting ranked 22nd in resident participation among the 26 recreation activities surveyed. As with horseback riding, the development of agricultural lands and loss of public access to large private landholdings have combined to reduce the amount of land available for public hunting. These reductions, together with the loss of wildlife habitat that has occurred throughout the state as a result of urban development, have combined to increase the pressure for hunting on public land. An estimated 4.7 million people hunted in Florida during 2011, most of them residents (11 percent compared to 3 percent tourists). The largest numbers of hunters lived in the heavily populated Central and Southeast regions, and the highest participation rates were found among residents of the North Central and Central regions. The supply of available hunting lands is generally greatest in the northern part of the state. Large tracts in the southern portion of Florida are open to hunting, but are primarily wetlands and not nearly as accessible.

Regional levels of service for hunting vary widely. The Northwest and North Central regions, with their relatively small population and large supply of public hunting land, stood out as having the highest level of service. In contrast, the Central West and Central regions, with large populations and fewer public hunting lands, had the lowest levels of service.

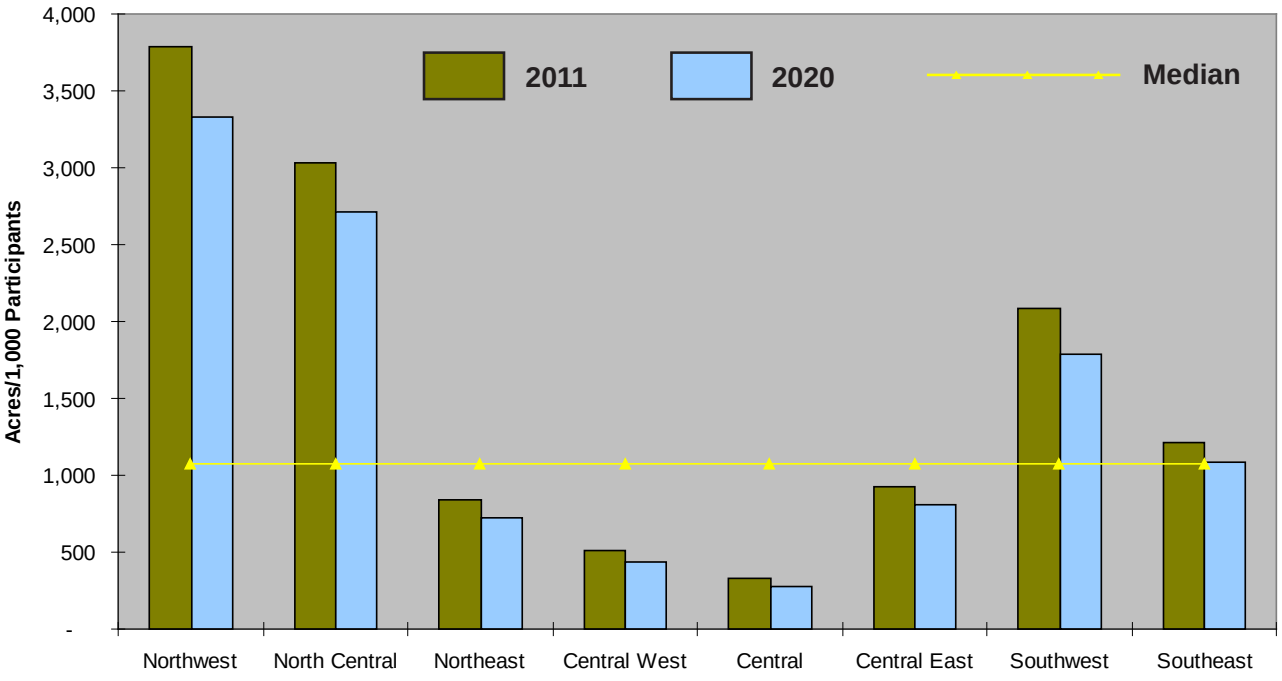
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Acres/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	13	3	389,330	442,731	3,782	3,326
North Central	18	3	215,252	240,438	3,028	2,710
Northeast	10	3	333,216	387,880	**839**	**721**
Central West	10	3	655,751	751,440	**506**	**432**
Central	17	3	1,389,316	1,637,618	**332**	**282**
Central East	12	3	378,462	434,040	**925**	**807**
Southwest	7	3	391,759	457,573	2,086	1,786
Southeast	7	3	861,741	969,965	1,216	1,080
Statewide	11	3	4,663,144	5,357,926	1,159	1,009

** 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*

***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Hunting: Level of Service Comparisons



USER-ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

User-oriented recreation describes a selected range of activities that can be placed for the convenience of the user to take advantage of proximity to population centers. Many of these facilities are provided by local governments and private entities. For the purpose of this document, levels of service for the following activities have been assessed: Baseball, Basketball, Football, Geocaching, Golf, Outdoor Swimming (in pools), Soccer and Tennis. The following charts illustrate the levels of service for these aforementioned activities.



Baseball

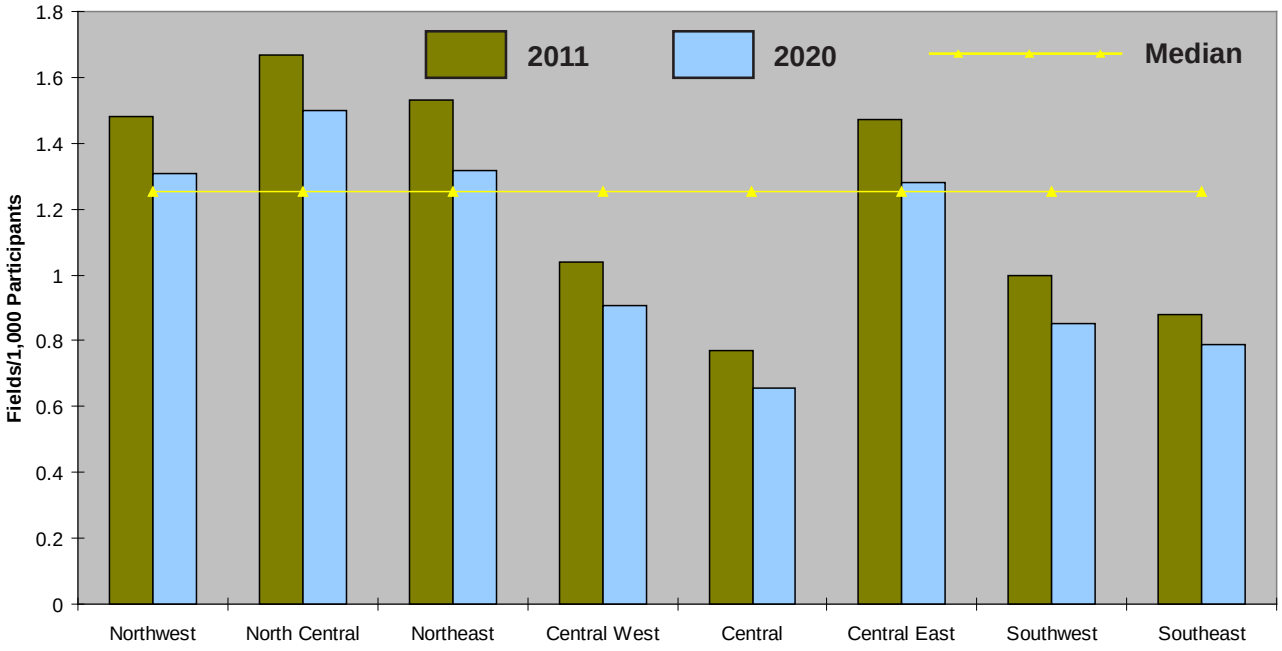
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Fields/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	16	3	419,290	475,392	1.48	1.31
North Central	21	3	242,477	270,471	1.67	1.50
Northeast	13	3	378,685	440,992	1.53	1.32
Central West	15	3	801,976	916,320	**1.04**	**0.91**
Central	15	3	1,323,561	1,558,350	**0.77**	**0.65**
Central East	15	3	427,665	489,840	1.47	1.28
Southwest	11	3	467,336	546,929	**1.00**	**0.85**
Southeast	15	3	1,312,759	1,458,885	**0.88**	**0.79**
Statewide	15	3	5,415,197	6,210,990	1.05	0.92

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

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Baseball: Level of Service Comparisons





Basketball

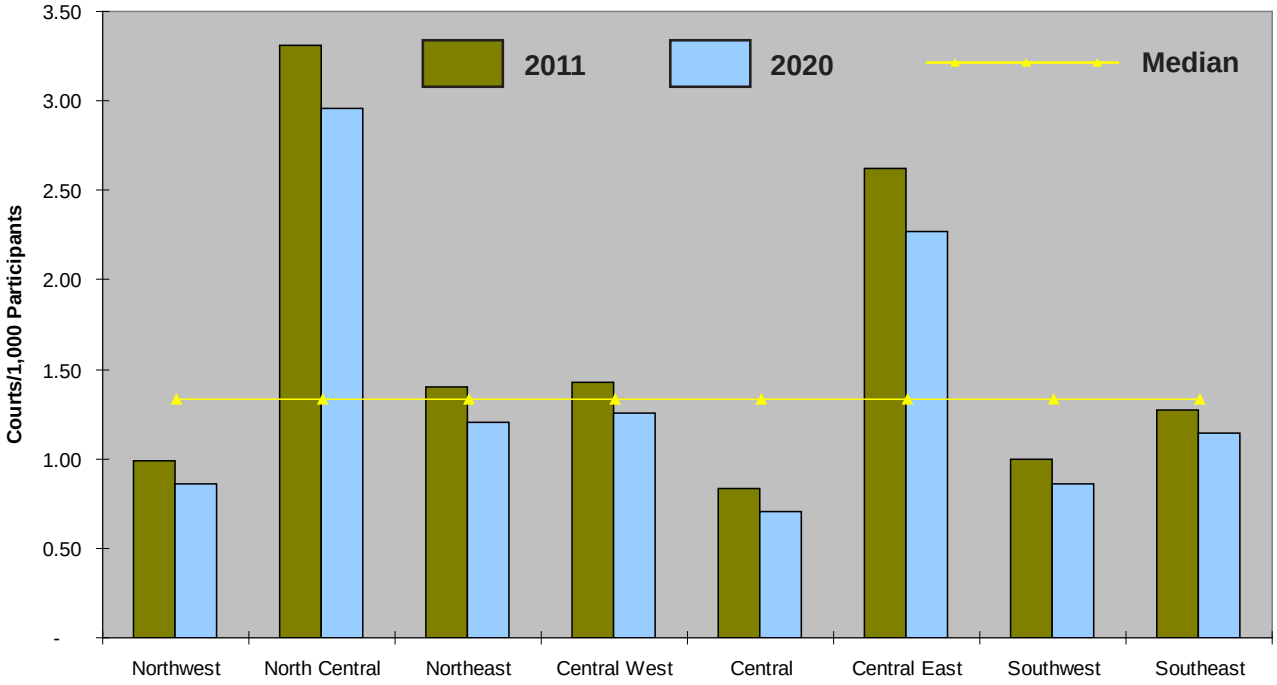
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Courts/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	8	4	425,895	488,696	**0.99**	**0.86**
North Central	17	4	223,477	250,507	3.31	2.95
Northeast	16	4	484,705	564,384	1.40	1.20
Central West	13	4	864,586	990,928	1.43	1.25
Central	15	4	1,600,361	1,879,630	**0.83**	**0.71**
Central East	9	4	389,809	448,520	2.62	2.27
Southwest	9	4	516,048	602,651	**1.00**	**0.86**
Southeast	19	4	1,693,968	1,884,065	**1.27**	**1.14**
Statewide	15	4	6,280,197	7,214,990	1.29	1.12

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***BOLD** numbers represent a number below the statewide median.*

Basketball: Level of Service Comparisons



Football

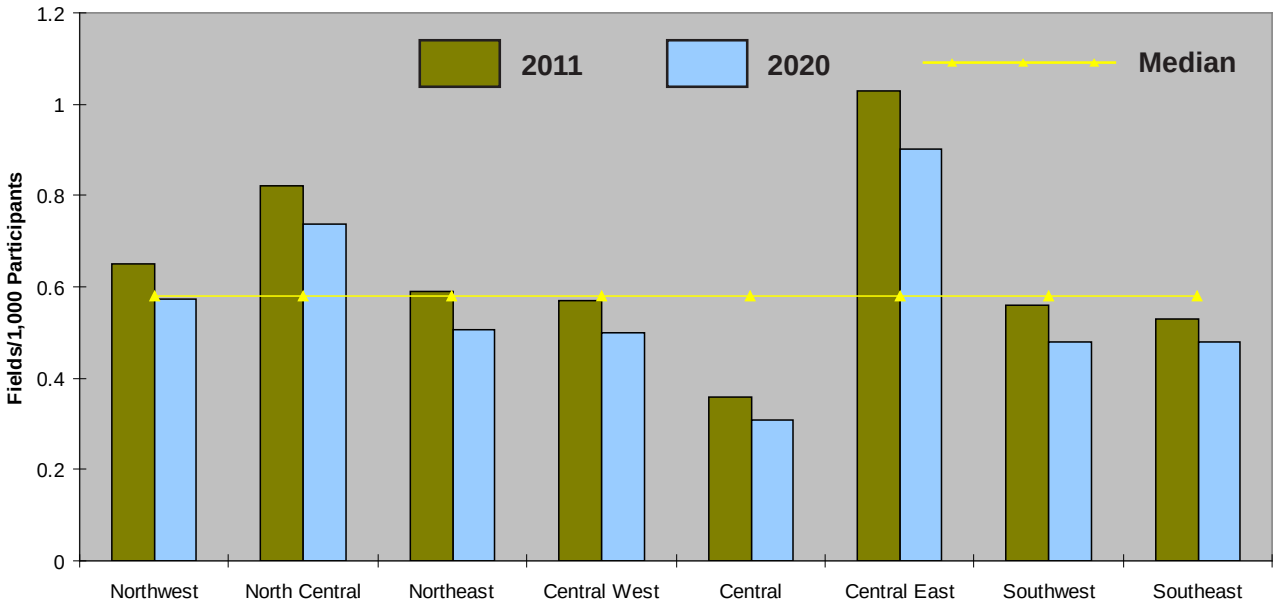
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Fields/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	8	2	252,895	287,896	0.65	0.57
North Central	14	2	161,652	180,314	0.82	0.74
Northeast	13	2	318,135	370,712	0.59	0.51
Central West	10	2	534,651	610,880	**0.57**	**0.50**
Central	10	2	882,374	1,038,900	**0.36**	**0.31**
Central East	6	2	219,506	252,160	1.03	0.90
Southwest	9	2	343,048	401,851	**0.56**	**0.48**
Southeast	13	2	1,044,304	1,155,935	**0.53**	**0.48**
Statewide	11	2	3,798,144	4,353,926	0.56	0.49

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

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Football: Level of Service Comparisons



Geocaching

Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020
Northwest	2	3	279,474	322,974
North Central	3	3	79,125	90,273
Northeast	2	3	211,963	246,248
Central West	3	3	451,035	520,608
Central	3	3	929,032	1,082,742
Central East	3	3	230,853	266,640
Southwest	2	3	297,288	345,878
Southeast	3	3	636,232	725,505
Statewide	3	3	3,159,039	3,651,798

* *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*



Geocaching is an outdoor activity utilizing GPS technology to locate a hidden box of objects as above.



Golf

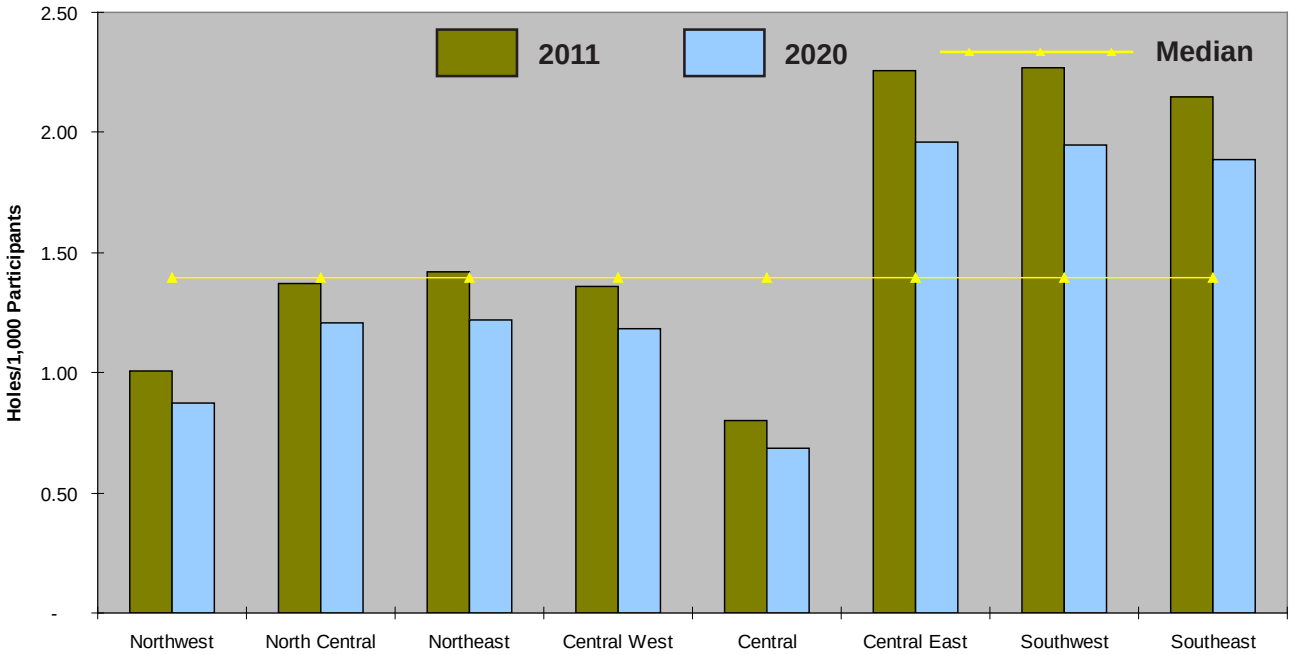
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Holes/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	10	11	1,051,369	1,213,270	**1.01**	**0.87**
North Central	13	11	308,276	351,023	**1.37**	**1.21**
Northeast	17	11	923,712	1,074,048	1.42	1.22
Central West	17	11	1,829,266	2,106,752	**1.36**	**1.19**
Central	17	11	3,603,716	4,207,858	**0.80**	**0.68**
Central East	17	11	944,867	1,089,280	2.26	1.96
Southwest	20	11	1,329,384	1,551,180	2.27	1.94
Southeast	11	11	2,332,850	2,660,185	2.15	1.89
Statewide	15	11	12,335,197	14,242,990	1.49	1.29

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Golf: Level of Service Comparisons



Outdoor Swimming Pool Use

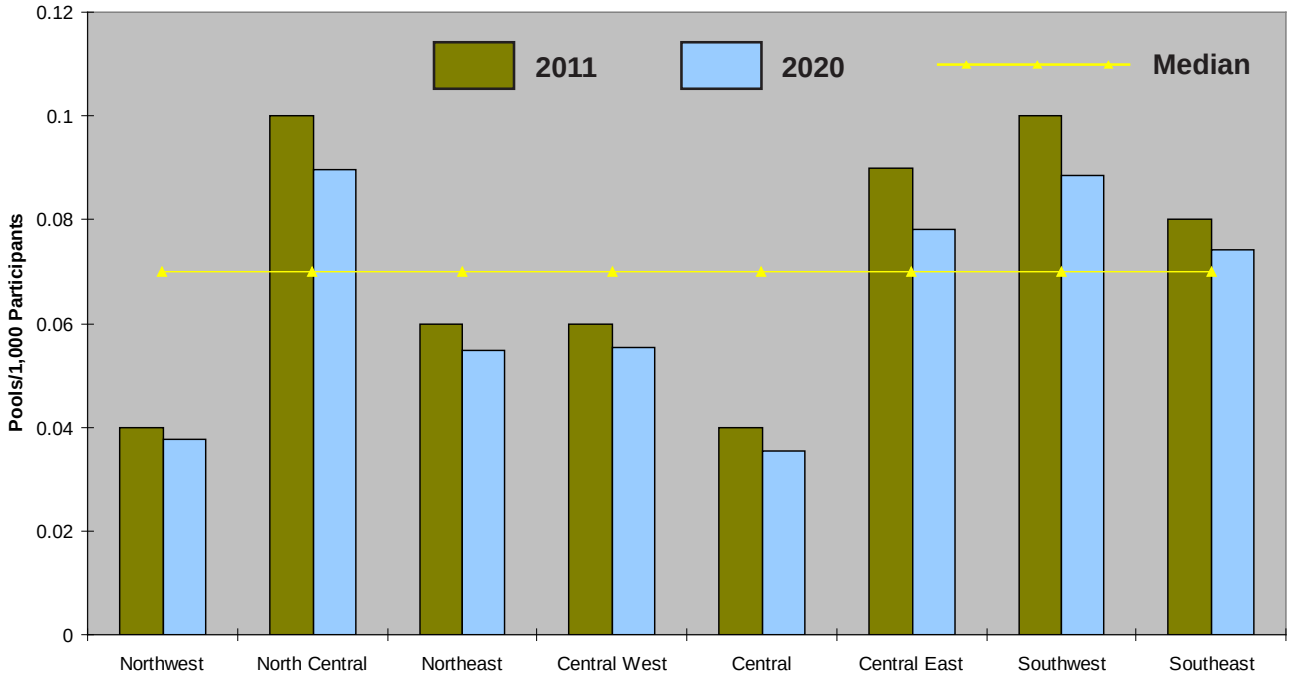
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Pools/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	18	29	2,688,264	3,107,566	**0.04**	**0.04**
North Central	32	29	792,104	902,672	0.1	0.09
Northeast	26	29	2,150,021	2,498,424	**0.06**	**0.05**
Central West	29	29	4,360,007	5,032,544	**0.06**	**0.06**
Central	29	29	8,980,645	10,466,506	**0.04**	**0.04**
Central East	21	29	2,100,371	2,428,720	0.09	0.08
Southwest	28	29	3,037,537	3,537,092	0.1	0.09
Southeast	34	29	6,432,127	7,318,790	0.08	0.07
Statewide	29	29	30,537,380	35,300,714	0.07	0.06

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Outdoor Swimming Pool Use: Level of Service Comparisons



Soccer

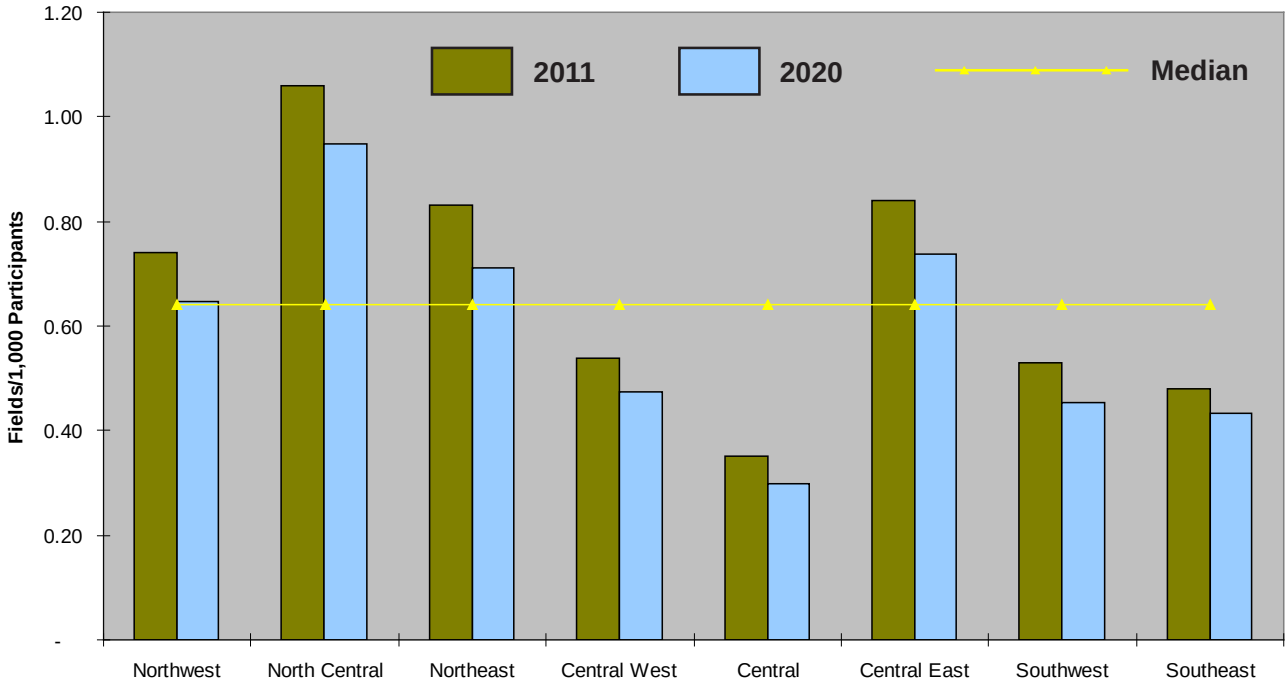
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Fields/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	5	2	222,934	255,235	0.74	0.65
North Central	10	2	125,351	140,270	1.06	0.95
Northeast	7	2	227,196	264,488	0.83	0.71
Central West	11	2	563,896	643,856	**0.54**	**0.47**
Central	11	2	915,252	1,078,534	**0.35**	**0.30**
Central East	9	2	268,709	307,960	0.84	0.74
Southwest	10	2	361,942	424,190	**0.53**	**0.45**
Southeast	15	2	1,157,059	1,278,165	**0.48**	**0.43**
Statewide	11	2	3,798,144	4,353,926	0.56	0.49

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Soccer: Level of Service Comparisons



Tennis

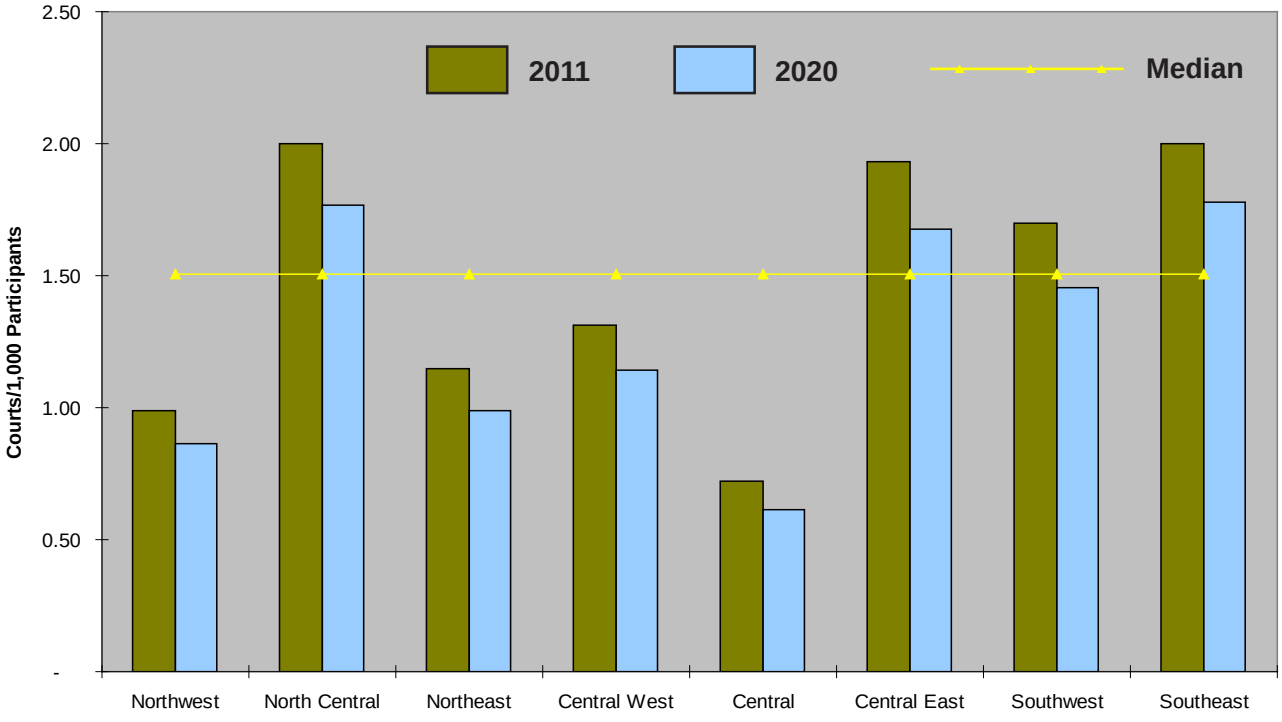
Region	% of Participation*		Total Participation**		Level of Service (Courts/1,000 Participants)	
	Residents	Tourists	2011	2020	2011	2020
Northwest	9	5	522,382	599,983	**0.99**	**0.86**
North Central	11	5	186,326	210,521	2.00	1.77
Northeast	15	5	530,098	616,960	**1.15**	**0.99**
Central West	11	5	927,196	1,065,536	**1.31**	**1.14**
Central	8	5	1,647,019	1,923,472	**0.72**	**0.61**
Central East	13	5	515,963	593,200	1.93	1.68
Southwest	13	5	678,124	792,407	1.70	1.46
Southeast	14	5	1,567,782	1,759,210	2.00	1.78
Statewide	12	5	6,581,157	7,579,192	1.40	1.21

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Tennis: Level of Service Comparisons



Appendix I - Supply Charts by Agency

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal Agency Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities 2012

	Facilities	Statewide	Northwest	North Central	Northeast	Central West	Central	Central East	Southwest	Southeast
RESOURCE BASED	Cabins	37	33	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
	Tent Campsites	1,026	591	25	13	50	135	16	111	85
	RV Campsites	2,138	529	20	12	294	545	138	201	399
	Historic Sites	390	24	12	239	1	5	95	13	1
	Commemorative Structures	9	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-
	Museums	25	4	3	3	1		5	4	5
	Picnic Tables	1,966	991	69	272	68	196	173	106	91
	Hunting Areas (Acres)	2,065,648	557,328	443,337	84,268	6,736	337,927	40,194	412,358	183,500
	Bike Trails (Miles Paved)	73.5	-	-	2.5	-	-	-	71	-
	Bike Trails (Miles Unpaved)	144	36	68.9	1.2	5	12	9	12	
	Canoe Trails (Miles)	517	135.4	66	5.1	20	25	15.5	26	224.0
	Hiking Trails (Miles)	974	390.8	44.5	2.4	1	170.7	37.7	125.7	53.6
	Equestrian Trails (Miles)	120.7	36.5	56	-	-	16	12.2	-	-
	Jogging Trails (Miles)	71.4	41.7	-	5.5	7.5	7.7	-	9	-
	OHV Trails (Miles)	401	226	-	-	-	125	-	50	-
	Nature Trails (Miles)	310	132	34.5	4.2	4.3	15.9	25.4	82.3	11.3
	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	0.7	0.3	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-
	Freshwater Boat Ramps	89	45	6	4	-	24	3	2	5
	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	98	46	7	5	-	28	3	2	7
	Freshwater Catwalks	12	7	1	-	1	1	1	1	
	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	907	287	300	-	-	100		120	100
	Freshwater Jetties	120	120	-	-	-				
	Freshwater Marinas	6	2	-	-	-	1	2	1	1
	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	51	13	-	-	-	12	16	8	2
	Freshwater Piers	27	15	1	3	-	5	-	340	-
	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	4,515	3,750	90	75	-	260	-	3	-
	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	139	99	-	1	2.6	NA	33.8	2	0.9
	Saltwater Boat Ramps	35	12	4	-	1	NA	13	1	4
	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	52	18	4	-	2	NA	19	1	8
	Saltwater Catwalks	53	15	3		1	NA	33	-	1
	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	23,044	15,025	35	-	175	NA	7,427	-	382
	Saltwater Jetties	10,120	1,000	30	1,250	40	NA	-	-	7,800
	Saltwater Marinas	11	7	-	-	1	NA	2	-	1
	Saltwater Marina Slips	698	413	-	-	35	NA	150	-	100
	Saltwater Piers	17	6	4	-	1	NA	4	1	1
	Saltwater Piers (Feet)	7,506	5,950	862	-	60	NA	484	50	100
USER ORIENTED	Baseball Fields	51	18	-	16	6	-	9	1	1
	Basketball Goals	55	14	-	9	2	-	24		6
	Equipped Play Areas	52	5	-	21	3	-	19	1	3
	Football Fields	18	6	-	3	3	-	6	-	-
	Golf Courses, 18-Hole	8	4	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
	Golf Courses, 9-Hole	5	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
	Golf Courses, Executive	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Golf Holes (Total)	207	108	-	45	36	-	18	-	-
	Multi-Use Carts	6	1	-	-	4	-		-	1
	Multi-Use Fields	9	4	-	2	-	-	2	-	1
	Outdoor Swimming Pools	15	6	-	3	2	-	4	-	-
	Racquetball Courts	19	4	-	6	-	-	8	1	-
	Shuffleboard Courts	6	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
	Tennis Courts	78	33	-	28	6	-	8	-	3
	Volleyball Courts	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

National Park Service Inventory Totals	
Outdoor Recreation Areas	11
TOTAL ACRES	2,595,034

RESOURCE BASED (Land)		RESOURCE BASED (Water)	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	-
Tent Campsites	201	Freshwater Boat Ramps	2
RV Campsites	717	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	2
Historic Sites	324	Freshwater Catwalks	-
Commemorative Structures	2	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	-
Museums	11	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	642	Freshwater Marinas	1
Hunting Areas (Acres)	-	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	2
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	70	Freshwater Piers	-
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	-	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	-
Canoe Trails (Miles)	242	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	75
Hiking Trails (Miles)	207	Saltwater Boat Ramps	10
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	12	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	15
Jogging Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks	38
OHV Trails (Miles)	50	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	16,359
Nature Trails (Miles)	94	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	8,450
		Saltwater Marinas	1
		Saltwater Marina Slips	100
		Saltwater Piers	4
		Saltwater Piers	384

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			28
TOTAL ACRES			984176
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	-
Tent Campsites	-	Freshwater Boat Ramps	5
RV Campsites	-	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	8
Historic Sites	23	Freshwater Catwalks	3
Commemorative Structures	-	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	400
Museums	8	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	25	Freshwater Marinas	-
Hunting Areas (Acres)	157,709	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	-
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	1	Freshwater Piers	1
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	102	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	90
Canoe Trails (Miles)	145	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	21.1
Hiking Trails (Miles)	297	Saltwater Boat Ramps	9
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	6	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	11
Jogging Trails (Miles)	9	Saltwater Catwalks	3
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	35
Nature Trails (Miles)	145.6	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	30
		Saltwater Marinas	-
		Saltwater Marina Slips	-
		Saltwater Piers	4
		Saltwater Piers	862

U.S. Forest Service Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			3
TOTAL ACRES			1,181,576
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins	4	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	0.6
Tent Campsites	196	Freshwater Boat Ramps	37
RV Campsites	638	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	41
Historic Sites	12	Freshwater Catwalks	-
Commemorative Structures	2	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	-
Museums	2	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	361	Freshwater Marinas	1
Hunting Areas (Acres)	1,069,605	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	12
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	-	Freshwater Piers	4
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	30	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	300
Canoe Trails (Miles)	58	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	-
Hiking Trails (Miles)	237	Saltwater Boat Ramps	-
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	72	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	-
Jogging Trails (Miles)	33	Saltwater Catwalks	-
OHV Trails (Miles)	351	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	-
Nature Trails (Miles)	48	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	-
		Saltwater Marinas	-
		Saltwater Marina Slips	-
		Saltwater Piers	-
		Saltwater Piers	-

U.S. Defense Department Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			10
TOTAL ACRES			611,845
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins	33	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	0.09
Tent Campsites	615	Freshwater Boat Ramps	35
RV Campsites	550	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	37
Historic Sites	31	Freshwater Catwalks	7
Commemorative Structures	5	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	387
Museums	3	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	120
Picnic Tables	873	Freshwater Marinas	1
Hunting Areas (Acres)	15,000	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	3
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	2.5	Freshwater Piers	19
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	12.2	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	3,785
Canoe Trails (Miles)	72.3	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	42.6
Hiking Trails (Miles)	232.6	Saltwater Boat Ramps	16
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	30.5	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	26
Jogging Trails (Miles)	29.4	Saltwater Catwalks	11
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	6,500
Nature Trails (Miles)	21.5	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	1,640
		Saltwater Marinas	10
		Saltwater Marina Slips	598
		Saltwater Piers	7
		Saltwater Piers	6,010

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			8
TOTAL ACRES			28,118
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	0.04
Tent Campsites	14	Freshwater Boat Ramps	6
RV Campsites	113	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	6
Historic Sites	-	Freshwater Catwalks	2
Commemorative Structures	-	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	120
Museums	-	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	60	Freshwater Marinas	4
Hunting Areas (Acres)	7,952	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	34
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	-	Freshwater Piers	3
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	-	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	340
Canoe Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	-
Hiking Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Boat Ramps	-
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	-
Jogging Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks	1
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	150
Nature Trails (Miles)	1	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	-
		Saltwater Marinas	-
		Saltwater Marina Slips	-
		Saltwater Piers	1
		Saltwater Piers	200

Division of Recreation and Parks Inventory Totals	
Outdoor Recreation Areas	172
Land Acres	681,290
Water Acres	112,870
TOTAL ACRES	794,160

RESOURCE BASED (Land)		RESOURCE BASED (Water)	
Cabins	226	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	4
Tent Campsites	374	Freshwater Boat Ramps	32
RV Campsites	3,211	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	36
Historic Sites	905	Freshwater Catwalks	28
Commemorative Structures	20	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	11,131
Museums	85	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	3,770
Picnic Tables	5,920	Freshwater Marinas	8
Hunting Areas (Acres)	33,646	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	85
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	335	Freshwater Piers	20
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	853	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	1,381
Canoe Trails (Miles)	318	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	91
Hiking Trails (Miles)	1,787	Saltwater Boat Ramps	27
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	773	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	41
Jogging Trails (Miles)	13	Saltwater Catwalks	41
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	8,433
Nature Trails (Miles)	117	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	7,953
		Saltwater Marinas	17
		Saltwater Marina Slips	400
		Saltwater Piers	31
		Saltwater Piers	19,902

Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas Inventory Totals	
Outdoor Recreation Areas	44
Land Acres	175,101
Water Acres	2,469,277
TOTAL ACRES	2,644,378

RESOURCE BASED (Land)		RESOURCE BASED (Water)	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	-
Tent Campsites	-	Freshwater Boat Ramps	-
RV Campsites	-	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	-
Historic Sites	12	Freshwater Catwalks	3
Commemorative Structures	2	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	1,411
Museums	3	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	88	Freshwater Marinas	-
Hunting Areas (Acres)	6,620	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	-
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	5	Freshwater Piers	-
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	45.2	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	-
Canoe Trails (Miles)	181.5	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	33.2
Hiking Trails (Miles)	55.6	Saltwater Boat Ramps	2
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	13	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	2
Jogging Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks	3
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	1,481
Nature Trails (Miles)	46.9	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	-
		Saltwater Marinas	-
		Saltwater Marina Slips	-
		Saltwater Piers	-
		Saltwater Piers	-

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			54*
TOTAL ACRES			1,429,565
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins		Freshwater Beach (Miles)	0.02
Tent Campsites	110	Freshwater Boat Ramps	73
RV Campsites	94	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	83
Historic Sites	13	Freshwater Catwalks	25
Commemorative Structures		Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	3,229
Museums	3	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	
Picnic Tables	205	Freshwater Marinas	1
Hunting Areas (Acres)	1,347,956	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	1
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	5.1	Freshwater Piers	23
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	116.6	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	1,185
Canoe Trails (Miles)	98.7	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	
Hiking Trails (Miles)	298.5	Saltwater Boat Ramps	11
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	111.6	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	11
Jogging Trails (Miles)		Saltwater Catwalks	2
OHV Trails (Miles)		Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	
Nature Trails (Miles)	10.2	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	
		Saltwater Marinas	
		Saltwater Marina Slips	
		Saltwater Piers	9
		Saltwater Piers	100

*FWC is the lead managing agency for 54 areas, but also cooperatively manages an additional 104 areas covering 4.4 million acres

Florida Forest Service Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			35
TOTAL ACRES			1,058,700
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins		Freshwater Beach (Miles)	0.21
Tent Campsites	89	Freshwater Boat Ramps	24
RV Campsites	432	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	24
Historic Sites	4	Freshwater Catwalks	12
Commemorative Structures		Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	2,810
Museums	3	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	
Picnic Tables	608	Freshwater Marinas	
Hunting Areas (Acres)	1,598,546	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	3.4	Freshwater Piers	9
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	299.3	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	586
Canoe Trails (Miles)	290.8	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	
Hiking Trails (Miles)	614	Saltwater Boat Ramps	1
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	387.5	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	1
Jogging Trails (Miles)		Saltwater Catwalks	
OHV Trails (Miles)	180	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	
Nature Trails (Miles)	12	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	
		Saltwater Marinas	
		Saltwater Marina Slips	
		Saltwater Piers	
		Saltwater Piers	

Northwest Florida Water Management District Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			10
TOTAL ACRES			210,481
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	-
Tent Campsites	325	Freshwater Boat Ramps	67
RV Campsites	-	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	67
Historic Sites	-	Freshwater Catwalks	-
Commemorative Structures	-	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	-
Museums	-	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	98	Freshwater Marinas	-
Hunting Areas (Acres)	204,577	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	-
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	-	Freshwater Piers	-
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	5	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	-
Canoe Trails (Miles)	81	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	NA
Hiking Trails (Miles)	92.1	Saltwater Boat Ramps	NA
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	5	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	NA
Jogging Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks	NA
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	NA
Nature Trails (Miles)	26	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	NA
		Saltwater Marinas	NA
		Saltwater Marina Slips	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA

Suwannee River Water Management District Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			55
TOTAL ACRES			156,509
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	-
Tent Campsites	-	Freshwater Boat Ramps	6
RV Campsites	-	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	6
Historic Sites	-	Freshwater Catwalks	-
Commemorative Structures	-	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	-
Museums	-	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	1	Freshwater Marinas	-
Hunting Areas (Acres)	87,855	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	-
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	-	Freshwater Piers	-
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	35.3	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	-
Canoe Trails (Miles)	10	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	NA
Hiking Trails (Miles)	15.3	Saltwater Boat Ramps	NA
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	26.3	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	NA
Jogging Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks	NA
OHV Trails (Miles)	38	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	NA
Nature Trails (Miles)	19.5	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	NA
		Saltwater Marinas	NA
		Saltwater Marina Slips	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA

St. John's River Water Management District Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			44
TOTAL ACRES			467,727
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	-
Tent Campsites	17	Freshwater Boat Ramps	16
RV Campsites	-	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	16
Historic Sites	217	Freshwater Catwalks	45
Commemorative Structures	-	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	6,020
Museums	1	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	106	Freshwater Marinas	-
Hunting Areas (Acres)	254,866	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	-
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	3.3	Freshwater Piers	7
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	636.9	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	347
Canoe Trails (Miles)	4	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	NA
Hiking Trails (Miles)	670	Saltwater Boat Ramps	NA
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	522.0	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	NA
Jogging Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks	NA
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	NA
Nature Trails (Miles)	23.0	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	NA
		Saltwater Marinas	NA
		Saltwater Marina Slips	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA

Southwest Florida Water Management District Inventory Totals			
Outdoor Recreation Areas			34
TOTAL ACRES			314,067
RESOURCE BASED (Land)		**RESOURCE BASED (Water)**	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	-
Tent Campsites	162	Freshwater Boat Ramps	2
RV Campsites	71	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	2
Historic Sites	-	Freshwater Catwalks	-
Commemorative Structures	-	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	-
Museums	-	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	217	Freshwater Marinas	-
Hunting Areas (Acres)	117,875	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	-
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	6.5	Freshwater Piers	1
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	301.4	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	100
Canoe Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	NA
Hiking Trails (Miles)	466	Saltwater Boat Ramps	NA
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	264.1	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	NA
Jogging Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks	NA
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	NA
Nature Trails (Miles)	1.2	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	NA
		Saltwater Marinas	NA
		Saltwater Marina Slips	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA

South Florida Water Management District Inventory Totals	
Outdoor Recreation Areas	21
TOTAL ACRES	333,173

RESOURCE BASED (Land)		RESOURCE BASED (Water)	
Cabins	-	Freshwater Beach (Miles)	-
Tent Campsites	143	Freshwater Boat Ramps	11
RV Campsites	46	Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	11
Historic Sites	-	Freshwater Catwalks	6
Commemorative Structures	-	Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	3,965
Museums	-	Freshwater Jetties (Feet)	-
Picnic Tables	143	Freshwater Marinas	-
Hunting Areas (Acres)	240,049	Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	-
Bike Trails Paved (Miles)	-	Freshwater Piers	-
Bike Trails Unpaved (Miles)	82.8	Freshwater Piers (Feet)	-
Canoe Trails (Miles)	33.4	Saltwater Beach (Miles)	NA
Hiking Trails (Miles)	245.2	Saltwater Boat Ramps	NA
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	77	Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	NA
Jogging Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks	NA
OHV Trails (Miles)	-	Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	NA
Nature Trails (Miles)	0.4	Saltwater Jetties (Feet)	NA
		Saltwater Marinas	NA
		Saltwater Marina Slips	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA
		Saltwater Piers	NA

Local Agency Outdoor Recreation Resources and Facilities 2012

Facilities	Statewide	Northwest	North Central	Northeast	Central West	Central	Central East	Southwest	Southeast
Cabins	117	7	4	38	15	9	14	10	20
Tent Campsites	1,298	27	178	145	209	132	221	143	243
RV Campsites	4,966	170	412	446	388	409	1,025	117	1,999
Historic Sites	408	23	30	39	36	70	58	84	68
Commemorative Structures	180	20	3	14	15	31	39	10	48
Museums	251	10	17	46	36	31	36	26	49
Picnic Tables	49,970	4,033	2,737	3,571	9,824	8,164	5,773	5,351	10,517
Hunting Areas (Acres)	15,002	-	-	2.2	-	-	-	15,000	-
Bike Trails (Miles Paved)	358.5	40.4	40.1	74.0	176.4	207.4	183.2	141.2	144.2
Bike Trails (Miles Unpaved)	2,512.4	27.5	77.6	108.1	178.4	149.6	126.3	302.2	90.7
Canoe Trails (Miles)	997.6	9.0	21.9	4.8	67.3	32.0	60	132.3	56.7
Hiking Trails (Miles)	4,460.9	62.6	149.0	134	286.5	1,580.9	302	500.9	269.9
Equestrian Trails (Miles)	2,291.9	18.8	56	82.8	59.9	141.9	118.5	151.7	139.1
Jogging Trails (Miles)	312.1	87.2	78.2	99.8	240.0	269.6	116.8	98.0	267.7
OHV Trails (Miles)	286	-	-	17.00	-	-	-	-	-
Nature Trails (Miles)	278.5	35.9	75.9	118	163.3	225.7	138.8	136.2	161.1
Freshwater Beach (Miles)	24	2.1	0.5	0.5	0.7	4.3	4.2	0.7	10.8
Freshwater Boat Ramps	892	125	119	103	65	286	68	60	66
Freshwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	1,100	133	162	112	91	341	99	67	95
Freshwater Catwalks	449	32	37	34	74	132	52	29	59
Freshwater Catwalks (Feet)	132,573	5,673	7,000	5,684	24,456	48,110	12,817	11,907	16,926
Freshwater Jetties	78,720	150	4,800	-	30,551	32,526	2,403	3,305	4,985
Freshwater Marinas	23	-	1	7	4	3	2	1	5
Freshwater Marinas (Slips)	916	-	2	280	18	260	142	25	189
Freshwater Piers	523	110	24	45	67	132	53	33	59
Freshwater Piers (Feet)	45,047	3,900	4,179	5,289	4,885	13,321	6,661	1,866	4,946
Saltwater Beach (Miles)	165	1.6	1.2	30	18.6	NA	33.5	44.4	35.6
Saltwater Boat Ramps	534	88	14	32	99	NA	118	70	113
Saltwater Boat Ramps (Lanes)	811	122	19	48	167	NA	170	111	174
Saltwater Catwalks	554	56	1	21	90	NA	230	113	43
Saltwater Catwalks (Feet)	127,399	8,358	664	4,260	14,907	NA	35,863	38,005	25,342
Saltwater Jetties	41,158	306	266	5,050	12,581	NA	100	8,145	14,710
Saltwater Marinas	87	7	2	5	12	NA	7	12	42
Saltwater Marina Slips	6,720	574	37	243	1,617	NA	1,119	627	2,503
Saltwater Piers	302	49	6	16	45	NA	79	63	44
Saltwater Piers (Feet)	87,714	28,597	875	5,453	14,174	NA	14,461	12,220	11,934
Baseball Fields	5,353	580	324	548	796	960	602	442	1,101
Basketball Goals	7,258	357	603	569	1,162	1,192	926	455	1,994
Equipped Play Areas	4,591	436	327	436	658	800	478	389	1,067
Football Fields	1,967	151	100	175	285	300	254	190	512
Golf Courses, 18-Hole	77	6	2	6	7	7	13	8	28
Golf Courses, 9-Hole	33	-	1	6	2	4	7	2	11
Golf Courses, Executive	14	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	9
Golf Holes (Total)	1,858	117	45	162	204	163	315	162	690
Multi-Use Carts	780	19	57	20	276	129	97	39	143
Multi-Use Fields	1,778	125	150	105	193	334	221	114	536
Outdoor Swimming Pools	477	6	19	57	68	59	40	46	182
Racquetball Courts	1,280	20	74	44	164	218	79	81	600
Shuffleboard Courts	2,075	60	38	57	473	468	383	207	389
Tenni	4,522	239	206	312	632	652	524	454	1,503
	777	23	74	64	52	136	169	61	198

Appendix J - Assessment and Protection of Wetlands

Assessment and Protection of Wetlands

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (PL 99-645), requires each state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan to include a component that identifies wetlands as a priority concern within that state. To fulfill the requirements sections of the 2011-2015 Coastal Zone Management Act 309 Assessment and Strategies and information from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources are used. This addendum identifies the wetlands communities that exist in Florida, discusses major threats to the State's wetlands and describes the wetlands protection programs and efforts that exist today.

Extent of Wetlands in Florida

Wetlands type	**Estimated historic extent** (acres)	**Current extent** (acres)	**Trends in acres lost since 2006** (Net acres gained & lost)	**Acres gained through voluntary mechanisms since 2006**	**Acres gained through mitigation since 2006**	**Year and source(s) of Data**
Tidal vegetated (Other-State Wetland pursuant to Rule 62-340 FAC)**	*(DEP-SLER)	*(DEP-SLER)	Lost-11,169.34 acres Gained-17,518 acres	4,518.58 acres	12,999.40 acres	2006-2009 DEP/SLER
Tidal non-vegetated**						
Non-tidal/ freshwater**		10,318,308				2009 FNAI†
Other (please specify)		***Coastal *Public Lands: 838,152* *Private Lands: 189,403* *TOTAL:* ***1,027,555*** --- *Fresh-water* *Public Lands: 5,254,898* *Private Lands: 5,063,410* *TOTAL:* ***10,318,308***				2009 FNAI

†Florida Natural Areas Inventory

*(DEP-Submerged Lands & Environmental Resources) No accurate data statewide based on Florida wetland definition pursuant to Rule 62-340, FAC.

**The Florida wetland definition includes tidal wetlands, tidal non-vegetated wetlands, and freshwater wetlands.

***Coastal wetlands data include Mangrove Swamps, Saltwater Marshes, Tidal Flats, Salt Flats (FLUCCS codes). Public Lands data are from FNAI Florida Managed Areas December, 2009.

Increasing populations will of course lead to increasing water withdrawals. According to the Florida 2060 Report, between now and 2060 the State's population is projected to more than double and consequently, without shifts in our policies, the additional land devoted to urban use will also more than double. If roughly 7 million acres of additional land is converted to urban use, it means 2.7 million acres of existing agricultural land will be lost along with 2.7 million acres of native habitat. (Florida 2060, a research project prepared for 1000 Friends of Florida)

Data provided in the above table for certain wetlands is only for permitted activities. The trends shown are an indication of impacts to wetlands and trends from the economy on the number of permitted activities. Mitigation is not required for exempt activities or activities that qualify for a noticed general permit.

The negative trend for the coastal zone is expected to continue because permitted impacts are continuing. Development of uplands in the coastal zone has continued resulting in fragmentation of the remaining wetlands and other indirectly impacted habitats. Isolated wetlands, including some important for coastal resources, have been unregulated by the state in northwest Florida due to exclusion of the Panhandle region of Florida from the original Environmental Resource Permitting legislation. These new rules would bring protection of isolated wetlands in the Northwest portion of the state to the same level that has existed elsewhere in Florida since 1994. Implementation of the Environmental Resource Permitting program in northwest Florida, including regulation of isolated wetlands, is anticipated in 2010. Mitigation has often occurred in areas of lower land value inland from the permitted impacts.

Monitoring Efforts

The Florida Geological Survey has been conducting field work to establish Sediment Elevation Tables, which has indicated overall sedimentation loss. Funds to continue that program are no longer available, and long-term monitoring will depend on the availability of non-State funding sources. Another effort that has been underway is to characterize the interaction of coastal wetlands with ground water and the near-shore environment with special emphasis on karstic settings. This activity is largely research-oriented and its continuation and expansion will depend on the availability of research funds primarily from federal sources. A third effort is the population of a sinkhole database that has been underway for many years and is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

The three Florida NERRs are undertaking habitat mapping and monitoring within their designated areas. Florida Aquatic Preserves (APs) are setting up mapping and monitoring programs at some sites, but these are not comprehensive programs statewide due to funding limitations.

Mitigation of wetland impacts for permitted activities is conducted through required mitigation reports and compliance inspections.

An effective monitoring program is in place for the Umbrella Regional Mitigation Plan in Northwest Florida, which provides mitigation of wetland impacts for state transportation projects. The adequacy of mitigation monitoring for state and federal permits should be closely evaluated.

Significance of Threats to Florida's Wetlands

Type of threat	Severity of impacts (H,M,L)	Geographic scope of impacts (extensive or limited)	Irreversibility (H,M,L)
Development/Fill	H	Extensive	M
Alteration of hydrology	M	Extensive	M
Erosion	M	Extensive	M
Pollution	M	Extensive	M
Channelization	M	Limited	M
Nuisance or exotic species	M	Extensive	M
Freshwater input	M	Limited	M
Sea level rise/Great Lake level change	M	Limited	H
Other (Changing rainfall patterns due to climate change)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Other (Ditching)	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Other (Transport of river/ surface water out of water-sheds for consumptive use)	M	Extensive	L
Other (Use of natural wetlands as storm-water holding areas)	M	Unknown	L
Other (Fragmentation)	H	Extensive - Due to sprawling development patterns.	H

Direct threats can be natural or man-made. The most prevalent natural threats in Florida include tropical storms, hurricanes, sinkhole development and subsidence. Anthropogenic threats include over-withdrawal of ground water, aggregate and rock mining, spills, runoff, boating activities and development in vulnerable areas. The latter has multiple impacts including paving of ground water recharge areas, increased water usage, and increased volume of runoff containing nutrients, bacteria, pesticides and fertilizers. The emerging trend of using natural springs for the bottled water industry is expected to put additional demand on ground water that will eventually result in lowering the water level in aquifers that, in turn, play a critical role in maintaining the health of wetlands. A critical factor in addressing all of the above issues is the need to develop a water budget for all coastal watersheds. Water budgets are essential for the effective implementation of environmental regulatory programs such as Minimum Flows and Levels (MFL) and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TDMLs) for these watersheds.

The rating for alteration of hydrology is based upon the prevalence of mosquito and drainage ditches in certain areas. The impacts are more moderate in other areas. Isolated and ephemeral wetlands, especially in pine flatwoods and sandhills, may be important breeding sites for amphibians, including flatwoods salamander, striped newt, gopher frog, and chorus frogs. Isolated and ephemeral wetlands are often overlooked as resources important to wildlife and are degraded or lost through fire suppression, logging, ditching and other changes to hydrology. For example, wetlands are lost due to draw-down of the aquifer from development, agriculture, and industry. Loss of seasonal flooding changes plant composition; future impacts may continue from changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change. Karst (limestone) wetlands, including freshwater caves

and sinkholes that connect to the underground aquifer, may be habitat to rare invertebrates (crayfish, cave shrimp, isopods, amphipods) and vertebrates (cave salamander). The wildlife in these karst features are threatened by changes in water quality (surface-derived pollutants and siltation) and quantity (groundwater removal to support development and agriculture water uses). Coastal wetlands may be threatened by saltwater intrusion due to sea level rise and groundwater removal.

Wetlands Management Programs and Efforts

Management categories	Employed by state/ territory (Y or N)	Significant changes since last assessment (Y or N)
Wetland regulatory program implementation, policies, and standards	Y	Y
Wetland protection policies and standards	Y	Y
Wetland assessment methodologies (health, function, extent)	Y	Y
Wetland restoration or enhancement programs	Y	Y
Wetland policies related public infrastructure funding	Y	N
Wetland mitigation programs and policies	Y	Y
Wetland creation programs and policies	Y	N
Wetland acquisition programs	Y	N
Wetland mapping, GIS, and tracking systems	Y	N
Special Area Management Plans	Y	Y
Wetland research and monitoring	Y	N
Wetland education and outreach	Y	Y
Other (please specify)		

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission notes that many of these programs deal with water quality and quantity, but do not specifically include potential impacts to wildlife.

Wetland regulatory program implementation, policies, and standards

Currently, the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are working to implement northwest Florida Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) Phase II, which would improve functional wetland protection and provide significant new protections for isolated wetlands. Implementation is expected to occur during 2010. These new rules would bring protection of isolated wetlands in the Northwest portion of the state to the same level that currently exists elsewhere in Florida. Stormwater ERP (Phase I) is currently in place. The NWFWMD continues to implement the Umbrella Regional Wetland Mitigation Plan in cooperation with the Florida Department of Transportation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This plan provides for watershed-based mitigation of wetland impacts caused by state transportation projects. The above are all non-CZM funded efforts.

Wetland restoration or enhancement programs

The FCMP has partnered with several state and local programs using 306 funds to undertake various wetland restoration projects. DEP's Northwest District has been restoring submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) populations in the Panhandle region through the utilization of salvaged and laboratory- grown SAV materials. Salvaged SAV is acquired only from marine construction activities that are exempt from regulation or have met applicable permits for avoidance and minimization. Since its inception in 2006, the SAV salvage program has obtained over 600-12" seagrass cores from dock construction for its restoration efforts and has used the salvaged SAV at 12 suitable receiver sites. *Ruppia maritima* is propagated at the Northwest District's laboratory, and will also be planted at restoration sites.

FWC's Florida Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) has continued development of the Seagrass Integrated Mapping and Monitoring program to enable resource managers to track changes in the distribution, abundance, and species composition of seagrass meadows around the state. DEP/CAMA has been conducting hyperspectral mapping of the Big Bend Aquatic Preserve. CAMA staff will obtain baseline maps of bathymetry, seagrass beds and the extent of propeller scar damage in the Big Bend Seagrasses Aquatic Preserve, the largest of Florida's 41 aquatic preserves. These changes were funded with Section 309 CZM funds.

The FWC is mapping seagrass beds in eastern Choctawhatchee Bay, a large area unmapped since 1992. Significant changes to seagrasses have taken place over past 16 years due to extensive population growth, increased recreational boating and effects from landfall of three hurricanes and one tropical storm. This effort was funded with Section 306 CZM funds.

The DEP Division of Recreation & Parks has continued seagrass restoration activities at Lignumvitae Key Submerged Land Managed Area to restore habitat damaged by boat groundings.

DEP's Northwest District has continued work on Project Greenshores, a habitat creation and restoration project located along Bayfront Parkway in Pensacola Bay. The project is comprised of a series of salt marsh and oyster reefs totaling approximately 15 acres. This project was funded with Section 306A CZM funds.

Special Area Management Plans

DEP's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) is developing a new, program-wide comprehensive management strategy, the Integrated Management Framework (IMF), to implement special area management more effectively. The IMF directs all CAMA program activities, including not only aquatic preserve management, but also NERRs, Florida Keys NMS, the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Program, and other state and federal priority activities, in a coordinated manner using subject-specific management teams. CAMA is also undertaking a long-term project to update the management plans for the 41 aquatic preserves using data and information on current ecosystem health, land use, water resource management, human activities, and geophysical conditions affecting the preserve system. To date, five aquatic preserve management plans have been completed and approved and another seven are in progress. This effort is part of a 309-driven change.

Wetland education and outreach

The Coastal Training Programs offered by the three Florida NERRs focus on issues such as coastal habitat conservation and restoration, biodiversity, water quality and sustainable resources management. One recent workshop was entitled *Innovative Floodplain Strategies for Coastal Areas: Application of No Adverse Impact Principles*. The FCMP has provided 306 funds to assist in Coastal Training Program activities.

Priority Needs and Information Gaps

Using the table below, identify major gaps or needs (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication and outreach) in addressing each of the enhancement area objectives that could be addressed through the Coastal Management Program and partners (not limited to those items to be addressed through the Section 309 Strategy). If necessary, additional narrative can be provided below to describe major gaps or needs.

Gap or need description	Select type of gap or need (regulatory, policy, data, training, capacity, communication & outreach)	Level of priority (H, M, L)
Statewide estuarine habitat restoration planning and guidance	Data, policy, communication and outreach	H
Sediment loss or gain in estuaries	Data	H
Mapping of sea floor features	Data	H
Mapping of conduits	Data	H
Research on forest response to salt water intrusion	Data	M
Statewide protection of isolated and ephemeral wetlands for amphibians	Regulatory, policy, communication and outreach	H
Protection of karst wetlands	Policy, communication and outreach	M
Improve understanding of links between groundwater withdrawals and wetlands	Data/research, potential regulatory and communication/ outreach	H
Research and specify Florida-specific riparian buffer zone BMPs: tiered according to terrain, gradient, soil type, vegetative cover, stream flow, and proximity to imperiled or declining species of wildlife or fishes	Regulatory, communication and outreach	H
Statewide periodic coastal wetland resource surveys (sea grass, mangrove, corals, etc.)	Data	H
Restoration-specific facilitated permitting criteria (living shoreline, hydrology reconnections, etc.)	Regulatory	H
Climate change and coastal resource retreat policy	Policy	M
More frequent and detailed wetland mapping	Data and capacity	H
Assessment of health, status, and trends	Data and capacity	H
(Uniform Mitigation assessment Method (continue training of staff)	Training	M
Train and support governmental entities to set up Regional Off-site Mitigation Areas in identified areas	Training, regulation, communication and outreach	H
Wetland ERP implementation (NW Florida ERP Phase II)	Regulatory (implementation anticipated in 2010)	H
Protection and restoration of coastal upland habitats that affect coastal waters and wetlands through storm-water runoff and NPS pollution	Regulatory, planning	H
State and federal mapping and monitoring of cumulative wetland impacts and mitigation	Regulatory, data and research	M
Modified CLIP (Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project) for coastal lands in need of acquisition or conservation	Identification	H

Wetlands protection is a high priority in the state. Florida has a comprehensive state regulatory program that regulates most land (upland, wetland, and other surface water) alterations throughout the state. The regulatory program also includes a federal State Programmatic General Permit and implementation of a statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program. In addition, activities located on or using state-owned submerged lands also require applicable proprietary authorizations (including Consent, Leases, and Easements). Florida does not have a goal of no net loss or gain of wetland acreage. However, the regulatory rules are written so as to be implemented in a manner that achieves a programmatic goal, and a project permitting goal, of no net loss in wetland or other surface water functions (not including activities that are exempt from regulation or that are authorized through a noticed general permit).

Although the state's regulatory program is effective in protecting wetlands, several needs have been identified by agency partners that should be addressed to provide a comprehensive wetlands protection effort. One major gap is a lack of consistent survey and mapping of this resource. Wetlands also provide essential habitat for threatened and endangered species, which continue to be impacted by habitat loss. The state does not have a restoration plan for coastal habitats.

Florida Greenways & Trails System Plan 2013-2017



Florida Greenways + Trails

Economy + Tourism + Health + Transportation + Recreation + Conservation

The Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS)
It "is declared to be the public policy of this state and the purpose of [the Florida Greenways and Trails Act] to provide the means and procedures for establishing and expanding a statewide system of greenways and trails … which shall be designated as the Florida Greenways and Trails System."

260.012(1), Florida Statutes

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Large Print

DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks is committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact DEP directly.

Alternate format available upon request from the Office of Greenways and Trails.

Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Greenways and Trails
3900 Commonwealth Blvd. MS-795
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

www.FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com

Scan this code with your phone to learn more.

A New Vision

This plan outlines the new vision for the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS). It defines the role of the FGTS in advancing Florida's economy, tourism, health, transportation, recreation, conservation and quality of life. This is the first update to the FGTS Plan since Connecting Florida's Communities laid the groundwork in 1998 to implement the many greenways and trails programs and projects that exist today. To view the original plan and other FGTS documents, visit FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com.

Florida has been a leader in greenways and trails. The state was recognized in 2008 as the first-ever Best Trails State in America for its work in facilitating an outstanding statewide system of trails. That system includes thousands of miles of paved, unpaved and water trails to accommodate hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and paddlers. Included among these trails are more than 20 rail trails, such as the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail, one of the top rated trails in the nation, and the developing East Central Regional Rail Trail, the longest single rail trail ever acquired by the state of Florida. The FGTS also includes ambitious greenways and trails projects such as the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail and the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway, home to America's first greenway land bridge.

In response to high demand for these trails among Florida visitors and residents, the Sunshine State now features trails as traveler destinations on VISITFLORIDA.com, the most visited state destination marketing website in the country. The demand for trails often stems from the desire of residents and visitors to experience Florida's beautiful natural environment. Preservation of that environment comes in part from Florida's leadership in the research, planning and implementation of conservation networks for the long term preservation of wildlife habitats and ecosystems. Florida was the first state in America to establish a comprehensive statewide plan for ecological greenways and this serves as a critical component of the FGTS plan.

Building on these and many other accomplishments, this plan provides a new foundation from which to substantively advance the FGTS. Among the plan's highlights are:

- The establishment of clear priorities for coordinating, directing and focusing resources.
- A new framework for systematically "closing gaps" and connecting priority corridors within the FGTS to establish a fully connected and integrated statewide trail network.
- Clear linkages between this plan and complementary state planning efforts that the FGTS helps to advance:
    - Economic Development – Florida Five Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development.
    - Tourism – VISIT FLORIDA Marketing Plan.
    - Health – Florida State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP).
    - Transportation – Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) 2060.
    - Recreation – Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
    - Conservation – Cooperative Conservation Blueprint & Wildlife Action Plan.

The plan's goals, strategies and objectives provide a comprehensive approach to identify, prioritize, establish, connect, promote and coordinate the FGTS.

Why the Florida Greenways and Trails System?



While trails and greenways provide a wide range of benefits, some of their most compelling values are economic. The following statistics demonstrate some of the reasons to invest in trails and greenways:

- Three Central Florida trails were estimated to support $42 million of economic impact and 516 jobs in 2010 (East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, 2010).
- Trails are the number one community amenity sought by prospective homeowners (National Association of Homebuilders, 2008).
- Homes adjacent to rail trails sell faster and closer to list price than other homes (Della Penna, 2005).
- Every $1 million spent on the construction of multi-use trails yields 9.6 jobs (University of Massachusetts, 2011).
- The repeated annual economic impact of cyclists has been estimated to be nine times the one-time cost to build bicycle facilities (North Carolina DOT, 2004).
- Nearly 75 percent of all Florida visitors participate in nature-based activities during their visit (VISIT FLORIDA, 2012).

Identification and Prioritization of the FGTS

The FGTS is made up of existing, planned and conceptual trails and ecological greenways that form a connected, integrated statewide network. The FGTS serves as a green infrastructure plan for Florida, tying together the greenways and trails plans and planning activities of communities, agencies and non-profit organizations throughout Florida.

GOAL 1: Identify and prioritize trails and greenways to facilitate completion of the FGTS.

1. The Vision The Opportunity Maps contain the comprehensive vision for the FGTS.

- **Land Trails Opportunity Map** – Represents the existing, planned and conceptual non-motorized trails that form a land-based trail network of state and regional importance. This map is a synthesis of trail planning efforts being conducted by cities, counties, transportation planning organizations and other agencies and non-profits throughout Florida. This map does not include all existing, proposed and conceptual trails in Florida, but focuses on linear trails of state and regional significance to form a comprehensive connected system. The Land Trails Opportunity Map is the state companion to community greenways and trails and bicycle and pedestrian master plans, and encompasses a combination of multiple and single-use trails to accommodate uses such as: walking, hiking, bicycling, mountain biking, horseback riding, skating and wildlife viewing.

- **Paddling Trails Opportunity Map** – Represents the vision for a comprehensive water-based trails system. This map includes waterways that are designated as part of the FGTS or are appropriate for future designation. Because water trails are not consistently captured in local and regional planning efforts like land trails typically are, it is important to establish basic criteria for inclusion. Therefore, to be included in the Paddling Trails Opportunity Map, a waterway shall:

- Represent an existing or potential destination trail that reaches beyond the local area due to its scenic qualities and diversity of experiences.
- Be at least three miles in length, preferably longer.
- Be navigable during the majority of months in an average year.

- **Ecological Greenways Opportunity Map** – Represents the areas necessary to protect a statewide network of conservation land and connecting wildlife corridors designed to maintain large landscape-scale ecological functions. The Ecological Greenways Opportunity Map consists of various data combined to identify the network of landscape linkages and corridors necessary to functionally connect large conservation land areas into a statewide ecological greenways system. A direct outcome of this map is the publicly promoted Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Strategy 1.1: Develop and maintain Opportunity Maps to identify and define an accurate, current and comprehensive statewide vision for the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

Objective 1.1.1: The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) will maintain the Land Trails Opportunity Map as Florida's non-motorized land-based trails [vision and conduct a review and update of this map] no less than every three years in coordination with partners.

Objective 1.1.2: OGT will maintain the Paddling Trails Opportunity Map as Florida's water trails [vision and conduct a review and update of this map] no less than every three years in coordination with partners.

Objective 1.1.3: OGT will maintain the Ecological Greenways Opportunity Map as Florida's comprehensive ecological greenways [vision and conduct a review and update of this map] no less than every five years in coordination with partners to include the University of Florida and the Florida Ecological Greenway Technical Advisory Group.

East Coast Greenway

The East Coast Greenway (ECG) is a developing trail system, spanning nearly 3,000 miles as it winds its way from Canada to Key West, FL, linking all the major cities of America's Eastern Seaboard. It is the nation's most ambitious long-distance urban trail project. By connecting existing and planned shared-use trails, a continuous, traffic-free route is being formed to serve self-powered users of all abilities and ages.

Florida boasts the longest portion of the ECG with the most miles of completed trail. North to south, the ECG enters the state at Fernandina Beach then continues 584 miles to Key West, the United States' southernmost mainland point. The ECG travels largely along the coast, through seaside villages, America's earliest historic sites, through vast nature preserves and major cities that include Jacksonville and Miami. The project also includes the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail which hops from island to island for 106 miles. The Florida segment includes the most bridges of any ECG state, with much of the route on a wide side path that runs along Highway A1A. The entire ECG in Florida is within the FGTS Land Trails Opportunity Map and the FGTS Priority Trails Map. For more information about the Florida East Coast Greenway, visit greenway.org/fl.aspx.

2. The Priorities The Priority Trails Map and Critical Linkage Map are the focused priorities within the vision established in the FGTS Opportunity Maps.

- The Priority Trails Map encompasses the most important corridors and connections within the FGTS Land Trails Opportunity Map and Paddling Trails Opportunity Map. The corridors and connections within the Priority Trails Map will, to the greatest extent possible:

  1) Support and further national, state or regional trail projects, plans and initiatives that encompass multiple counties.
  2) Include existing and planned long-distance trails and trail loops that serve as destinations to support nature-based tourism and economic development.
  3) Include the State Trails, the Cross Florida Greenway and other major connecting trails of greatest length (five miles or longer).
  4) Connect major population centers to provide access to the FGTS by the greatest number of Floridians.
  5) Build on past and programmed state and federal investment in trails, particularly when matched by funding from local and private sources.
  6) Coincide with transportation, utility and canal corridors that facilitate major connections.
  7) Coincide with the Florida Ecological Greenways Network.
  8) Connect natural, recreational, cultural and historical sites that provide a range of experiences.
  9) Provide a safe, accessible and high quality experience for users.

- Critical Linkages are the most important components within the Ecological Greenways Opportunity Map for completing a statewide ecological network of conservation lands, including the most critical large intact landscapes and best connection opportunities.

  Strategy 1.2: Maintain the Priority Trails Map and Critical Linkages Map to delineate FGTS priorities.

  Objective 1.2.1: OGT will maintain the Priority Trails Map and conduct a review and update of the map in coordination with each Opportunity Map update.

  Objective 1.2.2: OGT will maintain the Critical Linkages Map and conduct a review and update of the map in coordination with each Opportunity Map update.

3. The Gaps The Priority Trails Gap Map delineates the unacquired and undeveloped segments within the Priority Trails Map. These gaps serve as the guide for directing resources to complete the state's highest priority trail projects.

The Strategic Protection Areas Map delineates the gaps, or unprotected components, within the Ecological Greenways Critical Linkages.

Strategy 1.3: Evaluate and determine gaps within the Priority Trails Map to identify where to best target resources and funding.

Objective 1.3.1: OGT will, by December 2013, analyze the Priority Trails Map in coordination with partners, to identify all gaps.

Objective 1.3.2: OGT will, by December 2013, prioritize the Priority Trails gaps, in coordination with partners, to determine the relative importance of each gap.

Objective 1.3.3: OGT will, in coordination with the University of Florida and the Ecological Greenways Technical Advisory Group, identify Strategic Protection Areas by 2015.

Objective 1.3.4: OGT will maintain the Priority Trails Gap Map and conduct a review and update in coordination with each Priority Trails Map update.

4. The Maps

The FGTS maps consist of the following:

- Level 1 - The Vision: Land Trails, Paddling Trails and Ecological Greenways Opportunity maps
- Level 2 - The Priorities: Priority Trails Map and Critical Linkage Map
- Level 3 - The Gaps: Priority Trails Gap Map and Strategic Protection Area Map

Strategy 1.4: Facilitate statewide planning by making FGTS maps and supporting data accessible to all.

Objective 1.4.1: OGT will provide all FGTS maps through FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com and other means, as appropriate.

Objective 1.4.2: OGT will maintain, in coordination with communities, agencies and non-profit organizations, the Existing Trails data layer and make it available through FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com.

Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail

Beginning at Big Lagoon State Park near Pensacola, extending around the Florida peninsula and Keys, and ending at Fort Clinch State Park near the Georgia border, the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail (CT) is a 1,515-mile sea kayaking trail coordinated by OGT. The trail includes every Florida coastal habitat type, from barrier island dune systems to salt marsh and mangroves. Numerous historical sites and points of interest are accessible by kayak along with colorful fishing communities and urban centers. The trail is utilized by thousands of Florida residents and visitors who paddle for a few hours, days, weeks or months. Some paddle the entire trail, while others pursue completion of the trail in segments over several years, similar to how hikers often tackle the Appalachian Trail.

The CT is specifically recognized in the Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Chapter 260, F.S.), and the entire route is included on the FGTS Priority Trails Map. It is the only paddling trail delineated in its own class on the FGTS Maps. Its success relies heavily on the involvement and cooperation of numerous government agencies at the federal, state, regional and local levels, along with private outfitters, businesses, paddling clubs and individual volunteers. The non-profit Florida Paddling Trails Association was organized in 2007 to act as volunteer stewards of the CT and other Florida paddling trails. For more information about the CT, visit http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/paddling/saltwater.htm.

Establishing and connecting the FGTS relies on the collective effort of many programs and partners. A single trail project alone can require significant effort to complete. Combining multiple trail projects into an integrated statewide system requires advanced coordination and a concerted effort to achieve the greater whole.

GOAL 2: Direct resources and programs to establish and connect the FGTS.

1. Assistance and Resources It is critical to provide the technical and planning assistance and resources needed to establish and connect the FGTS. Individual projects and plans require accurate information and guidance to get off the ground. This is important for the consistency and success of projects.

    Strategy 2.1: Coordinate and provide technical and planning assistance and resources to facilitate establishment of the FGTS.

        Objective 2.1.1: OGT will provide greenways and trails assistance and resources to communities, organizations and individuals, with emphasis on assisting projects and plans that advance and complete FGTS priorities.

        Objective 2.1.2: OGT will maintain current technical assistance information and resources on FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com to support all FGTS projects and plans.

        Objective 2.1.3: OGT will coordinate with the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to compile updated paved and unpaved trail standards and guidelines as a resource for communities, agencies and organizations establishing the FGTS.

        Objective 2.1.4: OGT will administer the electronic Florida Greenways and Trails Community Network (webinars, e-communications, web pages), in partnership with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and other organizations, to provide training, share best practices and showcase cutting-edge projects.

2. Funding No issue is more critical to the success of greenways and trails projects than having adequate funds for acquisition, development, management and promotion. It is important to identify and direct available funding sources to advance FGTS opportunities and complete priorities. Further, with increasingly strained public budgets, it is critical to identify private sources of funding.

    Strategy 2.2: Coordinate and direct funding to facilitate implementation of the FGTS vision with emphasis on priorities.

        Objective 2.2.1: Encourage local, state and federal programs that provide funding for greenways and trails to advance the FGTS with emphasis on completing priorities.

Objective 2.2.2: Identify and maintain, on FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com, a database of funding sources that facilitate the acquisition, development, management and promotion of the FGTS.

Objective 2.2.3: OGT will compile and provide, on FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com, case examples of project costs, including the sources of funding for those projects, to assist in the identification and estimation of funding needs and sources.

Objective 2.2.4: OGT will pursue public/private partnerships to take advantage of public and private sources of funding and in-kind contributions to support implementation of the FGTS.

3. Acquisition It is important to advance and align acquisition efforts that support completion of FGTS priorities. Beyond fee simple acquisition, it is now critical more than ever to encourage less than fee options and partner with linear infrastructure and other private landowners that can assist with completion of the FGTS.

Strategy 2.3: Acquire properties that facilitate closing the gaps and completing corridors in the FGTS, with emphasis on priorities.

Objective 2.3.1: By December 2013, OGT will coordinate and complete the revision of Chapter 62S-1, F.A.C., to focus the Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program to closing gaps and completing corridors on the FGTS Priority Trails Map.

Objective 2.3.2: Ensure that state conservation and recreation land acquisition programs, such as Florida Forever, consider FGTS priorities during project analysis and selection.

Objective 2.3.3: Encourage all public conservation and recreation land acquisition programs to consider FGTS priorities and opportunities during project analysis and selection.

Objective 2.3.4: Encourage the use of transportation and other linear infrastructure rights of way that coincide with FGTS priorities and opportunities to include trails.

Objective 2.3.5: Promote public access in less than fee acquisitions that have the potential to close gaps and complete connections within the FGTS Priority Trails Map.

Objective 2.3.6: Encourage less than fee or conservation easements for working landscapes that coincide with FGTS Critical Linkages.

4. Development It is important to encourage trail development efforts from local to federal level to advance the FGTS and complete priorities.

Strategy 2.4: Coordinate and direct trail development programs to facilitate implementation of the FGTS vision with emphasis on priorities.

Objective 2.4.1: Encourage programs that support development of trails, such as Transportation Alternatives, to emphasize FGTS priorities to close gaps.

Objective 2.4.2: Encourage communities, agencies and organizations that develop trails to advance completion of the FGTS by directing funding and resources to priorities and gaps.

Objective 2.4.3: Encourage private developers to incorporate and establish trails and greenways that fulfill FGTS priorities and opportunities in developments of regional impact, planned unit developments, sector plans and other development plans.

5. Designation The Florida Greenways and Trails Designation Program was established to identify and promote trails and greenways within the FGTS. To date, nearly 1 million acres have been designated in the statewide system including state trails, state parks, national forest lands and trails, locally managed greenways and trails, blueways and many other areas.

Strategy 2.5: Designate projects to consistently identify, advance and promote the FGTS.

Objective 2.5.1: Encourage communities and public land managers to pursue designation of trails and greenways that are within the FGTS vision, emphasizing those on the Priority Trails Map and Critical Linkage Map.

Objective 2.5.2: Pursue private landowner designations that facilitate the FGTS vision, emphasizing connections and corridors on the Priority Trails Map and Critical Linkages Map.

Objective 2.5.3: Update and establish a new signage and branding standard for FGTS designated trails and greenways no later than December 2013.



Promoting and Providing Information about the FGTS

A key component to advancing the FGTS is ensuring that its purpose, benefits and value are effectively communicated to Floridians, visitors and target partners that use the system, play a role in its establishment, benefit from its presence and affect its future.

GOAL 3: Promote and communicate information about greenways and trails to advance the FGTS.

1. Reaching the Public Promoting greenways and trails as opportunities for recreation, transportation and health, and providing information about where these opportunities can be accessed is critical to bringing the FGTS to people's everyday lives. It is also important to provide information about the purpose and benefits of the FGTS so that Floridians understand why the Sunshine State is making the investment to coordinate, establish and expand this comprehensive system.

Strategy 3.1: Communicate the purpose and benefits of greenways and trails to advance public support for the FGTS.

Objective 3.1.1: Promote the economic, health, transportation and environmental benefits of greenways and trails through newsletters, news releases, presentations, webinars and other appropriate communication channels.

Objective 3.1.2: Compile, by July 2013, and maintain, on FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com, a current, comprehensive benefits document that can be used by communities, citizens and organizations to promote the value of the FGTS.

Objective 3.1.3: Partner with agencies and organizations to conduct economic impact evaluations for Florida-based projects to improve knowledge of the value of greenways and trails.

Objective 3.1.4: Work with trail managers to provide current information about existing greenways and trails opportunities through information portals such as VISITFLORIDA.com/Trails, FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com, FloridaStateParks.org and TrailLink.com.

Objective 3.1.5: Work with media, tourism organizations and others to promote existing greenways and trails opportunities through articles, partner publications, news releases, events and Florida Greenways and Trails Month.

2. Reaching Target Partners It is not only important to communicate the general purpose, benefits and value of the FGTS to the public at large, but also to target partners. Target partners include communities that have the potential to more fully participate in the FGTS. Some partners have the potential to help implement the FGTS, such as linear corridor owners who can provide right of way for a trail, while others derive direct economic benefit, such as trailside businesses. Developers can help to both implement the FGTS while also benefitting from the system. By providing a regional trail connection, for example, a developer can reduce the need for public funding while simultaneously accruing the benefits of increased property values that are associated with homeowner access to trails and greenways.

Target partners also include emerging supporters of the FGTS. Corporations and private foundations with compatible and related missions (e.g. health care, outdoor suppliers, environment) have the capability of providing funding support to promote and implement the overall system. It is important that communication strategies address outreach to target partners because they are so vital to making the FGTS a reality. Trails and greenways, because of their linear nature, are partnership projects.

Strategy 3.2: Communicate the purpose and benefits of greenways and trails to target partners to advance their understanding of and participation in the FGTS.

Objective 3.2.1: As part of a public/private partnership campaign, conduct targeted outreach to developers, linear corridor owners, small businesses, corporations, foundations and other potential private sector partners.

Objective 3.2.2: Conduct coordinated outreach to communities that have potential for increased participation in the FGTS, with emphasis on economically challenged areas that would benefit from trails and greenways.

Objective 3.2.3: Conduct outreach to elected officials and organizations that affect policy and funding decision-making related to the FGTS.



Advancing the Florida Greenways and Trails System vision and priorities requires the coordination of allied programs, planning efforts and partnerships from the community to federal level.

GOAL 4: Link and support complementary programs, planning and partnership efforts to coordinate the FGTS.

1. Economic Development and Tourism

Trails and greenways are increasingly an economic engine for communities and Florida. To fully comprehend the dynamic established in a small downtown centered on a trail, one only need visit the City of Dunedin along the Pinellas Trail. The presence of this trail is noted for having driven downtown business occupancy rates from 35 percent to nearly 100 percent. Just as individual trails can be an integral component of a community's economic development strategy, the FGTS, by combining trails together into larger systems, has great potential as a component of the state's economic development strategy.

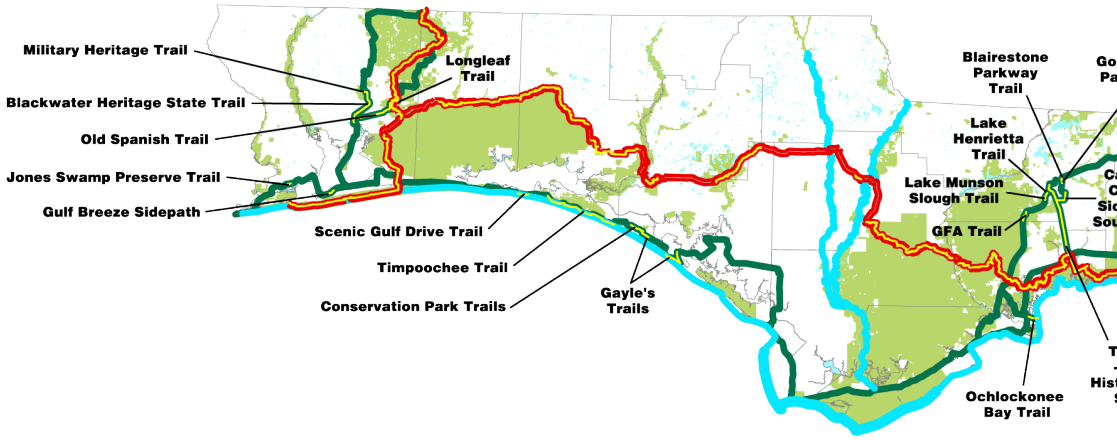
The FGTS supports at least eight of the 29 strategies that make up the Florida Five Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development (www.floridajobs.org/FL5yrPlan). The FGTS particularly advances the plan's Quality of Life & Quality Places and Infrastructure & Growth Leadership strategies. Notable among these is the creation of "vibrant, safe and healthy communities that attract workers, businesses, residents and visitors." It is important to establish the FGTS to support the economic development efforts of Florida and its communities.

The economic impact of trails is not only fueled by residents, but Florida visitors as well. In the wake of the high visitor demand for bicycling and outdoor experiences, VISIT FLORIDA partnered with OGT and others to launch VISITFLORIDA.com/Trails in 2010. This site brings together descriptions and maps of trails from around Florida with information about lodging, camping, restaurants, outfitters and other travel related services. Trails are now featured traveler destinations alongside beaches, resorts, golf courses and themed attractions. It is critical to maintain and build on this portal to enhance the value of FGTS destination trails to Florida tourism.

Strategy 4.1: Coordinate the FGTS to advance Florida's economic development and tourism.

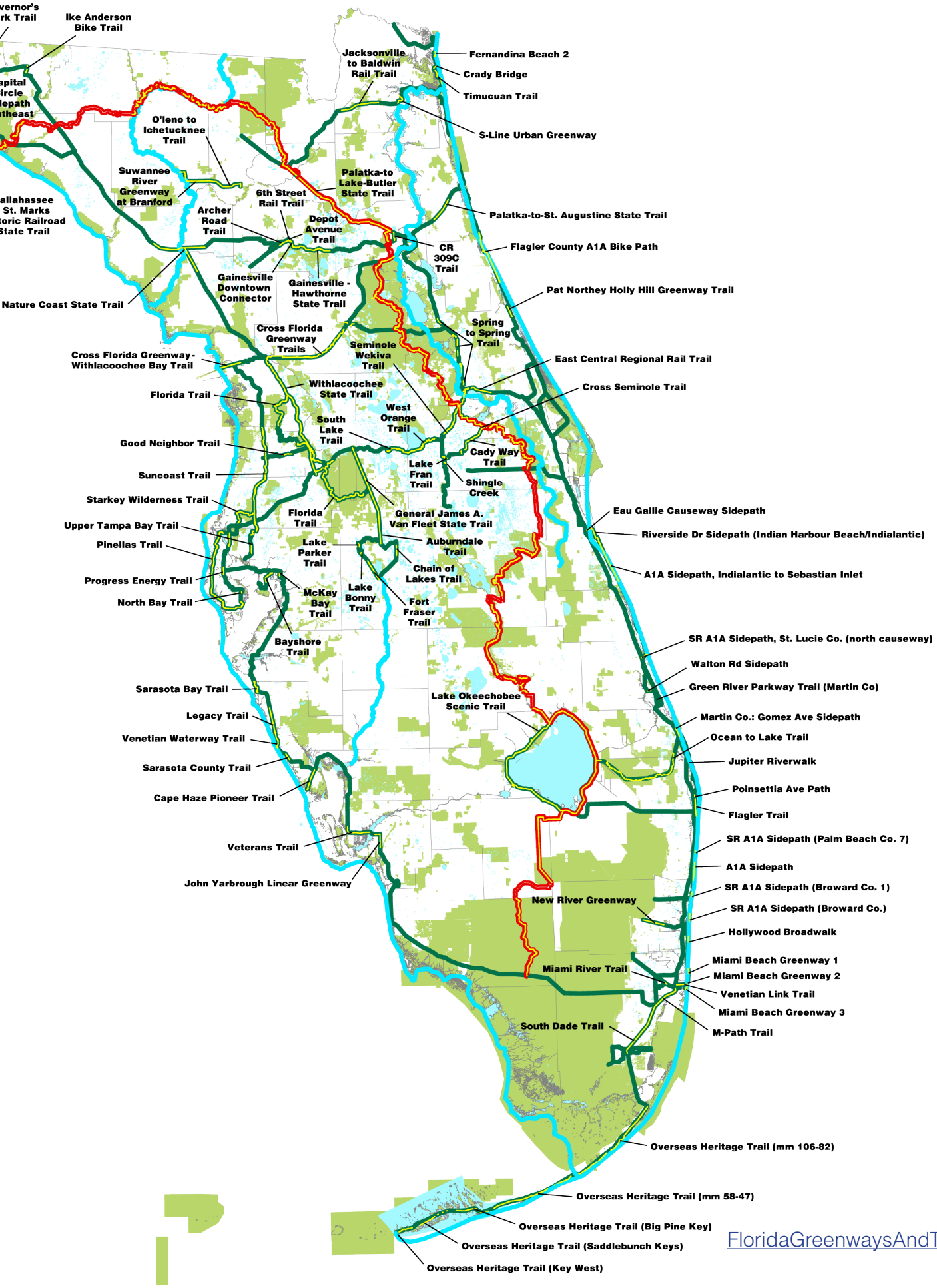
Objective 4.1.1: Advance the Florida Five Year Strategic Plan for Economic Development by coordinating implementation of the FGTS with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and local and regional economic development organizations.

Objective 4.1.2: Advance VISIT FLORIDA's Marketing Plan by expanding and supporting VISITFLORIDA.com/Trails and related initiatives that promote destination trails within the FGTS.

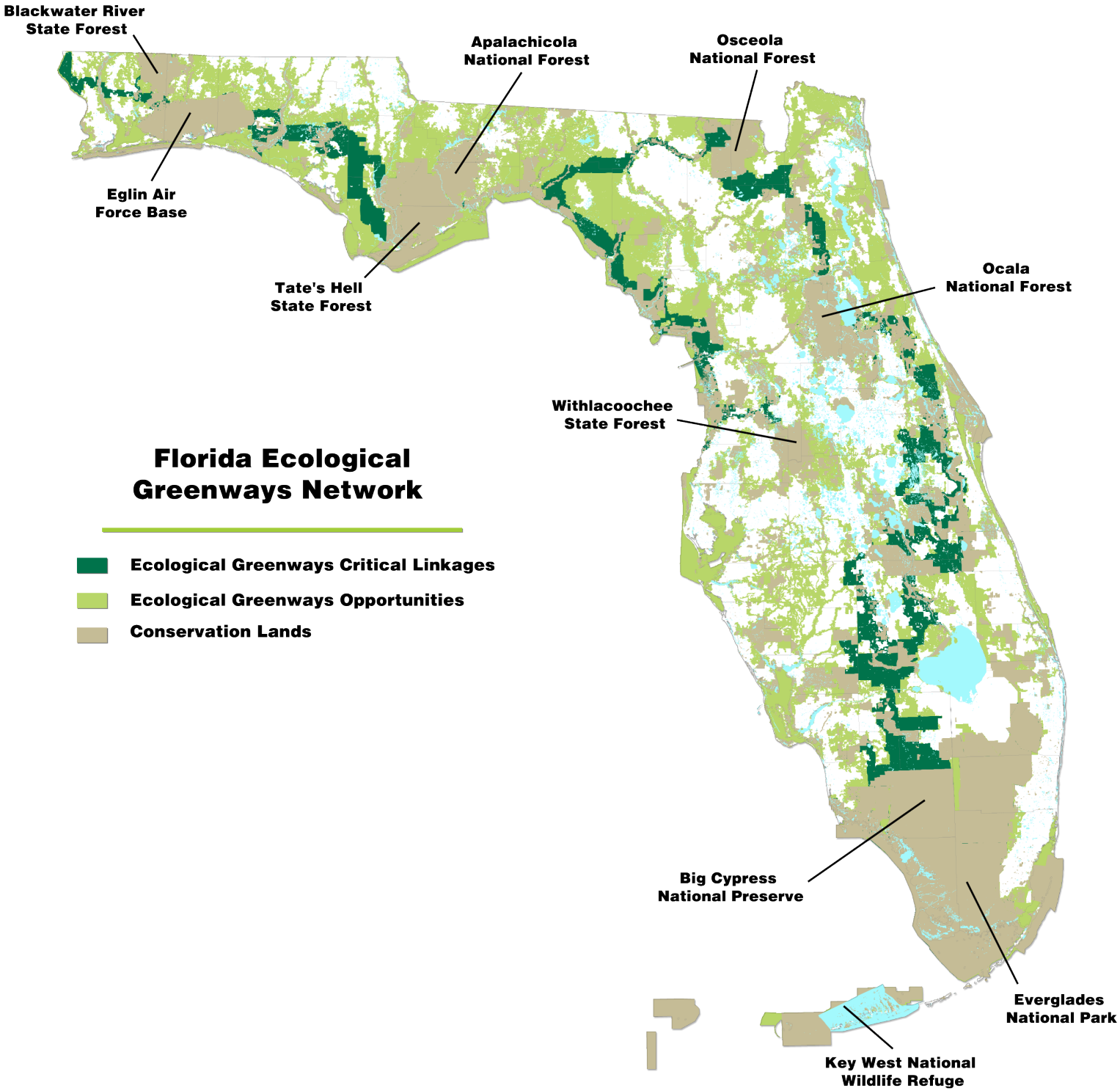


Florida Greenways & Trails System Plan

- Existing Trails in Priority Network
- Priority Land Trails
- Florida National Scenic Trail - Priority
- Priority Paddling Trails
- Conservation Lands



FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com


Blackwater River State Forest
Apalachicola National Forest
Osceola National Forest
Eglin Air Force Base
Tate's Hell State Forest
Ocala National Forest
Withlacoochee State Forest
Florida Ecological Greenways Network
Ecological Greenways Critical Linkages
Ecological Greenways Opportunities
Conservation Lands
Big Cypress National Preserve
Everglades National Park
Key West National Wildlife Refuge

2. Health

The FGTS provides tremendous opportunity to improve the health of Floridians by providing outdoor recreation and alternative transportation that support active lifestyles. A critical factor in improving community health is through increased access to opportunities for physical activity. A well planned, designed and managed system of trails and greenways, connecting to and through cities, and towns is an important means to do that. The physical and mental health benefits of walking, bicycling, horseback riding and paddling, including the experience of nature and community, are well documented. The FGTS provides a return on investment by helping to reduce the public health costs of diseases and physical ailments stemming from inactivity and obesity and increasing the ability of Floridians to live healthy lives.

The FGTS supports the Florida State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) with particular emphasis on advancing the Community Redevelopment and Partnerships Strategic Issue Area, and Goal CR2 to "build and revitalize communities so people can live healthy lives." The objectives below are in support of the SHIP, and in specific fulfillment of SHIP Objective CR1.1.4, to incorporate health related objectives as part of this plan.

Strategy 4.2: Coordinate the FGTS as a means to strengthen Florida's health by providing greater access to active outdoor recreation and human-powered transportation opportunities.

Objective 4.2.1: Advance the Florida State Health Improvement Plan, in coordination with the Florida Department of Health, by increasing access to and awareness of the FGTS.

Objective 4.2.2: Coordinate with local health agencies and organizations to encourage implementation of the FGTS as a strategy to improve community health.

Trends in Trails and Health



More than one third of American adults are obese (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2012). If current trends continue, nearly half will be obese by 2020 (New England Journal of Medicine, 2009). Even more alarming is the rapid increase in obesity among America's youth. Childhood obesity has more than tripled in the last 30 years (CDC, 2012), raising the possibility of reduced average life expectancy for our youngest generations. Added to this is the growing concern over the increasing deficit of time that America's children spend outdoors, and particularly in nature. Because of these factors, creating and enhancing access to places where Americans can be physically active outdoors is a critical public health strategy. Trails can be an important and effective part of this strategy. As a result, the CDC has developed a complete action guide called "Facilitating Development of a Community Trail and Promoting its Use to Increase Physical Activity Among Youth and Adults."

Because of the important connection between trails and health, there is a growing trend in the American healthcare industry to actively support trail development. A groundbreaking project in this regard is the Medical Mile along the Arkansas River Trail. Heart Clinic Arkansas, the state's largest cardiology clinic, joined forces with the National Park Service, the City of Little Rock, the Arkansas Department of Health and others to develop a segment of trail that includes health related displays and wellness messages in what has been called the nation's first outdoor linear health museum. In South Carolina, the Greenville Hospital System provided $1 million of funding to support and has its name tied to the 17.5-mile Greenville Hospital System Swamp Rabbit Trail. In Florida, Capital Health Plan, a non-profit health maintenance organization, has donated $662,000 to develop the 2.3-mile Fitness Trail within the Capital Cascades Park in Tallahassee. As this plan is implemented and the FGTS is further developed, it will be important to further engage the healthcare industry through creative partnerships, such as these.

3. Transportation Trails and greenways have become increasingly important in transportation planning and development. One of the most obvious Florida examples of this integration is the Suncoast Trail which was developed in tandem with the limited access Suncoast Parkway. Other trails are being retrofitted into existing transportation rights of way such as the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail and the Palatka-to-St. Augustine State Trail. On a broader scale, trails are a significant component of local and regional bicycle and pedestrian plans, which in turn support state transportation planning.

The 2060 Florida Transportation Plan (2060 FTP) defines Florida's future transportation vision and identifies goals, objectives and strategies to guide transportation decisions for the next 50 years. Among its long range goals are to "Make transportation decisions to support and enhance livable communities" and "Improve mobility and connectivity for people and freight." The FGTS supports these goals by providing safe, clean transportation opportunities and by connecting to and becoming an integral part of multimodal transportation systems. The 2060 FTP mutually supports the FGTS by providing for coordination of "transportation investments with other public and private decisions to foster livable communities."

Another important long term goal of the 2060 FTP is to "Make transportation decisions to promote environmental stewardship." Critically, this supports the FGTS by minimizing the impact of transportation infrastructure on ecological greenways that connect conservation hubs and serve as wildlife corridors.

Strategy 4.3: Strengthen the linkage between the planning and development of trails and transportation to mutually advance priorities of the FGTS plan and transportation plans at state, regional and local levels.

Objective 4.3.1: Advance the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan and the Future Corridors Initiative by coordinating the FGTS with the Florida Department of Transportation to provide multimodal transportation that is safe and accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Advancing Trails to Meet Transportation Needs

Because of Florida's large population and year round tourism economy, it is vital to provide a viable and accessible means for bicyclists and pedestrians to safely travel through and between communities. While trails have been long known for their recreational benefits, they are now an increasingly critical component of bicycle and pedestrian facilities within multimodal transportation systems. When asked how they would allocate transportation spending, Americans indicated that they would increase the amount directed toward bicycling and walking infrastructure by about 15 times existing levels (Transportation for America, 2007). Two-thirds of Americans would like more transportation options so they have the freedom to choose how to get to their destinations (Transportation for America, 2010).

To address the need for a greater focus on walking and bicycling infrastructure, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) formed the Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council (FBPPC). The Council's mission is to promote the livability, health and economic benefits of bicycle and pedestrian activity and provide guidance to FDOT on policy matters and issues affecting Florida's bicycle and pedestrian transportation needs. Because of the importance of trails in meeting these needs, the FBPPC included review of the FGTS plan as one of its primary focus areas in 2012. The Council provided valuable input and strongly endorsed this plan for its role in advancing multi modal transportation planning. For more information about the FBPPC and bicycle and pedestrian issues, visit http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/bikeped/.

Objective 4.3.2: Support the implementation of transportation alternatives, including safe routes to schools, through coordination of FGTS priorities with the Florida Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

Objective 4.3.3: Support the implementation of scenic highways and byways that coincide with the FGTS in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation, the Florida Scenic Highways Advisory Committee and Scenic Highway Corridor Management Entities.

Objective 4.3.4: Coordinate the FGTS to support the recommendations of the Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council.

Objective 4.3.5: Coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation, MPOs and other appropriate agencies to minimize transportation impacts on ecological greenway connectivity.

4. Recreation With its temperate climate and subtropical beauty, Florida offers an incredible array of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. To maximize the value of individually planned and managed public lands that provide outdoor recreation, it is critical to integrate them into a larger recreation and conservation framework. The FGTS provides that framework as it connects and provides access to hubs that offer recreational opportunities, ranging from expansive national forests to small community parks.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) serves as the centerpiece of Florida's outdoor recreation planning efforts. Among SCORP's intended goals are to increase public access



to and coordinate connections between recreational opportunities. Since the FGTS plan plays an instrumental role in both of these regards, it serves as an integral state-level companion to SCORP.

Strategy 4.4: Coordinate the FGTS to enhance public access to and provide connections between Florida's diverse recreational opportunities.

Objective 4.4.1: Advance the SCORP by coordinating the FGTS plan to connect and increase access to public recreational opportunities.

Objective 4.4.2: Promote the FGTS plan and SCORP as companion efforts for state level outdoor recreation planning.

Objective 4.4.3: Coordinate with the Florida Outdoor Recreation Coalition, the Florida Recreation and Parks Association and other related non-profits regarding recreational efforts and initiatives that advance and are supported by the FGTS.

5. Conservation The Ecological Greenway's component of the FGTS is critical to protecting wildlife, conserving natural systems and establishing connectivity between natural areas. Just as trails require tremendous coordination because of their linear nature and the jurisdictions they cross, so too ecological greenways necessitate a collective effort to adequately plan and coordinate. A protected Ecological Greenways system is integral to providing for a comprehensive conservation network.



Leading the effort to define a statewide conservation network of wildlife and natural areas are Florida's Cooperative Conservation Blueprint (CCB) and State Wildlife Action Plan. A leading purpose of the CCB is to:

> Create a compelling natural systems vision of what Florida could look like if steps are taken to conserve the critical environmental resources and working agricultural lands that the state's wildlife depend upon and that provide ecosystem services and quality of life for the benefit of all Floridians. (FWC 2010)

The FGTS is important to advancing and implementing the CCB's natural systems vision for Florida. The CCB builds on the Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project (CLIP) which incorporates the FGTS Ecological Greenways. The update of FGTS Ecological Greenways data is now funded through a State Wildlife Grant to help implement the State Wildlife Action Plan.

Strategy 4.5: Coordinate the FGTS to protect, connect and conserve Florida's wildlife and natural systems.

Objective 4.5.1: Advance Florida's Cooperative Conservation Blueprint by coordinating implementation of FGTS Ecological Greenways with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other partners to protect wildlife and conserve natural systems.

Objective 4.5.2: Support implementation of the Florida State Wildlife Action Plan through coordination of data updates to and establishment of FGTS Ecological Greenways.

The Florida Wildlife Corridor

The Florida Wildlife Corridor is a collaborative vision to connect natural lands, waters, working farms, forests and ranches from the Everglades to Georgia, protecting a functional ecological corridor for the health of people, wildlife and watersheds. The Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) provides the scientific foundation for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, and encompasses several identified Critical Linkages. The FEGN, the conservation component of today's Florida Greenways and Trails System, was an outcome of early efforts to focus on the importance of protecting wildlife corridors and a network of conservation lands spearheaded by Larry Harris and Reed Noss at the University of Florida in the 1980s. The Florida Wildlife Corridor aims to build on this work to advance support for ecological greenways and wildlife corridors through an education and awareness campaign that demonstrates the dynamic and critical connection between landscapes and watersheds. Goals of the Florida Wildlife Corridor include:



- Protecting and restoring habitat and migration corridors essential for the survival of Florida's diverse wildlife, including wide-ranging panthers, black bears and other native species.
- Restoring water flow to the Everglades and sustaining water supply to both south and north Florida in the Everglades and St. Johns River watersheds.
- Sustaining the food production, economies and cultural legacies of working ranches, forests and farms within the corridor.
- Bolstering local economies through increased opportunities such as hunting, fishing, birdwatching and other forms of eco-tourism.

For more information about this important initiative, visit floridawildlifecorridor.org.

6. Community and Regional Planning

Local government and regional plans are critical tools for establishing connected systems of greenways and trails. Many of Florida's communities and all of the state's regional planning councils have incorporated greenways and trails strategies and policies in their plans. Several communities have also developed specific greenways and trails master plans. Much of the success of projects in the state are a result of the seeds that are planted at the local and regional planning level.

From local to state level, the FGTS plan can tie together local and regional greenways and trails plans, encourage them where they don't exist and support them where they exist. The FGTS plan ties these efforts together into a comprehensive statewide vision. There is great opportunity to advance greenways and trails by more fully linking local and regional plans to the FGTS.

Strategy 4.6: Strengthen the linkages among greenways and trails planning activities at all levels to support and advance the FGTS.

Objective 4.6.1: Work with local governments, regional planning councils, metropolitan planning organizations and the Department of Economic Opportunity to encourage adoption of greenways and trails master plans and comprehensive plan policies that recognize, support and advance the FGTS.

Objective 4.6.2: Maintain and provide, on FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com, examples of local greenways and trails master plans and comprehensive plan policies that serve as models for Florida communities.

Objective 4.6.3: Pursue new opportunities for integrating the FGTS in planning efforts at all levels.



7. Partnerships

The establishment, management and promotion of the FGTS are conducted by many agency and organizational partners from the local to federal level. Though these entities may all manage sections of the FGTS, they often have very distinct missions. For example, the FGTS runs through areas as varied as remote wilderness in expansive national forests to abandoned rail corridors in highly urban communities. The managers of such places have markedly different purposes and goals. It is important to promote guidelines for safe, accessible trails and greenways that are balanced with the need of individual partners to protect and further their own missions.

The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) is a major component of the FGTS that serves as a model for balancing these issues. A coalition of agencies, led by the United States Forest Service, the Florida Trail Association and the Office of Greenways and Trails, partnered to develop the 2012 FNST 5-Year Strategic Plan. That document includes goals and strategies that are instructive to promoting coordinated management among diverse partners. The plan's partnerships goal is for each of the FNST land managers to "proactively contribute to Trail development, maintenance and promotion of their segment as part of a larger whole." This is likewise a worthy approach for the FGTS.

Volunteers are another critical partner in establishing and maintaining the FGTS. Many volunteers and volunteer organizations have supported tremendous progress in the advancement and stewardship of FGTS trails. The Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (CFG), a major corridor in the FGTS, is emblematic of the contribution and cooperation of volunteer user groups. Hikers, mountain bikers, paddlers and equestrians work side by side to establish and maintain trails in support of the CFG's overall recreational mission. It is important to coordinate with volunteers like these, support their work and recognize their effort.

Strategy 4.7: Coordinate and assist partnerships that advance and promote safe, accessible, well managed greenways and trails and the FGTS as a whole.



Objective 4.7.1: By December 31, 2013, develop, through the Florida Greenways and Trails Council, Guiding Principles for consistent establishment, management and promotion of the FGTS by partners.

Objective 4.7.2: Implement Guiding Principles in coordination with partners to support consistent development, management and promotion of the FGTS, including assistance with access to funding, guidance and equipment for maintenance.

Objective 4.7.3: Encourage partners to support efforts to close gaps and complete FGTS priorities, to fund the development and management of greenways and trails, and to restore and manage public lands and waters to implement the FGTS.

Objective 4.7.4: Encourage agencies and organizations that develop and manage components of the FGTS to incorporate reference to the FGTS in management and operational plans.

Objective 4.7.5: Promote the Florida National Scenic Trail 5-Year Strategic Plan as a representative model for coordinating FGTS project partnerships.

Objective 4.7.6: Coordinate with volunteer organizations to support and recognize volunteers, and increase volunteer capacity, for FGTS development and maintenance.

Florida National Scenic Trail

Florida is home to one of 11 congressionally designated national scenic trails. The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) is a non-motorized, recreation trail that meanders approximately 1,000 miles across some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country. Along the way, it highlights the diverse scenic, natural, historic and cultural character of the Florida countryside. No other national scenic trail traverses a subtropical landscape. The U.S. Forest Service is the designated administrator of the FNST. The sections that are completed owe their existence to many years of dedicated work by the volunteers of the Florida Trail Association, and the many local, state, federal and private land managers along the FNST who develop, maintain and protect this treasure for Florida residents and visitors.

The FNST is recognized in the Florida Greenways and Trails Act (Chapter 260, F.S.) as Florida's official statewide non-motorized trail. It is the only land trail delineated in its own class on the FGTS Maps. The entire planning corridor for the FNST is within the FGTS Land Trails Opportunity Map and the prioritized single route identified by the U.S. Forest Service through its public process is included on the FGTS Priority Trails Map. For more information about the FNST, visit www.fs.usda.gov/fnst.

Public Outreach and Input

The public outreach and input process for this plan was extensive, including participation by two councils, several agencies and organizations, and nearly 500 Floridians who participated through attendance at public open houses and provided comments online. The 2012 open houses, meetings and briefings included the following:

Public Open Houses

Tallahassee, Florida Dept. of Transportation Headquarters, Sept. 12
Panama City Beach, Panama City Beach Senior Center, Sept. 13
Palatka, Ravine Gardens State Park, Sept. 18
Sanford, Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Sept. 22
Sarasota, Sarasota County Public Works, Sept. 25
Boca Raton, Boca Raton Community Center, Oct. 4

Florida Greenways and Trails Council (FGTC) Meetings

FGTC Full Council, March 1
FGTC Plan and Map Committees, April 11
FGTC Plan and Map Committees, May 22
FGTC Full Council, June 20
FGTC Plan and Map Committees, Aug. 15
FGTC Full Council, Oct. 24
FGTC Full Council, Dec. 12

Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council (FBPPC) Meetings

FBPPC Meeting, April 24
FBPPC Meeting, Sept. 12
FBPPC Meeting, Nov. 29

Partner Agency Briefings

Florida Department of Transportation, Jan. 24
Florida Forest Service, Feb. 1
United States Forest Service, Feb. 2
Florida Department of State, Feb. 2
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Feb. 6
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Feb. 7
Florida Regional Councils Association, Feb. 10
Florida Department of Health, Feb. 22
Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, April 26

2012 Florida Greenways and Trails Council Members

Carol Bert	Northwest Florida Water Management District
Robert Bendus	Florida Department of State
Keith Bettcher	Florida Forest Service, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Jeff Caster	Florida Department of Transportation
Greg Chelius	Trust for Public Land
Deborah Crowder	Trail User
Robert English	Polk County Board of County Commissioners
Greg Golgowski	Harmony Development Company
Chuck Goodheart	City of Tallahassee
Albert Gregory	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Deno Hicks	Southern Strategy Group
Bruce Johnson	Stantec, Inc.
Susan Kennedy	Jupiter Farms Environmental Council and Loxahatchee River Coalition
Jerrie Lindsey	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
Susan Matthews	U.S. Forest Service
Matthew Morris	Environmental Science Teacher
Gayle Oberst	Mayor of Panama City Beach
Mark Penfield	Greener Lands Development, Inc.
Kathryn Starkey	Starkey Land Company
Patricia Steed	Central Florida Regional Planning Council
Kent Wimmer	Florida Trail Association

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Liz Sparks, Paddling Trails Coordinator
Eric Hand, GIS Assistant (part-time)



About the Office of Greenways and Trails

The Office of Greenways and Trails serves as the central entity providing lead planning and coordination to establish and expand the FGTS. In its role to implement the FGTS Plan, OGT works in partnership with communities, agencies and organizations to complete segments and close gaps in the FGTS regardless of which entity will ultimately acquire, develop and manage a given project. In support of the FGTS Plan, OGT's functions and responsibilities include:

- Evaluate and prioritize greenways and trails corridors in the FGTS.
- Provide statewide coordination of the FGTS through planning and community assistance.
- Facilitate and provide support to FGTS priority and opportunity projects.
- Serve as staff to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council.
- Administer the Florida Greenways and Trails Acquisition Program.
- Administer the Florida Greenways and Trails Designation Program.
- Administer the federal Recreational Trails Program.
- Publicize and promote greenways and trails and the FGTS.

The Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.

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GREENWAYS & TRAILS FOUNDATION, INC.

The Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc. exists to support the mission and programs of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) as it continues toward establishing a statewide system of greenways and trails for recreation, conservation and alternative transportation. The Foundation is Florida's chief advocacy organization for non-motorized trails and supports the greater use of trails for recreation, for fitness and health, for reducing carbon emissions, for attracting leisure travelers, for building community, for beautification, and for a larger role in evolving multi-modal transportation policy.





Funding to print this plan was provided by the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Inc.

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