



Dear ARC Council,

Beach to Bay Connection, Inc.(BTB) endorses the September 2019 draft Topsail Hill Preserve State Park Unit Management Plan. The ARC Council should approve the plan as submitted by the Division of Recreation and Parks.

The plan protects the all-important outstanding natural communities found nowhere else in such quality and quantity. Recreation opportunities and use fits this world class preserve, I am one of those users and can verify the ease of access to all parts of the property.

At a recent Seaside Institute/South Walton Mobility Study Conference Michael Colville-Anderson, Danish urban designer, remarked that all of South Walton is a world class community, not just Seaside. Locally Topsail Preserve is referred to as “the crown jewel” of the Florida State Park system in South Walton. It must be treated with special care. This plan dovetails perfectly with the world class reputation South Walton enjoys, along with the economic benefits of this notability.

Topsail Preserve is one of the important pieces of the greenway network in the Gulf Coast Biodiversity Hot-Spot of North America. Both the conservation and recreation elements of the plan respect the Biodiversity Hot-Spot. The restoration components of the plan is forward thinking that will ensure these rare ecosystems remain intact and improve over time.

BTB has served on every Topsail Hill Preserve Advisory Council since the purchase of the property by the State of Florida and are proud of the work the Division of Recreation and Parks has done.

Please approve the Topsail Hill Preserve Park Unit Management Plan as drafted.

Sincerely,
Celeste Cobena
Beach to Bay Connection, Inc. Chair

Beach to Bay Connection 501(c)(3) Registration #: CH7087

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