

FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



5-Year Strategic Plan | Fiscal Years 2018/2019 Progress Report



*Girls Who Hike FL : Green Swamp West 2019
Photo Credit: Florida Trail Association*

CONNECTING FLORIDA'S PUBLIC LANDS

The Florida Trail is one of a prestigious group of 11 National Scenic Trails designated by the U.S. Congress. The Florida Trail spans 1,400 miles from the Panhandle to the Everglades, connecting the state's unique natural, cultural, and historic resources and offering year-round recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The Florida Trail is a product of the successful collaboration between the USDA Forest Service, land-managing partners and dedicated volunteers and staff from the Florida Trail Association (FTA), who recognize the need for long-distance hiking opportunities in Florida and come together to create, improve, and steward the trail.



GOAL 1 | Promote Connections

ENGAGE

In 2018 the Gateway Communities program was completely revamped:

- [11 New Gateway Communities](#)
- [Stamp and Passport Program](#) created and implemented



EDUCATE

The [Junior Explorer](#) education program continues to serve as a great resource for teachers and students along with parents, guardians, and children.



PROMOTE

In 2018, the Florida Trail program released a professionally produced [promotional video](#) for the trail. Number of times viewed as of 12/06/2019:

2,000+

GOAL 2 | Complete The Trail

ACQUIRE

Land for the Trail:

- .45 miles of trail added completing the connection through Suwannee River State Park
- 5.33 miles of trail added through Seminole State Forest

Needs:

- Seeking partners to help target desirable land parcels for future trail routing



PROTECT THE TRAIL



GOAL 3 | Sustainable Management

MANAGE

In 2019, the USDA Forest Service and FTA developed standardized trailhead and Gateway Community kiosk graphics.

Created an inventory of all 162 trailheads on the Florida Trail.

Needs:

- Identify high use areas to effectively allocate resources



MONITOR

In 2019, USDA Forest Service staff developed Survey123 mobile data collection for infrastructure inventory.



MAINTAIN

- 100% of Florida Trail maintained in 2019
- 565 FTA volunteers/participants
- 33 Framing Our Community (FOC) volunteers/participants
- \$661,000 average dollar value contribution of annual volunteer hours



GOAL 4 | Strategic Partnerships

STEWARDSHIP

26,000

Average yearly volunteer hours with the FTA and FOC programs.

13 Partner groups participated in FNST events.



COLLABORATE

In 2019, a Florida State University Masters of Science in Planning student worked with the USDA Forest Service to develop a GIS model that helps prioritize land parcels for potential trail routing opportunities. The model analyzes parcels

based on land cover data, existing conservation lands data, and proposed Florida Forever Board of Trustees projects. The USDA Forest Service plans on using this model to improve efficiency in trail gap analysis and route planning activities.





365,000

Annual Users

1,110

Designated Miles

103

Land Management Units

16

Coalition Partners



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