

Florida National Scenic Trail

5-Year Strategic Plan | 2019/2020 Progress Report



370,000 Annual Users

1,589 Designated Miles

103 Land Management Units

16 Coalition Partners



Photo Credit: Shawn C. Thomas

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 1,500 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.

Engage

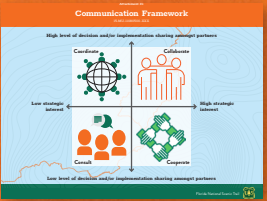
In 2020, we expanded the Gateway Communities Program:

- 10 new stamp locations
- 2 new Gateway Communities
- Lake Butler Community Kiosk installed



Promote

In 2020, the Florida Trail program updated the designs of several important handouts for land managers.



The official Florida Trail video continues to promote the trail. Number of times viewed between 12/06/2019 and 1/12/2021:

1,500+

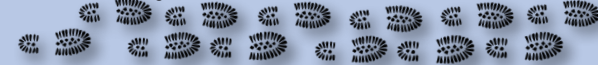
Acquire

Designated new trail in Triple N Wildlife Management Area, adding 10.5 miles of trail.



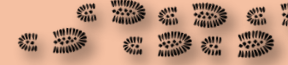
Protect the Trail

55 Miles of Designated Trail added in 2018-2020



5-year Strategic Goal - Miles of Designated Trail Added

30 Miles of Roadwalk Removed



5-year Strategic Goal - Miles of Roadwalk Removed

"Goals met!"

10 Miles 20 Miles 30 Miles 40 Miles 50 Miles 60 Miles 70 Miles

Goal 1 | Promote Connections

Goal 3 | Sustainable Management



Complete the Trail | Goal 2

Strategic Partnerships | Goal 4

Manage

Maintain

In 2020, the USDA Forest Service and FTA:

- Maintained 162 trailheads despite the novel coronavirus.
- Began producing Local and Gateway Community kiosks.
- Established a partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation.

- 100% of Florida Trail maintained in 2020
- 524 FTA volunteers/ participants
- 10 Framing Our Community (FOC) volunteers/ participants
- \$464,276 dollar value contribution of annual volunteer hours

Collaborate

Our partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation has led to the Florida Trail being included in the 2021 FDOT Design Manual. Official signage for the Florida Trail and crosswalk plans have been designed.



Stewardship

17,000

Volunteer hours with the FTA and FOC programs from 10/1/2019 to 9/30/2020

