

CNU
FLORIDA





**Florida Greenways
& Trails Foundation**
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Creating a World-Class Trail and Greenway System For Florida

Close the Gaps

2016 Congress of New Urbanism Florida Summit
February 19, 2016





Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.

FGTF Mission

The mission of the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation is to advocate for, and create a state-wide system of trails, blueways, and greenways.



Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Inc.

Greenways & Trails

- ❑ **Greenways** — the land corridors that allow safe, non-motorized passage of people and wildlife
- ❑ **Trails** — the actual footpath or paved surface through the greenway

I-75 CROSS FLORIDA GREENWAY



TRAIL ALONG GREENWAY IN
NORTH CAROLINA



BOSTON ROSE
KENNEDY
GREENWAY



Greenways & Trails

Florida is very fortunate. We not only have a unique greenway and trail master plan, we also have Blueways, the Florida National Scenic Trail, and Scenic highways.



Florida Greenways & Trails System Plan 2013-2017



Florida Greenways + Trails

Economy + Tourism + Health + Transportation + Recreation + Conservation





Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.

1. Growing popularity around the world of paved trails for both residents and visitors.
2. Well documented economic benefits and health impacts of connected trails.
3. Opportunity for Florida to become a world leader in trails by connecting our communities to State Parks and conservation lands.



Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, Inc.

Florida is at Threshold of Regional Trails

- ❑ ***200 miles of the proposed 250 miles Coast-to-Coast (C2C) Connector are already in place.***
- ❑ Work is now underway to close all of the seven gaps on the C2C. Most of the trail will be completed by 2020.
- ❑ Over \$75 million is being invested to complete Florida's FIRST long-distance trail.
- ❑ The initial Return On Investment (ROI) for the C2C is estimated to be at least 3-1 in urban areas. Could be much higher depending on tourist appeal.
- ❑ Imagine the tourism and economic benefits to cities and counties if we can someday connect this emerging priority trail system to Florida's Gold Medal award-winning State Parks and unique conservation lands!

Connected Trails Across North America

Great Allegheny Passage — 400 mile trail connecting downtown Pittsburgh with Washington D.C.



Connected Trails Across North America

Confederation Trail (Canada) — 275 km trail connecting Prince Edward Island entirely from tip to tip.



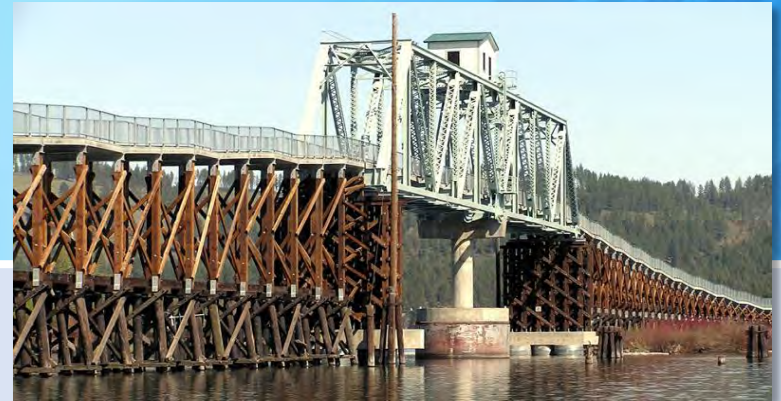
Connected Trails Across North America

Silver Comet Trail — 94 mile trail connecting Smyrna Georgia to Anniston Alabama.



Connected Trails Across North America

Coeur d'Alene Trail — 71 mile trail following the Union Pacific RR connecting Mullan to Plummer Idaho.



Connected Trails Across North America

The High Line — 1.45 mile trail utilizing the disused West Side Line elevated railroad trestle in New York City .



Connected Trails Around the **World**

Canada



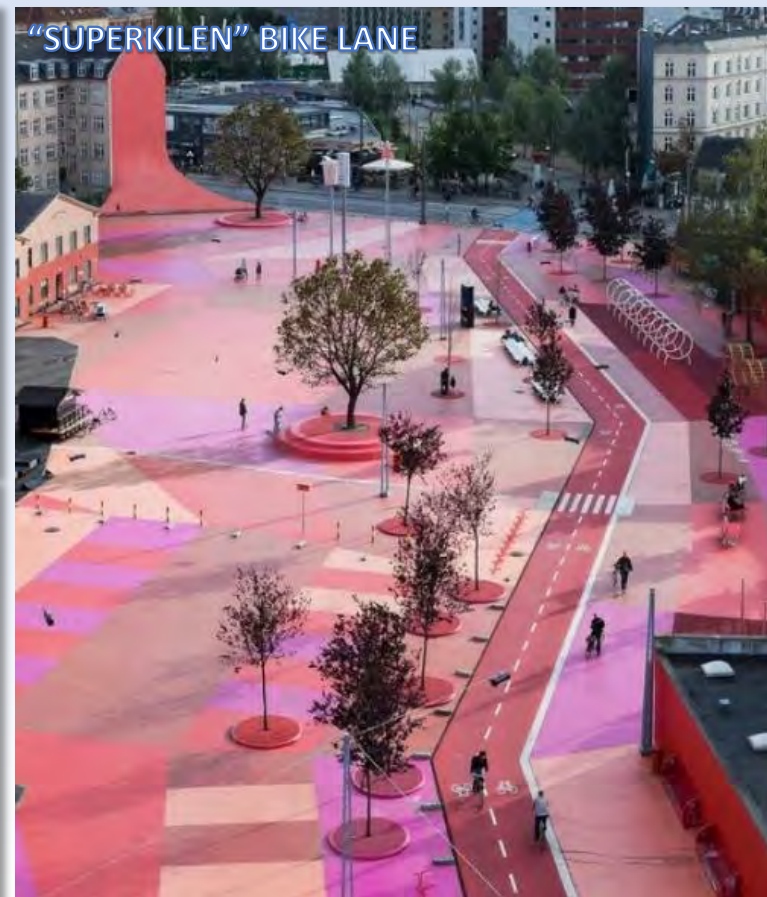
Connected Trails Around the **World**

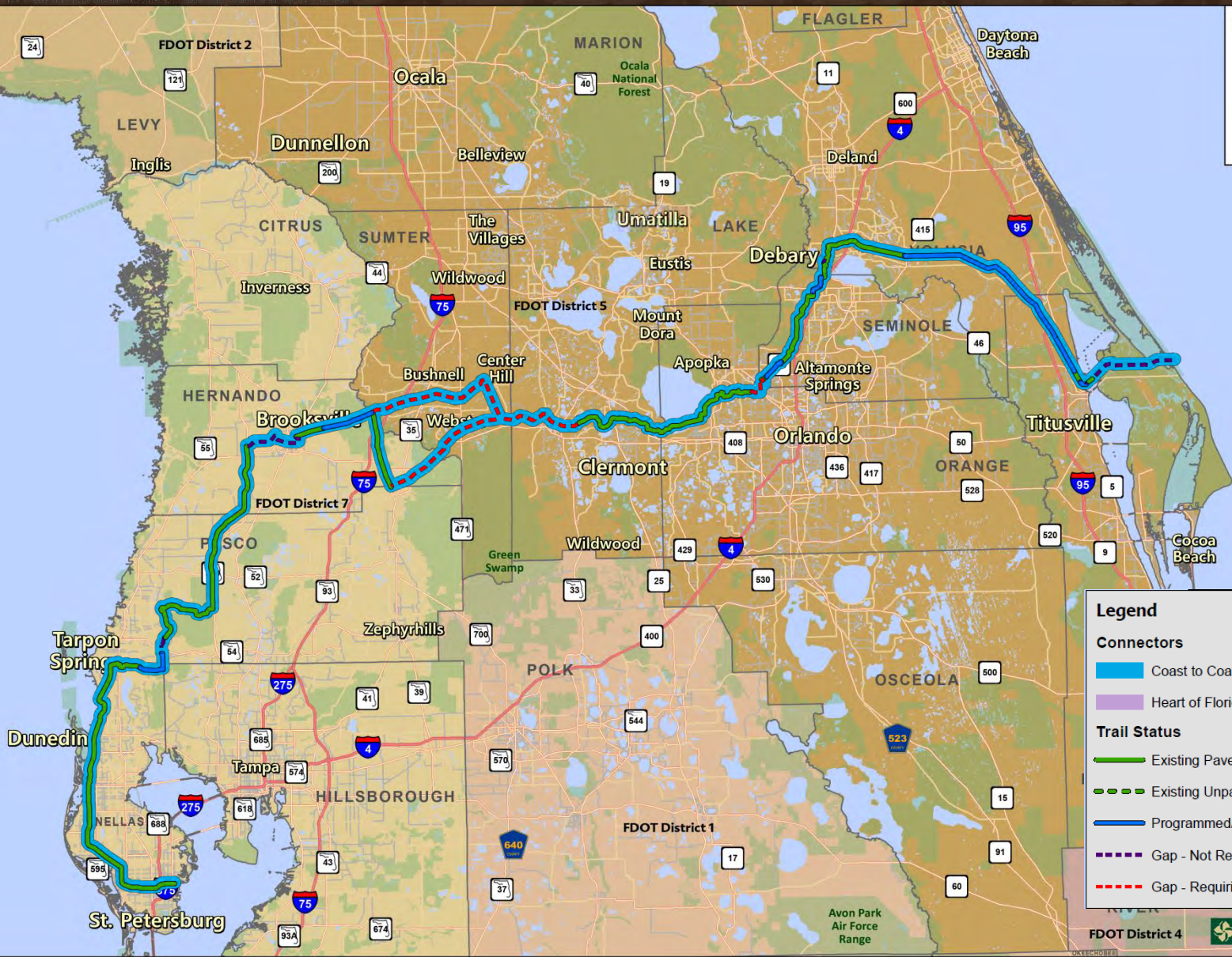
Netherlands



Connected Trails Around the World

Copenhagen





Legend

Connectors

- Coast to Coast Regional Connector
- Heart of Florida Regional Connector

Trail Status

- Existing Paved Trail
- Existing Unpaved Trail
- Programmed/Funded Trail
- Gap - Not Requiring Acquisition
- Gap - Requiring Acquisition



Coast to Coast Regional Connector



Trails along the Coast to Coast Regional Connector



WITHLACOOCHEE STATE TRAIL



PINELLAS TRAIL



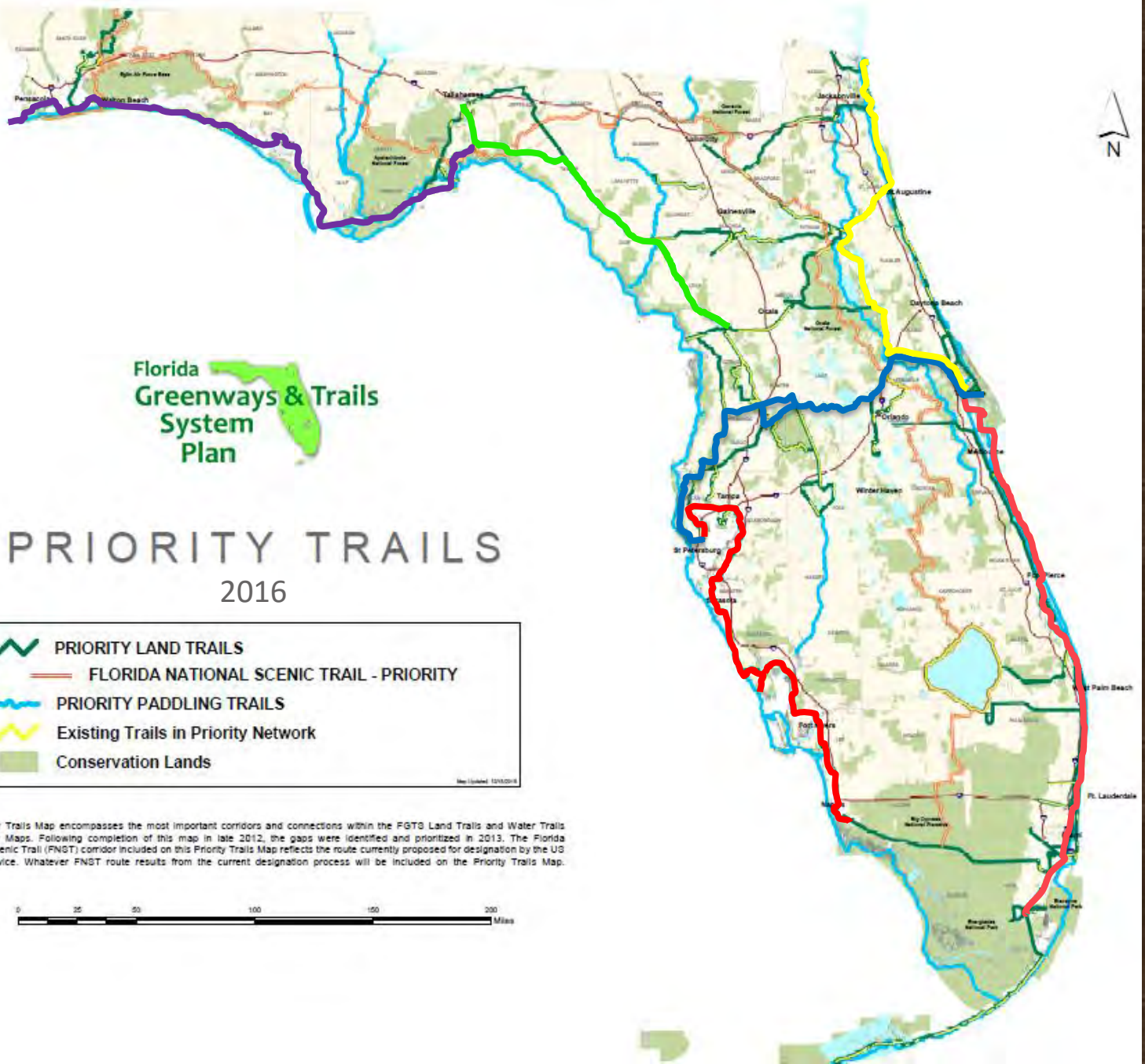
SEMINOLE-WEKIVA TRAIL



WEST ORANGE TRAIL



SUNCOAST TRAIL



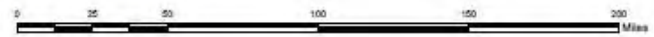
Florida
Greenways & Trails
System
Plan

PRIORITY TRAILS
2016

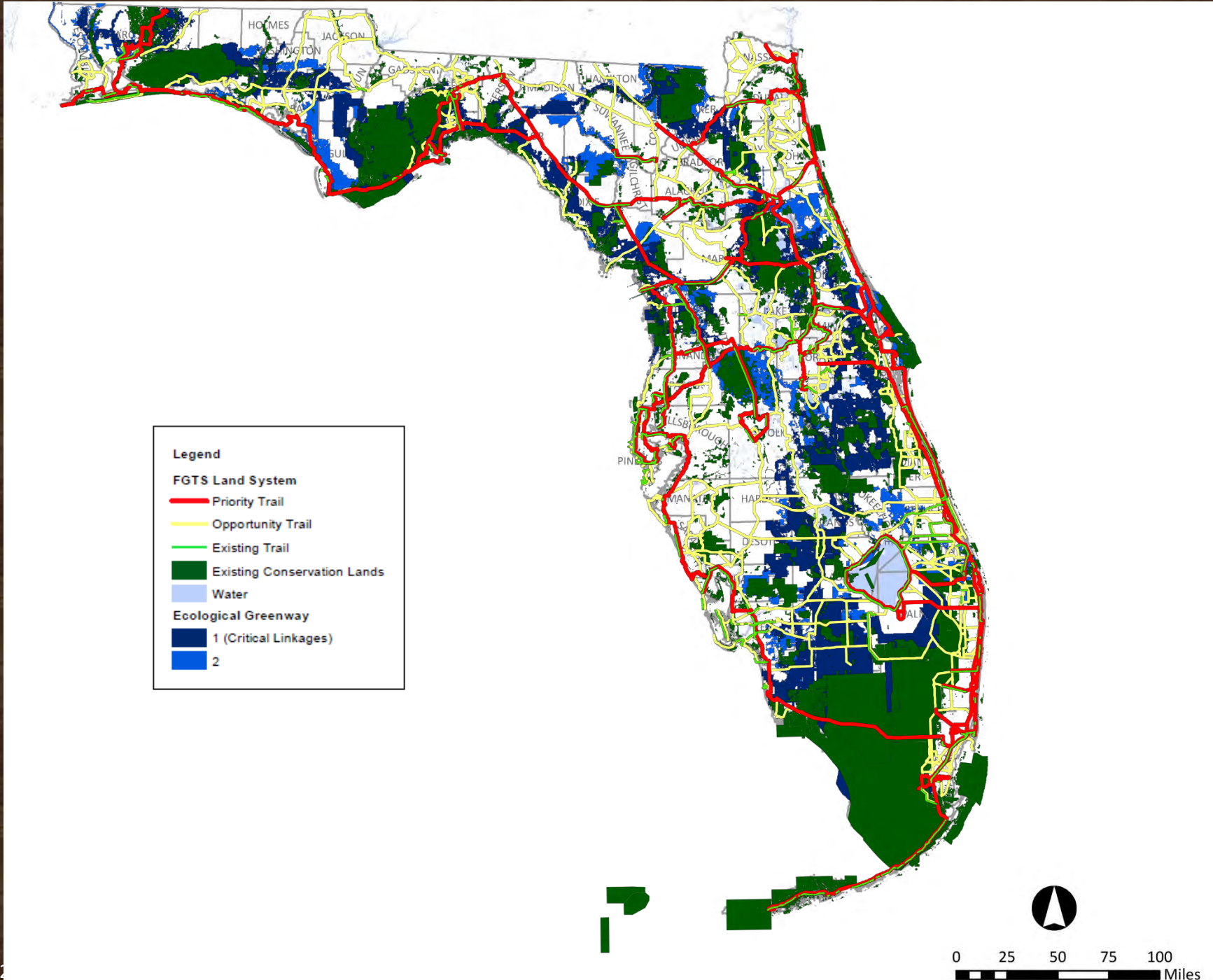
	PRIORITY LAND TRAILS
	FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL - PRIORITY
	PRIORITY PADDLING TRAILS
	Existing Trails in Priority Network
	Conservation Lands

Map Updated 12/15/2014

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 were 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.



- Coast to Coast Connector
- SW Regional/
Gulf Coast Connector
- NE Regional/
First Coast Connector
- SE Regional/
Tropical Terminus
- NW Regional/
Nature Coast
- Panhandle/
Forgotten Coast Connector



Legend

FGTS Land System

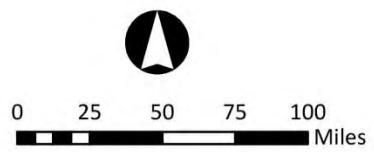
- Priority Trail
- Opportunity Trail
- Existing Trail

Existing Conservation Lands

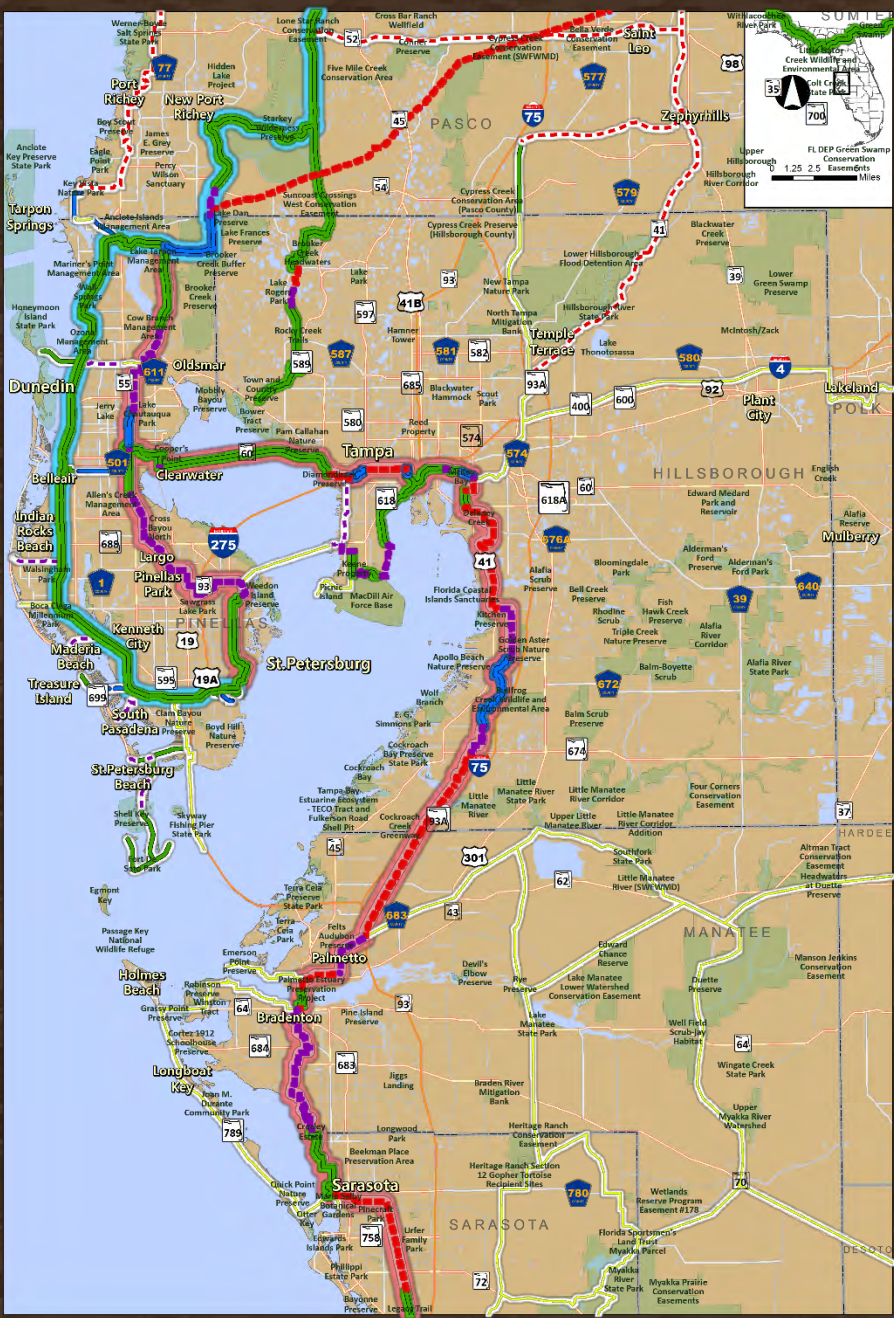
Water

Ecological Greenway

- 1 (Critical Linkages)
- 2



Tampa Bay Regional Trails



Legend

Connectors

- Coast to Coast Regional Connector
- Southwest Coast Regional Connector

Trail Status

- Existing
- Programmed/Funded
- Gap - Not Requiring Acquisition
- Gap - Requiring Acquisition
- Other Trail Segment
- Conservation Lands







Tropical Terminus & Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail








Legend

Connectors

-  Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail
-  River of Grass Regional Connector
-  Southwest Coast Regional Connector
-  East Coast Greenway/Tropical Terminus

Trail Status

-  Existing
-  Programmed/Funded
-  Gap - Not Requiring Acquisition
-  Gap - Requiring Acquisition
-  Conservation Lands



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Future Trail Funding Opportunities

- ❑ **Constitutional Amendment One passed overwhelmingly by Florida voters (75% -- Yes) on November 4, 2014.**

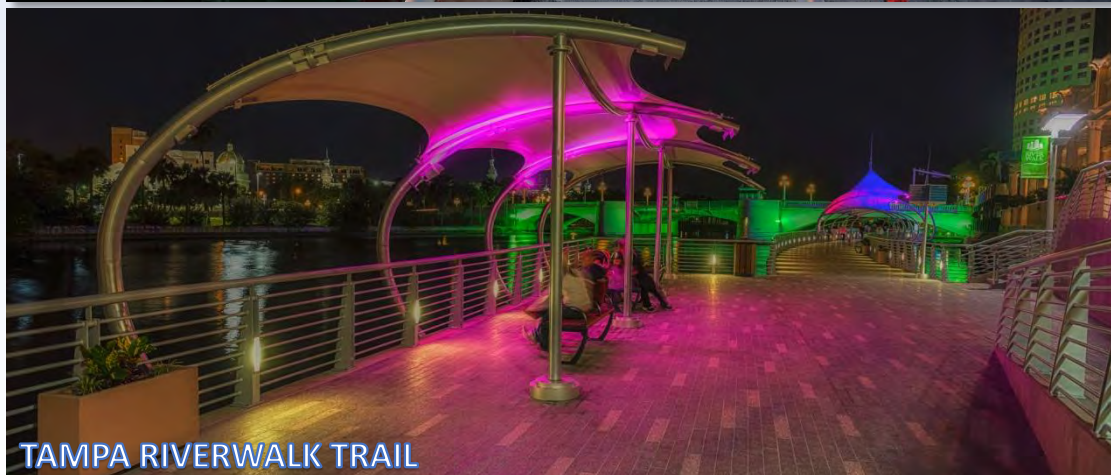
SECTION 28. Land Acquisition Trust Fund. -- a) Effective on July 1 of the year following passage of this amendment by the voters, and for a period of 20 years after that effective date, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall receive no less than 33 percent of net revenues derived from the existing excise tax on documents, as defined in the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, as amended from time to time, or any successor or replacement tax, after the Department of Revenue first deducts a service charge to pay the costs of the collection and enforcement of the excise tax on documents. b) Funds in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund shall be expended only for the following purposes: 1) As provided by law, to finance or refinance: the acquisition and improvement of land, water areas, and related property interests, including conservation easements, and resources for conservation lands including wetlands, forests, and fish and wildlife habitat; wildlife management areas; lands that protect water resources and drinking water sources, including lands protecting the water quality and quantity of rivers, lakes, streams, springsheds, and lands providing recharge for groundwater and aquifer systems; lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area and the Everglades Protection Area, as defined in Article II, Section 7(b); beaches and shores; outdoor recreation lands, including **recreational trails**, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic or geologic sites; together with management, restoration of natural systems, and **the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands**. 2) To pay the debt service on bonds issued pursuant to Article VII, Section 11(e). c) The moneys deposited into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, as defined by the statutes in effect on January 1, 2012, shall not be or become commingled with the General Revenue Fund of the state

Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.

Trail Funding

- ❑ SUN Trails is a \$25 million annual program managed by FDOT to connect local trails into a regional system
- ❑ If one half of Amendment One monies were made available to local governments through the Florida Communities Trust program, potentially \$300 million, would be available on a competitive basis to cities and counties wishing to connect their communities to State Parks and conservation lands to the SUN Trails system.
- ❑ These two funding opportunities could transform Florida from “the number one most dangerous state for bicyclists” into a world tourism destination and number one bicycle friendly state.

Tampa Bay Trails Connecting to the Coast to Coast Regional Connector



Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.

So what's missing?

- ❑ SUN Trails is a trail vision, not a trail plan.
- ❑ We need regional corridor feasibility studies to make this vision a reality.
- ❑ The trails will be built by the FDOT. But who will manage them?
- ❑ Once the regional trails are built, how do we connect these long-distance trails to our regional, state, and national parks and unique conservation areas, as well as downtowns?
- ❑ How do we market these trails to realize their full economic potential? We must create a new PRIVATE-PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP to guide the future investments in these trails. To be fully successful, this effort demands the leadership of major philanthropic institutions. We must bring them to this work.

Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation, Inc.

Planning for Success – The 3 S's

- Trails must be Safe.
- Trail must be scenic. In Florida this means that they must have water views and panoramas, and they must have SHADE. We must turn our trails into real greenways.
- Trails should take you to special places. We are calling these exceptional areas "Sun-sational" places. Truly Florida destinations.
- If we get the three S's right, we will be the envy of the world.

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