

## Trails Planning

## THE SUN TRAIL

A STATE-WIDE NETWORK OF  
SHARED-USE NONMOTORIZED (SUN) TRAILS

Since its formation in 1993, the MPOs Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC), now the Sun Coast Transportation Planning Alliance (SCTPA), has placed significant emphasis on trails planning. As a result, many miles of off-road paved greenways and trails have been constructed, connecting the region's towns and cities with major parks and other destinations. More remains to be done, as shown on the SCTPA's Multi-Use Trails map. The SCTPA and its Regional Multi-Use Trails Committee will continue to plan regional connections and advance projects for funding and construction. Get involved today by contacting the MPO/TPO office in your area.

The Florida Legislature appropriated \$25 million annually to fund multi-use trails included in the statewide SUN Trail network. The goal of the SUN Trail program is to close regional trail gaps, connect people to jobs, businesses, or civic resources, serve as a destination, and create a world class, state-wide ecotourism attraction through urban and rural communities. The project focuses on regional connectivity by using existing trail segments and knitting them into larger multi-county corridors that span hundreds of miles. The Tampa Bay Region is home to four of the 21 state trail corridors, which include:

### Coast-to-Coast Trail (C2C)

The C2C is the state's top priority corridor and will link communities between St. Petersburg and Titusville. Residents and visitors will be able to explore the small cities and communities through Central Florida. When completed, it will span 275 miles, fuel economic revitalization and encourage ecotourism along its route.

### Florida's Gulf Coast Trail (FGCT)

The FGCT will link with the C2C in Pinellas County, and go from St. Petersburg, across the Courtney Campbell Causeway Bridge to downtown Tampa, and proceeds south to the cities of Bradenton, Sarasota, Venice, North Port, Ft. Myers, and Naples. When completed, the FGCT and C2C will traverse 14 counties, over 550 miles, and complete the nation's largest network of locally connected trails.

### Peace River to Nature Coast (PRNC)

The PRNC will go from central Polk County, head north along the Van Fleet Trail and use the C2C to continue north along the Withlacoochee State Trail. The trail will then head northwest along the Nature Coast and eventually make it to Florida's Capital City - Tallahassee.

### Heart of Florida Loop (HOFL)

The Heart of Florida Loop, with over 124 miles completed, provides direct connectivity among multiple state trail corridors, including the C2C, PRNC, and St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop. When completed, it will span 250-miles, connect over 17 communities and showcase the beauty of old Florida's towns, forests, lakes, rivers, uplands, and lowlands.

## Featured Regional Trails

**Emerson Point Trail** is located in the west central portion of Manatee County. Current plans include the continuation of the trail through the City of Palmetto thanks to an interlocal agreement between the city and county.



Emerson Point Trail in Manatee County

**Fort Fraser Trail** is a recently completed trail stretching 7.8 miles between Bartow and State Road 540 in south Lakeland. This trail includes two covered bridge crossings (at Bear Creek and Banana Creek) and wood rail fencing along much of trail's length. PRNC



Fort Fraser Trail in Polk County

**Legacy Trail** is a 19.6 mile trail that follows the former CSX railroad corridor from Clark Road in Sarasota to the Venice Train Station. At the Venice Train Station, the Legacy Trail meets the Venetian Waterway Trail, which is separated by the Intracoastal Waterway. The Venetian Waterway Trail is a 10-mile long multi-use trail with 5 miles of the trail on either side of the waterway, terminating at the Caspersen Beach in Venice. FGCT



Legacy Trail in Sarasota County

**Myakka River Trail** traverses the Myakka River State Park in northeast Sarasota County. It is approximately 6 miles in length, stretching from the north park entrance to the south park entrance; it is popular for both hiking and biking.



Myakka River Trail Sarasota County

**Pinellas Trail** is a 47-mile linear park and multi-use trail currently extending from St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs. The Pinellas Trail runs along an abandoned railroad corridor, serving as a transportation corridor and recreational facility through protected green space within an urbanized county. C2C & FGCT



Pinellas Trail in Pinellas County

**Starkey Wilderness Park Trail** provides a 6.2 mile trail connection between Pasco County's Starkey Wilderness Park and the Suncoast Trail. This trail allows Suncoast Trail users access to Starkey Wilderness Park amenities such as restrooms and camping facilities. C2C



Starkey Wilderness Park Trail in Pasco County



Tampa Bypass Canal Trail Hillsborough County

**Upper Tampa Bay Trail** is located in northwest Hillsborough County and currently runs 7.25 miles from Memorial Highway to Peterson Road (located one mile north of Ehrlich Road). The trail will eventually connect to the 42-mile Suncoast Trail.



Upper Tampa Bay Trail Park in Hillsborough County

**Suncoast Trail** is a 42-mile paved multi-use trail parallel to the Suncoast Parkway in Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando Counties. The Suncoast Trail serves as a transportation corridor and recreational facility for the region by providing an important north-south connector between public lands, parks and greenways. C2C & PRNC



Suncoast Trail in Hernando County

**Van Fleet State Trail** is named after General James A. Van Fleet, a distinguished combat commander of both World Wars and the Korean War. This multi-use paved trail stretches for 29.2 miles and crosses 3 counties, Polk, Lake and Sumter counties. This recreational corridor is part of an abandoned rail line that once belonged to Seaboard Air Line Railroad. The trail connects Polk City in the south to Mabel in Sumter county to the north. PRNC

**Tampa Bypass Canal Trail** will be a 13 mile multi-use paved trail that will follow along the west side of the Tampa Bypass Canal, between Flatwoods Park (New Tampa) in the north and the McKay Bay Trail in the south. This recreational corridor will connect the communities of New Tampa, Temple Terrace, East Lake, Orient Park and Palm River.



A MEMBER OF THE SUN COAST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ALLIANCE

## SUN COAST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ALLIANCE REGIONAL MULTI-USE TRAILS



COORDINATING REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FOR CITRUS, HERNANDO, HILLSBOROUGH, MANATEE, PASCO, PINELLAS, POLK & SARASOTA COUNTIES

MARCH 2022

### SCTPA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Hernando/Citrus MPO**  
1661 Blaise Dr  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
phone: 352-754-4082  
www.hernandocounty.us

**Pasco County MPO**  
8731 Citizens Drive, Suite 320  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
phone: 727-847-8140  
www.pascocountyfl.net

**Polk County TPO**  
330 West Church St.  
2nd Floor, County Administration  
Bartow, FL 33830  
phone: 863-534-6486  
www.polktpo.com

**Hillsborough TPO**  
601 East Kennedy Blvd.  
18th Floor, P.O. Box 1110  
Tampa, FL 33601  
phone: 813-272-5940  
www.planhillsborough.org

**Forward Pinellas**  
310 Court St.  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
phone: 727-464-8250  
www.forwardpinellas.org

**Sarasota/Manatee MPO**  
8100 15th St. East  
Sarasota, FL 34243  
phone: 941-359-5772  
www.nymmpo.org

### NON-VOTING PARTNER AGENCIES:

**Florida's Turnpike Enterprise**  
phone: 407-532-3999  
www.floridasturnpike.com

**Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council**  
phone: 844-988-8244  
www.swfrpc.org

**Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council**  
phone: 727-570-5151  
www.tbtrpc.org

**Central Florida Regional Planning Council**  
phone: 863-534-7130  
www.cfrpc.org

**Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority**  
phone: 813-282-8200  
www.tbarta.com

**FDOT District Seven**  
11201 McKinley Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33612  
phone: 813-975-6000  
www.fdot.gov

**FDOT District One**  
801 North Broadway Ave..  
Bartow, FL 33830  
phone: 800-292-3368  
www.fdot.gov



Legacy Trail in Sarasota County parallel with a rail line

## Bicycle Safety Tips



### On-Street Biking

#### Make Eye Contact

Confirm that you are seen. Establish eye contact with motorists to insure that they know you are on the road. Look over your shoulder regularly or use a mirror to scan the road behind. Although bicycles have equal rights to road, be prepared to maneuver for safety.

#### Be Careful at Intersections

Most accidents happen at intersections. Proceed with care. In a wide lane, you are safer if you stay 3 to 4 feet to the right of the cars. You can turn to avoid a crash if a motorist makes a right turn from your left side. If you hug the curb, the car is across your path before you see it.

#### Use Hand Signals

Signal all turns and stops ahead of time. Look over your shoulder for any traffic, then make your intended move only when it is safe to do so.

#### Keep both hands ready to brake

You may not stop in time if you brake one-handed. Allow extra distance for stopping in the rain, since brakes are less efficient when wet.

### Share the Road

#### Correct Paths for Left Turns:

Left turn only lane: Bicyclist A has turned left from a narrow left turn lane.  
Left and through lane: Bicyclist B has turned left from a left and through lane.  
No special turn lane: Bicyclist C turns from a two-lane street and enters the inner lane of a four-lane street to avoid right-turning cars entering the outer lane.

#### Beware of Car Doors

Be wary of parked cars. Motorists can unexpectedly open doors. Be particularly careful if you see a motorist in the car. Ride in a straight line at least three feet away from parked cars.

#### Lock Your Bike

Lock the frame and rear wheel of your bike to a fixed object. If you have a quick release, lock the front wheel also. Do not lock your bike to trees.

#### Avoid Road Hazards

Watch out for parallel-slat sewer grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, potholes and construction plates. Cross railroad tracks carefully.

#### Right-of-Way

Cyclists and in-line skaters must yield to pedestrians. Pedestrians always have the right-of-way.

#### Use Designated Path

Where designated, cyclists and skaters must ride on the specified path. Don't ride on a pedestrian path. Look both ways at crossings. Cyclists: yield to through traffic at intersections, pedestrians have the right of way. Pedestrians: exercise caution.

#### 3 Feet | 2 Abreast

Florida Law requires a motorist to provide no less than three (3) feet when passing a bicycle, or nonmotorized vehicle, on a roadway. Florida Law also states bicyclists on roadways may ride no more than two abreast.

### Additional Tips for Multi-Use Paths & Roadways

#### Signal to Others

Cyclists: sound your bell or call out a warning when approaching others, then pass safely on the left. Skaters: Follow travel rules as per bicyclists. Do not perform trick-skating maneuvers on heavily used paths.

#### Stay on the Path

Ride only on designated pathways to protect parks, natural areas and yourself because it is dangerous riding off a designated pathway.

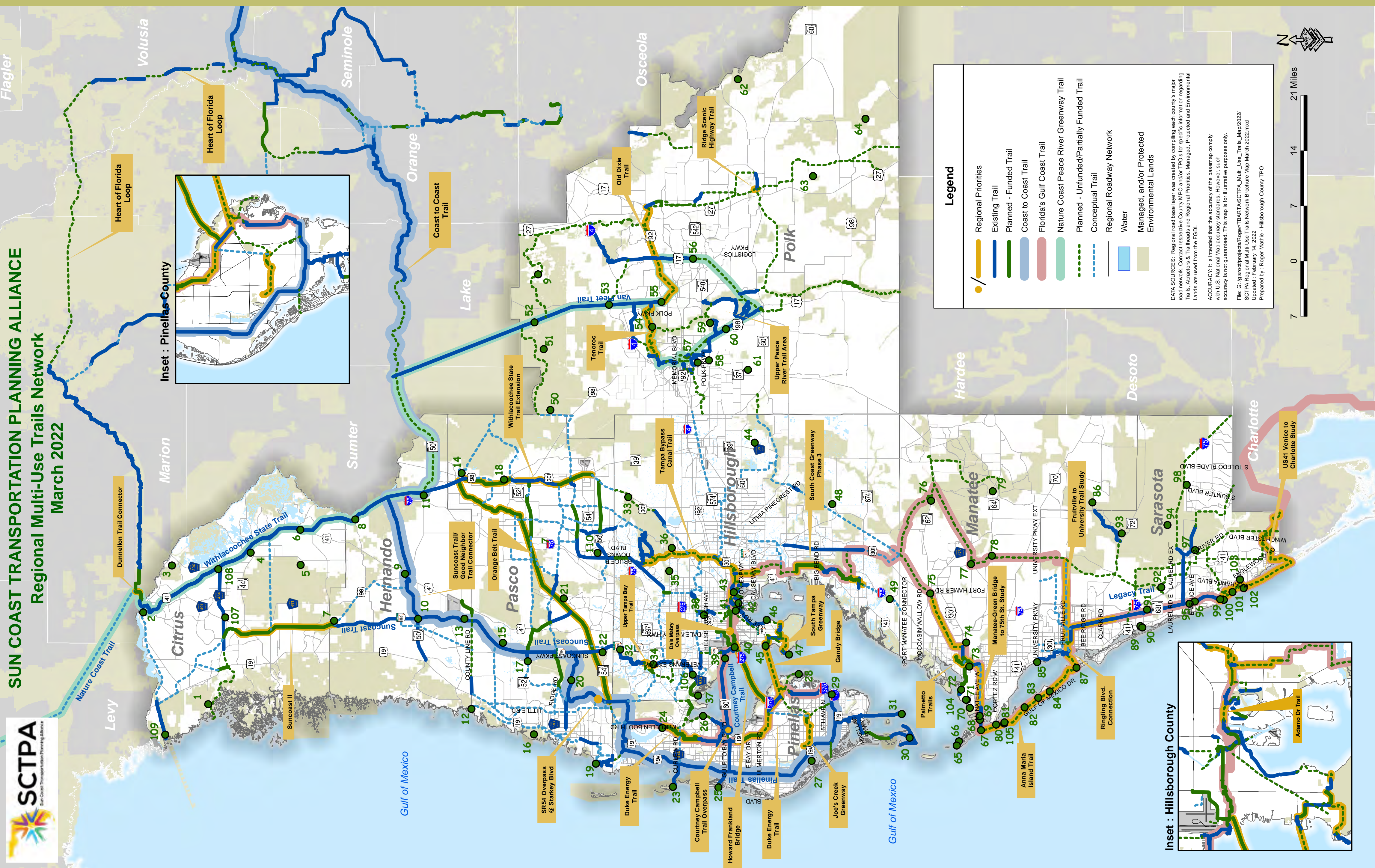
#### Keep to the Right

All path users must keep to the right, except when passing or turning left. Pedestrians: move to the right when someone is passing. Move off the path when stopping. Never block the path.

**REGIONAL ATTRACTORS (SHOWN ON MAP)**

1. Crystal River Beach & Country Club/ Ft. Island Trail
2. Withlacoochee Trail Head at Cross Florida Trail
3. Two Mile Prairie
4. Downtown Inverness
5. Withlacoochee State Forest - Mutual Mine
6. Floral City
7. Suncoast Trail Head at US 98
8. Lake Townsend Regional Park at Nobleton
9. Good Neighbor Trail
10. Suncoast Trail at SR 50
11. Withlacoochee Trail Head at SR 50
12. Aripka
13. Anderson Snow Regional Park
14. Withlacoochee Trail at Trilby
15. Suncoast Trail/Crews Lake Park
16. Werner Boyce Salt Springs State Park
17. Suncoast Trail Head/Concourse Nature Center
18. Hardy Trail
19. Anclote River Park/Anclote Gulf/Key Vista
20. J. B. Starkey Wilderness Park
21. Cypress Creek Wellfield
22. Suncoast Trail Head @ SR 54
23. Honeymoon Island State Park
24. John Chesnut, Sr. Park
25. Clearwater Beach
26. Philippe Park
27. War Veterans Park
28. Weedon Island State Park
29. Downtown St. Petersburg/The Pier
30. Fort DeSoto Park
31. Skyway Fishing Piers
32. Suncoast Trail Head
33. Hillsborough River State Park
34. Peterson Park Trailhead
35. Trout Creek Park
36. John B. Sargeant Park
37. Upper Tampa Bay Park
38. Lowry Park Zoo
39. Courtney Campbell Causeway
40. Cypress Point Park
41. Ft. Brooke/Cotanchobee Park
42. Tampa Riverwalk
43. McKay Bay Nature Park
44. Medard Park
45. Al Palonias Park
46. Ballast Point Park
47. Picnic Island
48. Boyette Scrub Mountain Biking Trails
49. Little Manatee Preserve
50. Colt Creek State Park
51. Green Swamp Wildlife Management Area
52. Green Pond Trail Trailhead
53. Polk City Trailhead
54. Tenoroc Fish Management Area
55. Aubumdale Trail Trailhead
56. Chain of Lakes Trailhead
57. Lake Hollingsworth Trail
58. Peterson Park Trailhead
59. Circle-B-Bar Reserve
60. Ft. Fraser Trailhead - Highland City
61. Carter Road Park
62. Lake Kissimmee State Park
63. Crooked Lake Prairie
64. Lake Wales Ridge State Forest
65. Anna Maria Island Rod & Reel Pier
66. Anna Maria Island City Pier
67. Holmes Beach Grassy Point
68. Neil Preserve (Future)
69. Perico Island Preserve (Future)
70. Robinson Preserve (Future)
71. Riverview Pointe
72. Emerson Point Preserve
73. Manatee County Agricultural Museum
74. Gamble Mansion Historic Site
75. Parrish Railroad Museum Park
76. Moody Branch Mitigation Park
77. Rye Preserve
78. Lake Manatee State Park
79. Duette Preserve
80. Holmes Beach Bridge Street & Pier
81. Leffis Key
82. Longboat Key Joan M. Durant Park
83. Bayfront Park Recreation Center
84. Bicentennial Park
85. Crosley Mansion
86. Myakka River State Park
87. St. Armands Circle Park
88. Florida National Scenic Trail Corridor
89. Historic Spanish Oaks
90. Osprey Fishing Pier
91. Oscar Scherer State Park
92. Knight Trail Park
93. Myakka River State Park Reserve
94. T. Mabry Carlton Memorial
95. Patriots Park at Venetia Bay
96. Historical Venice Train Depot
97. Snook Haven
98. Myakkahatchee Park
99. Shamrock Park and Nature Center
100. Caspersen Park
101. Lemon Bay Preserve
102. Manasota Beach
103. Manasota Scrub Preserve
104. DeSoto National Memorial
105. Coquina Beach
106. Channel Park Trailhead
107. Lecanto Trailhead
108. Hernando Trailhead
109. Withlacoochee Bay Trail
110. Wiregrass Wall

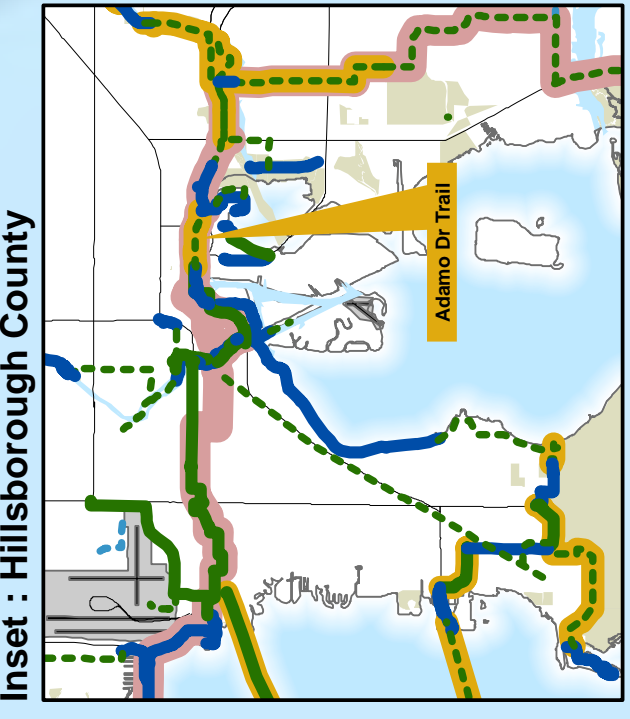
**SUN COAST TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ALLIANCE  
Regional Multi-Use Trails Network  
March 2022**



**Withlacoochee State Trail Extension (US Hwy. 301 Dade City Trail)** The 4.5 mile, 10-foot wide trail extends from Kossik Road north to Dade City Avenue and was built within the existing right-of-way on the west side of US Hwy. 301. The multi-use trail was a collaborative effort among the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Pasco County MPO, the cities of Zephyrhills and Dade City. This segment of the trail is part of a larger trail network planned for the US Hwy. 301 corridor that will eventually extend from the Withlacoochee State Trail to the Hillsborough County line south of Zephyrhills.



**Tampa Riverwalk** The City of Tampa opened a spectacular segment of the Downtown Riverwalk in the Spring of 2015, after winning a highly competitive Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant from the US Dept. of Transportation. The Kennedy Blvd. Plaza segment, shown above, linked pre-existing segments to create nearly two miles of continuous walkway along the water.



**Legend**

- Regional Priorities
- Existing Trail
- Planned - Funded Trail
- Coast to Coast Trail
- Florida's Gulf Coast Trail
- Nature Coast Peace River Greenway Trail
- Planned - Unfunded/Partially Funded Trail
- Conceptual Trail
- Regional Roadway Network
- Water
- Managed, and/or Protected Environmental Lands

**DATA SOURCES:** Regional road base layer was created by compiling each county's major road network. Contact respective County MPO and/or TPO's for specific information regarding Trails, Attractors & Trailheads and Regional Priorities. Managed, Protected and Environmental Lands are used from the FODL.

**ACCURACY:** It is intended that the accuracy of the base map comply with U.S. National Map accuracy standards. However, such accuracy is not guaranteed. This map is for illustrative purposes only.

File: G:\sctpa\projects\Roger\BARTASCTPA\_Multi\_Use\_Trails\_Map\2022\SCTPA Regional Multi-Use Trails Network Brochure Map March 2022.mxd  
Updated: February 14, 2022  
Prepared by: Roger Mattie - Hillsborough County TPO

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