



FLORIDA



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



- 1. Biscayne - Everglades Greenway**
Miami - Dade County Park and Recreation Department
- 2. Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System**
Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc.
- 3. Pasco County Greenways, Trails and Blueways**
Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department
- 4. Florida De Soto Trail**
De Soto National Memorial
- 5. River of Grass Greenway**
Naples Pathways Coalition (NPC)

Current Projects

1. Biscayne - Everglades Greenway

Project Partners: Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation, Cities of Homestead and Florida City, South Florida Water Management District, Everglades and Biscayne National Parks
RTCA Contact: Jaime Doubek-Racine
941.330.8047

Project Goal

The Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department, the NPS RTCA Program, Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, the City of Homestead and Florida City have recently completed a Master Plan for the Biscayne - Everglades Greenway, a 45 mile world class multi-purpose greenway/trail that will connect Everglades National Park to Biscayne National Park. The greenway will connect to a variety of other trails in the South Dade Greenways Network already under development. The Greenway route will incorporate South Florida Water Management District Lands and canal right of ways, along with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and County owned rights of ways. When implemented, the Biscayne-Everglades Greenway will provide for both recreation and alternative transportation. The greenway multi-purpose recreational trail will offer opportunities for walking, hiking, biking, equestrian use, and in-line skating. The Greenway will provide transportation links between numerous resources, including the Everglades National Park, Florida City, the City of Homestead, the agricultural farming area, schools, and Biscayne National Park. It

Current Projects

will benefit residents by increasing their quality of life, enhance close to homerecreational opportunities to promote health and wellness, and provide ecotourism benefits which enhance the economy of the area. The Greenway is also expected to increase tourism interest in South Florida, the largest industry in Miami-Dade County.



RTCA Role

RTCA will develop and implement a stakeholder process to determine community desires for park and trail system and participate in master plan development. Staff will also help develop a funding strategy and build partnerships for phased implementation.

trail) component offering recreation within the Mowry Canal is also a possibility. This blueway will link to additional blueway opportunities in Biscayne Bay, Everglades National Park and throughout the County. These blueways will offer canoeing and kayaking opportunities with eventual

links to the state's Florida Paddling Trail.

RTCA Role

The two-year long master plan process was community driven. Public involvement was a major component of the planning process. Numerous community workshops were held, along with monthly and quarterly planning team meetings. The Biscayne – Everglades Greenway Steering Committee is comprised of numerous citizens representing a variety of interests throughout the County along with local government, state and federal agency representatives. Surveys securing citizen input were

received and incorporated into the plan and thorough multi agency and multi governmental review of the master plan was conducted. The Biscayne – Everglades Greenway Map indicates the preferred greenway route with an identifying northern and southern loop system.

2. Wekiva Wild & Scenic River Syatem

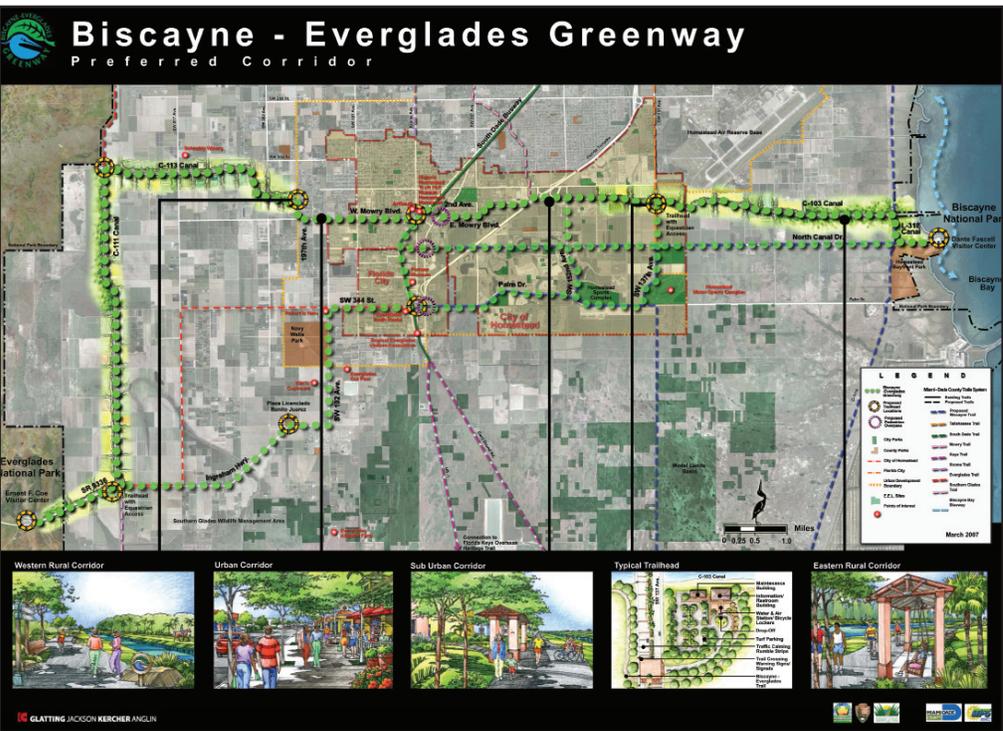
Project Partner: Friends of the Wekiva River, Inc

RTCA Contact: Jaime Doubek-Racine
941.330.8047

Project Goal

The Wekiva River, Wekiwa Springs Run, Rock Springs Run and Blackwater Creek (collectively referred to as the Wekiva River System) were designated by the United States Congress as a National Wild and Scenic River in October 2000. The designation includes the identification of five Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) that need to be protected in perpetuity through management actions. These values are: scenic, recreation, wildlife and habitat, cultural and historic, and water quality and quantity. The Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System Management Plan (currently in draft form) is the federally mandated management plan that describes a program to protect these five ORVs. In accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, these ORVs, the river's free flow characteristics and its immediate environment "shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations" (section 1(b) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act).

Unlike the majority of rivers comprising the National Wild and Scenic River System which are managed exclusively by either a federal or state agency, the Wekiva River is considered a "Partnership Wild and Scenic River." This distinction means that it is jointly



Biscayne - Everglades Greenway Master Plan: Glattig, Jackson, Kercher, Anglin

Current Projects cont.

managed by a consortium of local stakeholder groups referred to as the Wekiva River System Advisory Management Committee with oversight and coordination provided by the National Park Service (NPS).

The Committee, representing a diverse membership of state agencies, Lake, Orange and Seminole local county governments, non-profits, environmental organization and local citizens have completed the draft management plan which will be finalized and approved in 2009. The Committee is also now working on implementation action items identified in the Plan. One exciting project the Committee and NPS will be working on in 2009 will be the development and implementation of a comprehensive Watershed Awareness Signage and Identity Program for the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River that will meet the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Additionally, the Committee is seeking a River Manager to help coordinate and implement projects to further

enhance stewardship and protection efforts for the River.

RTCA Role

The National Park Service provides technical assistance, staff support and funding to assist in the development and implementation of the comprehensive management plan.

A public workshop was held in late 2007 for the public to learn about the issues affecting the Wekiva River System and to provide an opportunity for the public to have input into the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. The final Management Plan has been drafted and will be unveiled to the community in late 2008 as part of a 40th Anniversary Celebration Event of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 created a legacy of protected rivers, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

3. Pasco County Greenways, Trails and Blueways

Partner: Pasco County Parks and

Recreation Department

RTCA Contact: Jaime Doubek-Racine

941.330.8047

Project Goal

Since June, 2006, Pasco County in partnership with the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, has been working with an Advisory Committee (the Pasco County Greenways, Trails & Blueways Advisory Committee) on a strategic planning effort for a countywide comprehensive trail system for the purpose of alternative transportation, recreation and environmental protection. The two-year long master plan process was community driven. Public involvement was a major component of the planning process. Numerous community workshops were held, along with monthly and quarterly planning team meetings. The Pasco County Greenways, Trails & Blueways Advisory Committee is comprised of numerous citizens representing a variety of interests throughout the County along with local government, state and federal agency representatives. Surveys securing citizen input were received and are being incorporated into the plan and through multi agency and multi



Canoers paddle down Rock Springs Run of the Wekiva River System

**Could your Project benefit from
RTCA Staff Assistance?
Contact us to find out.**

Florida

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THE RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate. By investing in the protection of special places, recreation, tourism, and well planned development, local leaders can bring long-lasting economic and quality of life benefits to their communities.

www.nps.gov/rtca

governmental review of the master plan will be conducted. The Plan is expected to be completed Summer 2009.

Pasco County is part of a nine-county region referred to as the "NatureCoast". There are more than 100 square miles of managed recreational facilities, including parks, four artificial reefs, and three State-designated canoe trails: Pithlachascotee River Trail, Hillsborough River State Recreation Trail and the Withlacoochee River Canoe Trail. In addition, the County is the southern terminus of the Withlacoochee State Trail, a linear State Park, and manages 21 miles of the Suncoast Trail, a designated National Recreation Trail. In addition to these lands, there are numerous priorities for the County Environmental Lands Program, which once acquired will offer passive recreational opportunities and links to the overall Greenways & Blueways system.

The project mission is to identify, develop and implement a network of multi-use Greenways, trails and Blueways with emphasis on a local system with links to a regional system, for the purposes of recreation, enhancing community quality of life, protecting natural resources and promoting alternative transportation opportunities.

4. Florida DeSoto Trail

Partner: DeSoto National Monument
RTCA Contact: Jaime Doubek-Racine
941.330.8047

Project Goal

The trail will re-trace the steps of early explorers and relate the hardships endured by De Soto and his army; while also conveying the devastation these new arrivals brought to the Florida Indians and other aboriginal peoples of the region. In 2008, accomplishments included:

the Florida Department of Transportation award of \$425,000 and contract agreement signed to fully develop the new De Soto Trail, linking historic places, parks, archeological sites, and scenic

RTCA Role

In 2008, all planning work for the locations of the kiosks and De Soto Trail Map has been completed. This planning work included groundtruthing the sites, committee workshops, and a significant amount of research to secure the accurate and most suitable locations for the kiosk sites. TCA is facilitating this partnership and helping the people of the community.

5. River of Grass Greenway

Partner: Naples Pathways Coalition (NPC)
RTCA Contact: Jaime Doubek-Racine
941.330.8047

Project Goal

The River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) is a proposed non-motorized transportation and recreation corridor across the Everglades, connecting this unique natural resource with the densely populated east and west coasts of southern Florida. The greenway will be approximately 75 miles long, with a separate hardsurface 12 foot wide trail that generally parallels U.S. 41 (Tamiami Trail), connecting Collier to Miami-Dade County. The ROGG will provide a pathway between the following parks: Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, Collier-Seminole State Park, Picayune Strand State



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