SUN Trail Funding Fact Sheet

Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail Hampton

Construction of the Palatka-to-Lake Butler State Trail continues into Hampton, a city in Bradford County. Acquisition of this former rail corridor occurred in 2001 by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of State Lands on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Governor and Cabinet) through Preservation 2000, the precursor to Florida Forever. Florida Forever is the state's blueprint for conservation of natural resources. Partners continue developing the state designated trail as funding becomes available. Florida lawmakers established the SUN Trail program in 2015 under Section 339.81, Florida Statute. Administered by the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Systems Implementation Office, the SUN Trail program receives an annual allocation from the redistribution of new vehicle tag revenues deposited in the State Transportation Trust Fund. It is one funding source for helping communities expand a safe statewide system of interconnected, high priority and strategic paved multi-use trails (SUN Trail network) for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The SUN Trail program awarded $787,755 for constructing six-tenths of a mile 12-foot-wide asphalt segment from County Road 18/Navarre Street to County Road 325/Prospect Avenue. This segment connects to Bobbie Sheppard Park. In 2008, funding from the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) provided for landscaping and picnic, playground, restroom, and parking facilities at the Park. Administered by DEP, FRDAP is a competitive reimbursement grant program that provides financial assistance for acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation. Located at 10238 Prospect Avenue, the Park also serves as a trailhead for the DEP managed State Trail. This Hampton segment is part of the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST or the Florida Trail). Established in 1983, the Florida Trail is one of a prestigious group of 11 National Scenic Trails designated by the U.S. Congress. See: **www.fs.usda.gov/fnst**

With a community supported vision, leaders can identify appropriate funding sources for resource improvements. According to the "Hampton Undergoes Transformation" article published in 2019 by Quality Cities "...grants, volunteer and determination provided momentum to reinvent and save the City" which was on the verge of being dissolved by the Florida Legislature. Bradford County is a Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) community and within one of the three Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO). Adversely affected by extraordinary economic events or natural disasters designation of RAO communities is by Executive Order of the Governor. According to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Inc. trails can serve as a centerpiece of tourism-centered strategies to revitalize downtowns.

SUNTRAIL

To visit the trail or for more information, please contact

Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Florida Park Service

352-262-8129 • www.FloridaStateParks.org/Parks-and-Trails/Palatka-Lake-Butler-State-Trail

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 2

CITY: Hampton

COUNTY: Bradford

WIDTH: 12 feet

LENGTH: 0.6 miles

SURFACE TYPE: Asphalt

PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NUMBER: 433171-3

LIMITS: County Road 18/Navarre Street to County Road 325/Prospect Avenue

CONSTRUCTION START: September 2022

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: November 2022

PHASE: Construction and Construction Engineering Inspections

Hampton utilizes multiple funding sources to implement the community vision

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2022, 2023

AMOUNT: $787,755 was awarded by the SUN Trail program. Within the project boundary, another $480,644 was provided by FDOT and federal sources beginning in 2018.

Florida Department of Transportation
Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program

Systems Implementation Office
605 Suwannee Street, MS 19
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

FloridaSunTrail.com

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