



SUN Trail Funding Fact Sheet

Withlacoochee-Dunnellon Trail

In 2017 and 2019 the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail program awarded over \$4.5 million for the design and construction of the Withlacoochee-Dunnellon Trail “connector”. With additional funding from state and federal sources, the one-and-a-half mile-long “connector” includes a concrete structure for trail travelers to cross safely under U.S. 41. This trail segment crosses land of Duke Energy – an electric power company, and the City of Dunnellon’s land near West Delmane Drive to connect the Dunnellon Trail’s County Road 39 Trailhead to the Withlacoochee State Trail’s (WST) Gulf Junction Trailhead, in Citrus Springs. This SUN Trail funded project is also a “connector” of the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST). Spanning 1,500 miles from the Panhandle to the Everglades, the FNST, often known as the Florida Trail, is one of 11 Congressionally designated trails in the nation. See: www.floridatrail.org.

The two-and-a-half mile long Dunnellon Trail features an iconic bridge over the Withlacoochee River that connects to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway (CFG) as well as connecting Marion and Citrus Counties by trail. Crossing Central Florida from the Gulf of Mexico to the St. Johns River and spanning Citrus, Levy, Marion, and Putnam counties, the CFG occupies more than 74,000 acres of land formerly known as the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The CFG provides a wildlife corridor and a 110-mile linear park, with numerous campgrounds and more than 330 miles of trails of all types including paddling, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian and paved multi-use. Spanning Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties the WST extends 46 miles from Citrus Springs to Dade City. Toward the southern end of the Withlacoochee State Trail, bicyclists and pedestrians may continue to Brooksville along the Good Neighbor Trail, which is part of the regional Coast to Coast Trail (C2C) system. With assistance from non-profit citizen

support organizations, the Florida Park Service, within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, manages the CFG, the WST and this SUN Trail funded “connector”. Both the CFG and WST are designated by the Secretary of Interior as National Recreation Trails and improve access for travelers to urban and rural areas, provide economic development through tourism, and provide healthy recreation opportunities. The initial 2016 request for funding from the SUN Trail program received support from the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, through its Governmental Affairs Committee, who indicated the benefits of bicycling for residents and visitors, including for health and the economy.

Florida lawmakers established the SUN Trail program in 2015 under Section 339.81, Florida Statute, for administration 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. Implementing the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) this project is a key “connector” of the developing Heart of Florida Loop (HOFL), a regional trail system. The FTP guides the state’s transportation future and helps achieve FDOT vital few goals by providing safe, efficient travel routes for bicyclists and pedestrians. Overlapping with segments of the C2C and St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop, when complete the HOFL will connect multiple local trails, State Trails, and the CFG through seven counties, many communities, and parts of the FNST and the Ocala National Forest.



To visit the trail or for more information, please contact:

Florida Park Service

Dunnellon Trail • 352-236-7143 • www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/dunnellon-trail

Withlacoochee State Trail • 352-726-0315 • www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/withlacoochee-state-trail

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 7

CITY: Citrus Springs

COUNTY: Citrus

WIDTH: 12 feet

LENGTH: 1.5 miles

SURFACE TYPE:
Asphalt and concrete



PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (ITEM) NUMBER: 437349-1

LIMITS: Connecting the Dunnellon Trail and Withlacoochee State Trail, including an underpass of U.S. 41

CONSTRUCTION START: November 2019

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: March 2022

PHASE: Design, Construction and Construction Engineering Inspections

*Improving safety
and connectivity
by providing an
underpass of
U.S. 41*

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2017, 2019

AMOUNT: \$4,531,529 was awarded by the SUN Trail program. Within the project boundary, an additional \$3,332,838 was provided by FDOT and federal sources beginning in 2014



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

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Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

FloridaSunTrail.com

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