



SUN Trail Funding Fact Sheet

Pinellas Duke Energy Trail

Pinellas County, along Florida's west coast, is a 280-square mile peninsula bordered by the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. For over 30 years partners, including the non-profit Friends of the Pinellas Trail, Inc., are successfully using multiple funding sources to implement the vision for safely connecting people and places via trails. The nexus for the Pinellas countywide interconnected trail system has roots with the opening of the first five miles of the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail in December 1990 along an abandoned railroad corridor. In 2003 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails designated the "Pinellas" as part of the statewide Florida Greenways and Trails System. In 2007 the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Inc., began recognizing exemplary projects around the country naming the "Pinellas" the third inductee to the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. Today, the western side of the countywide "loop" is within the developing 250-mile Coast to Coast Trail which will connect Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean through Central Florida. The eastern side of the "loop" is within the developing 300-mile Gulf Coast Trail (originally known as the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail) and will connect the counties of Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier.

Established in 2015 under 339.81, Florida Statutes, the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail program receives an annual allocation from the redistribution of new vehicle tag revenues deposited in the State Transportation Trust Fund. Administration

of the program is by the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Systems Implementation Office. The competitively awarded funding is one source for expanding a safe statewide system of interconnected, high priority, and strategic paved multi-use trails (SUN Trail network) for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Pinellas County's Annual Citizen Values Survey consistently ranks improving traffic flow and pedestrian safety as the highest areas of need through their densely populated communities. In 2016 FDOT received an application to secure funding from the SUN Trail program for developing a segment extending north nearly seven miles between Enterprise Road in Clearwater to Palm Harbor's John Chestnut Park along the eastern side of the "loop". The SUN Trail program awarded nearly \$6 million for a "design-build" project beginning in 2017. "Design-build" projects propose to reduce costs and expedite construction by allowing a single contractor to deliver both phases. Leveraging the state SUN Trail allocation, the local Penny for Pinellas funding source provided over \$7.1 million to the project. County voters initially approved the local infrastructure "Penny" sales tax in 1989 and subsequently approved its renewal. The County and 24 cities share the collected funds through a population based formula and select projects from identified community needs, citizen feedback and long-term strategic goals. Mostly complete in August 2022, Pinellas County completed the SUN Trail funded project in December 2022. It is generally 12 feet wide but transitions to eight feet wide due to restrictions along the project boundary.



To visit the trail or for more information, please contact

Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources

727-582-2100 (select option #2) • pinellas.gov/pinellas-county-trail-guide

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 7

CITY: Clearwater, Palm Harbor

COUNTY: Pinellas

WIDTH: Mostly 12 feet,
portions are 8 feet

LENGTH: 6.7 miles

SURFACE TYPE:
Mostly asphalt

PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NUMBER: 440093-1

LIMITS: Enterprise Road in Clearwater to John Chestnut Park at 2200 East Lake Road South in Palm Harbor

CONSTRUCTION START: June 2020

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: December 2022

PHASE: Construction

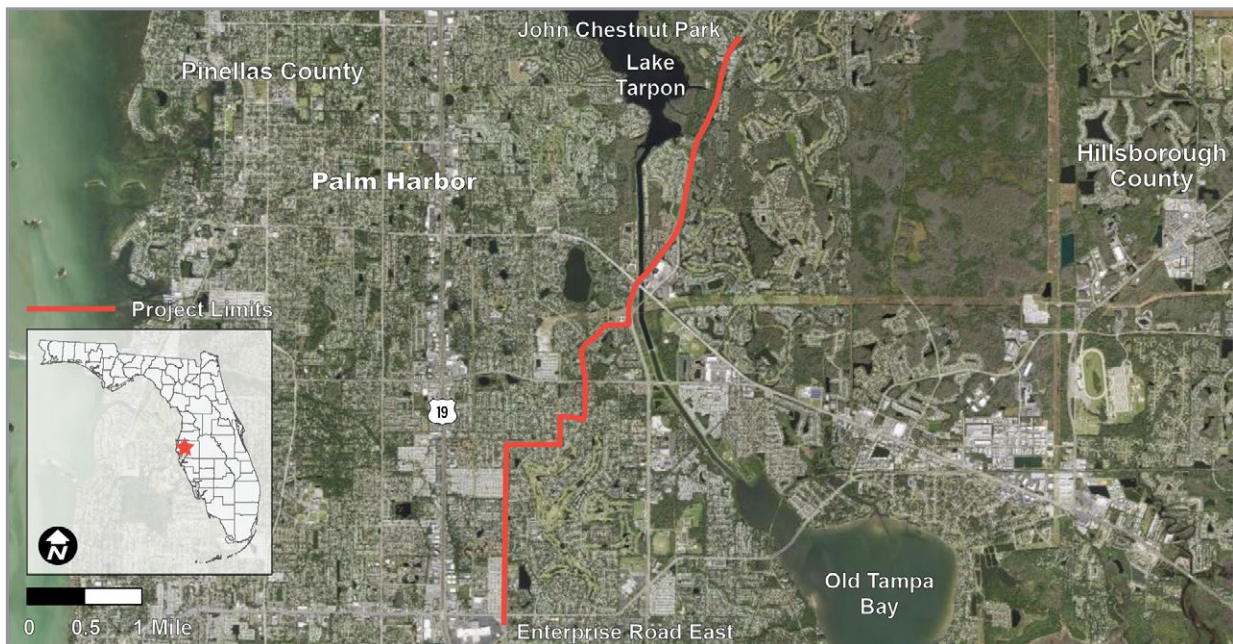
FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2017, 2020

AMOUNT: \$5,898,588



Pinellas County Property Appraiser's records indicates home values along the Pinellas Trail have increased at a faster rate than countywide



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

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

FloridaSunTrail.com

2/2023