SUN Trail Funding Fact Sheet

Gayle's Trail

Predating the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail program, the statewide trail vision and guiding principles were solidified with "Connecting Florida's Communities" in 1998, the predecessor for today's Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan. Guided by Chapter 260, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails provides leadership and ongoing assistance for achieving the vision – for establishing, expanding, and promoting the FGTS Plan. Also in 1998, Panama City Beach (PCB) began construction of the first segment of Gayle's Trail for people walking at Frank Brown Park, a premier facility for sports and events. Gayle's Trails was certified as a National Recreation Trail by the Secretary of the Interior in 2007. See: **www.nrtapplication.org.** Then in 2011 it received designation as part of the FGTS. See: floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/designations.

As envisioned, Gayle's Trail is within the developing Great Northwest Regional Trail that one day will connect Florida's coastal communities in the Panhandle to Alabama. In 2018 and 2023 the SUN Trail program awarded over $2.6 million for construction of a 12-foot-wide segment of Gayle's Trail connecting one-and-a-half miles between J.R. Arnold High School and the Breakfast Point subdivision, near Breakfast Point Academy – just north of US 98 / Panama City Beach Parkway / Back Beach Road, west of Alf Coleman Road, and east of Clara Avenue. On November 8, 2023, partners joined together to celebrate the opening of this newest segment. This mostly asphalt trail includes a 10-foot-wide wooden bridge crossing a short stint of wetlands. Today, the city of PCB has over 30 miles of multiuse trail in segments.

Funding from the SUN Trail program is helping to improve bicycle and pedestrian conditions around the state. Established in 2015 with enacted changes in 2023, under Section 339.81, F.S., the 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 multiuse trails (SUN Trail network) for bicyclists and pedestrians and to connect Florida's Wildlife Corridors. This project is integral to Florida's nonmotorized transportation system.

To visit the trail or for more information, please contact
Panama City Beach
(850) 233-5045 • www.pcbfl.gov/about-us/visitors/trail-map

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 3

CITY: Panama City Beach

COUNTY: Bay

WIDTH: 10-12 feet

LENGTH: 1.5 miles

SURFACE TYPE: Mostly asphalt

PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT NUMBER: 440282-1

LIMITS: East from east of Holiday Golf Club to Breakfast Point Subdivision

CONSTRUCTION START: May 2023

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: November 2023

PHASE: Construction

Creating safe connections for people bicycling and walking between J.R. Arnold High School and residential neighborhoods

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2018, 2023

AMOUNT: $2,623,084

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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