



SUN Trail Funding Fact Sheet

Indian Hills Recreation Area

The St. Lucie County Greenways and Trails program began in 2001. By 2008, the St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) was leading the countywide vision by completing numerous studies for connecting these nonmotorized facilities. A hallmark of the vision includes a north/south “spine” of the East Coast Greenway, a developing 3,000-mile national trail system linking communities along the eastern seaboard from Key West, Florida to Calais, Maine. See: www.greenway.org. Formalization for implementation of the “spine” subsequently occurred with its inclusion in the St. Lucie TPO Long Range Transportation Plan and the St. Lucie County Comprehensive Plan.

Florida lawmakers established the Shared-Use Nonmotorized (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.

The grand opening celebration of the Indian Hills Recreation Area, at 52 Savannah Road in Fort Pierce, occurred on February 22, 2017. The community joined partners, including the St. Lucie TPO, St. Lucie County, the City of Fort Pierce, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP)

to celebrate the County’s land acquisition, which received funding assistance from the DEP Florida Communities Trust program. Management of the property is by the City of Fort Pierce. Long-term land management goals include implementing projects for improving the cleanliness of the Indian River Lagoon, a 156-mile-long estuary where saltwater from the Atlantic Ocean mixes with freshwater from the land and tributaries and is home to more than 3,000 species of plants and animals.

In 2017 and 2019 the SUN Trail program awarded a total of \$579,528 for the design and construction along 1.4 miles of a natural surface trail to improve it with concrete for stabilizing the surface to reduce erosion while improving user access and trail connectivity through the Indian Hills Recreation Area. Extending from south of Savannah Road to Indian Hills Drive, this 10-foot-wide multi-use trail complies with the land management and long-range planning for the Recreation Area by enhancing access, connecting the north/south “spine” while reducing sediment runoff around the estuary. Additional local monies for completing a loop trail and other improvements occurred in tandem with the SUN Trail funds. Completion of this Indian Hills Recreation Area trail segment implements the vision of the Florida Transportation Plan, which guides the state’s transportation future and helps achieve FDOT vital few goals by providing safe, efficient travel routes for bicyclists and pedestrians.



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

City of Fort Pierce • 772-467-3773 • www.cityoffortpierce.com/599/Indian-Hills-Recreation-Area

PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

TRAIL

FDOT DISTRICT NUMBER: 4

CITY: Fort Pierce

COUNTY: St. Lucie

WIDTH: 10 feet

LENGTH: 1.4 miles

SURFACE TYPE:

Mostly concrete, includes bridge with wooden decking



PROJECT

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (ITEM) NUMBER: 439997-1

LIMITS: Indian Hills Recreation Area from south of Savannah Road to Indian Hills Drive

CONSTRUCTION START: June 2021

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION: October 2021

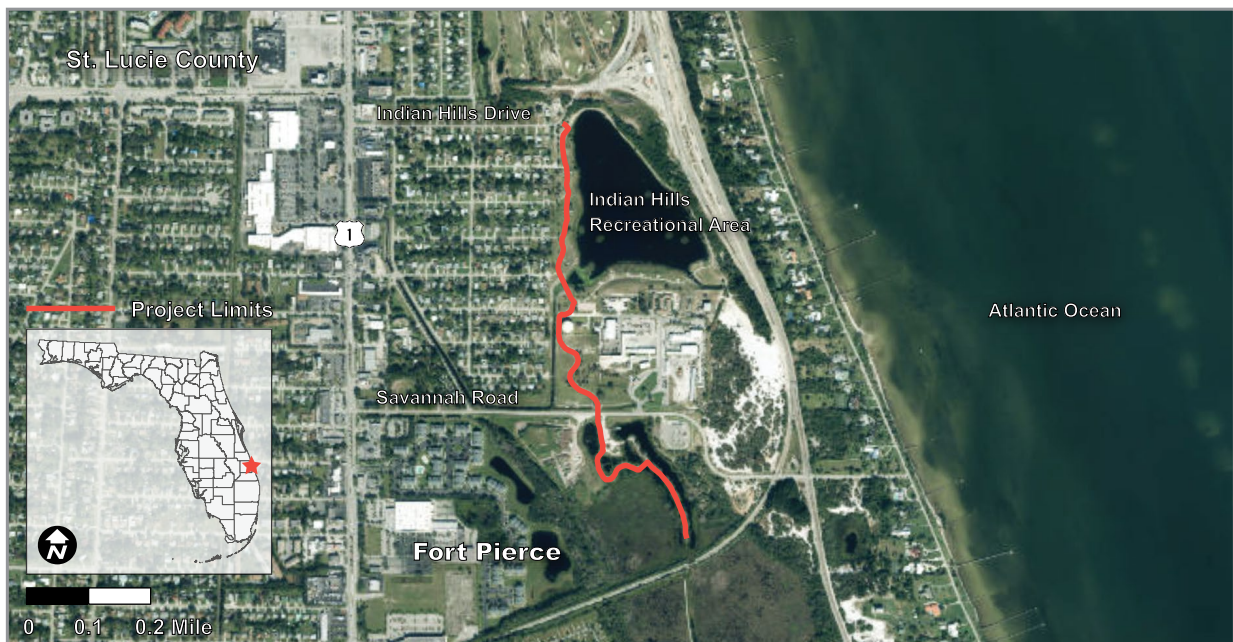
PHASE: Design and Construction

Improving Treasure Coast trail connections to fit the context of the community's vision and the environmental setting

FUNDING

FISCAL YEAR: 2017, 2019

AMOUNT: \$579,528



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

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

FloridaSunTrail.com

12/2021