

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013- 158**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, OR DESIGNEE, TO SUBMIT A NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE APPLICATION AND ANY OTHER REQUIRED PAPERWORK IN ORDER TO SEEK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS AND TRAILS PROGRAM TO UPDATE AND EXPAND THE 2003 ST. JOHNS COUNTY GREENWAYS, BLUEWAY & TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

**RECITALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of the Interior allows local governments to submit a National Park Service Community Assistance application for technical assistance in updating and expanding the 2003 St. Johns County Greenways, Blueways & Trails Master Plan which complements several other programs and initiatives the County has already pursued in an effort to improve the quality of life for the St. Johns County citizens, including but not limited to, the 2003 St Johns County Greenways, Blueways & Trails Master Plan, the Florida Forever Northeast Florida Blueway Phase II, St. Johns River Blueway, the A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway, the William Bartram Scenic and Historic Highway and the Habitat Conservation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, expansion and enlargement of the 2003 St. Johns County Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan into individual Planning District maps will help the County strategically plan where it wants to encourage bicycle trails, hiking, trail heads and where the County wants to plan for its future wildlife corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, enlarged maps will help Development Review staff determine where the approved developments have their greenways, blueways and trails and help them bridge the gap and negotiate better with the consultants and developers in creating transitions from one development to another; and

**WHEREAS**, the deadline for the County to submit the National Park Service Community Assistance Application is August 1, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has reviewed the National Park Service Community Assistance Application; and

**WHEREAS**, after a review of the National Park Service Community Assistance Application, the County has determined that nothing contained within this application negatively impacts the interests of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, after a review of this application and accompanying materials, the County has determined that none of the requirements, restrictions, and/or obligations associated with the National Park Services Community Assistance Application, or the technical assistance itself,

negatively impact the interests of the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida that:**

**Section 1.** The above Recitals are incorporated by reference into the body of this Resolution, and such Recitals are adopted as Findings of Fact.

**Section 2.** The Board of County Commissioners ("Board") hereby approves and authorizes the County Administrator, or designee, to submit a complete Community Assistance Application based on the approved guidelines established by the National Park Service for the River and Trails Community Assistance Program to provide technical assistance in the expansion of the 2003 St Johns County Greenways, Blueways & Trails Master Plan. The Board further authorizes the Chair to issue a letter of support to accompany submission of said application.

**Section 3.** The Board of County Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Administrator, or designee, to execute any other paperwork necessary, and/or associated with the application for the National Park Service River and Trails Community Assistance Program.

**Section 4.** To the extent that there are typographical or administrative errors or omissions that do not change the tone, tenor, or context of this Resolution, then this Resolution may be revised without subsequent approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 16 day of July, 2013.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

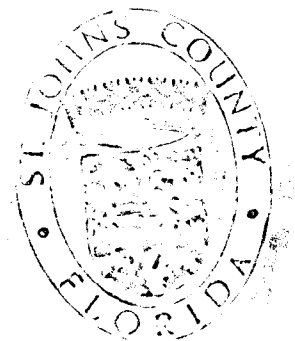
*John H. Morris*  
John H. Morris, Chairman

**ATTEST: CHERYL STRICKLAND, CLERK**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

*Ram Halteeman*  
Deputy Clerk

**RENDITION DATE** 7/18/13



# Application for Community Assistance

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program supports successful partnerships with communities across America in achieving their conservation and outdoor recreation visions.

Please follow the application steps on our website and then submit this completed application along with a map of your project site, at least three letters of support, and any other supplementary information that helps us learn more about your project to your National Park Service staff contact by August 1.

**Date:** 7/29/13 **Project Name:** St Johns County Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan

**Project Location Description (provide a location/site map):** Please see the attached

**City and State:** St Johns County, Fl

**Congressional District(s) Number(s):** 7th Congressional District

**Applicant organization(s):** St Johns County

**Primary Contact:** Vickie Renna

**Title:** Long Range Planning Division

**Street Address:** 4040 Lewis Speedway

**City:** St Augustine

**State:** Fl.

**Zip Code:** 32084

**Email:** vrenna@sjcfl.us

**Website (if applicable):** http://sjcfl.us

**Daytime Phone:** 904-209-0615

## Project Description:

1. Describe: *(limit to 750 words total)*

- a. Your vision and project goals.
- b. Accomplishments to date.
- c. Support: local, city, regional and state plans, endorsements from elected officials and boards, etc.
- d. Community benefits that would result from implementing the proposed project.
- e. Geographic location of your project (city, watershed, specific areas within a city or county, etc.).
- f. Important demographic characteristics of your project area.

St Johns County is interested in requesting technical assistance from the National Park Service to prepare Phase II of the existing 2003 Greenways, Blueways and Trails (G, B & T) Master Plan (MP).

Our Vision for the Phase II of the St Johns County G, B & T Master Plan is to update and expand the existing document and comprehensive Master Plan map, into four (4) separate enlarged maps and documents that provide more detail, one for each Planning District in the County. The localized and precise Planning District maps will allow County Departments to clearly identify where the previously approved development's greenway systems (i.e., Nocatee) were planned. The Planning District maps will assist County Departments in identifying where development transitions exist, allowing staff to be proactive and to encourage critical linkages occur between developments. In addition, these four (4) Planning District maps will assist the County in planning where it wants to encourage safe bicycle trails for children riding to school; bicycle trails for traveling adults; multi-purpose trails for active recreation, health and fitness trails; hiking and equestrian trails as well as, wildlife corridors. It is anticipated that the information generated from this project, will become another component of the community's economic tourism opportunities for this region.

The County's Goal is to create distinct trail categories and for example, within the specific trail category, create trail systems that connect the County's major intrinsic resources.

Over the years, St Johns County has implemented the following projects, as identified within the 2003 G, B & T Master Plan:

Existing Construction \ Acquisition

### Existing Construction \ Acquisition

- Paved 7.5 miles on SR 207 rail-trail from the location just southwest of I-95 to Spuds
- Acquired 24 acres of land for the Mussallem trail head site
- Completed a land swap with the Housing and Community Development to create the Armstrong trail head site
- Constructed 10 miles of greenways within our newer parks (i.e. Canopy Shores, Nease, Bird Island, Vaill Point and Nocatee Parks)

### On Going Planning Activities

- Creation of an inventory map of existing bicycle lanes and the associated facilities
- The Recreation Department coordinates with the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails (FOGTs) to identify priority county trail corridors on the State Greenway & Trails priority map
- Quarterly bike and pedestrian meetings

### 2016 FDOT Programming

- Pave 3.5 miles on SR 207 rail trail from Spuds to the Putnam county line. When completed this 260 mile rail-trail (part of the River to Sea loop) will eventually connect St Johns, Putnam, Volusia, Brevard and Flagler Counties.
- Develop 2 trail heads on SR 207 (Armstrong and the north side of Hastings Community Center)
- Allocate construction dollars for trail head facility on the 24 acre Mussallem site. This trail head will consist of a stabilized parking area, restroom facilities, benches and bike racks.

**Community Benefits** for establishing a comprehensive Greenway, Blueways and Trails Master Plan are numerous. This Plan will:

- Create a functional Interconnection with all the County's public lands (local, state and federal lands)
- Specifically identify the County's primary and secondary hiking, equestrian and biking (adults as well as school children) trails, or greenways and canoeing/ kayaking blueway trails
- Identify connections between existing and proposed development projects
- Identify themed trails, i.e., cultural/ historical, artist, ecological, agricultural and community health trail
- Strategically, locate future greenways trail heads and blueway access ways.
- Strategically locate ecological wildlife corridors
- Promote multi-modular transportation opportunities
- Promote physically healthy and diverse recreational opportunities

St Johns County is located in Northeast Florida and it is home of the oldest continually occupied City in the United States, St Augustine. It is also located within the Northeast Florida Regional Council and the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) regional water basin.

The County's 2012 population was 202,188 and the median age was 43. The County's top three population percentages and age ranges are listed below:

- 30% between the ages of 45 – 64
- 23% between the ages of 25 -44
- 22% under age 18

2. Describe how your project advances one or more key National Park Service objectives: *(limit to 500 words)*
- a. Builds partnerships with health and wellness organizations to promote healthy lifestyles;
  - b. Engages youth or youth organizations to promote close-to-home resource conservation, stewardship, and outdoor recreation opportunities;
  - c. Develops and/or improves connections to parks, rivers, trails, and greenways in diverse urban areas and communities with limited resources and facilities;
  - d. Develops or improves access to National Park Service sites by enhancing connections to nearby communities;
  - e. Advances the protection and stewardship of large natural landscapes (parks, open spaces, and working lands) through partnerships;
  - f. Expands public access to water resources, such as creeks, rivers, lakes, bays, and the coast, and the development of water trails.

St Johns County through its 2003 G, B & Ts Master Plan has advanced many of the National Park Service-s Objectives, as stated in the corresponding responses:

a. St Johns County is the most health conscious employer in Northeast Florida according to the Jacksonville Business Journal. The County received an award for promoting healthy eating and exercise habits among its employees.

The Friends of Alpine (non-profit) organized the local community doctor-s in a recent Spring Fun Run event, which the Recreation Department helped plan and promote. This event was held at Alpine Groves Park and the runners ran on the designated greenways within the park.

Phase II of the G, B & Ts Master Plan expansion, the County will be expanding upon its working relationship with health providers and other civic groups, with the possible outcome of projects such as, several health providers sponsoring the development of a greenway trail.

b. On a daily basis, the Recreation Department works with multiple non-profit Youth Associations. Please see Exhibit A for a list of these Associations. The county naturalist holds recreational programs for the local school children and coordinates with the Master Gardeners in the education of youth conservation programs.

Phase II of the G, B & Ts Master Plan expansion, the County wishes to increase communications with the School Board on the proposed Master Plan update.

c. The County has always worked with, and will continue working with local and surrounding governments in the development of G, B & Ts through diverse areas. The County has been and will continue working with the Town of Hastings on the SR 207 rail...trail. The Town of Hastings is predominately an agricultural community with limited financial resources. The SR 207 rail-trail is a potential economic generator, which eventually will connect St Augustine, Town of Hastings and Putnam County.

d. The County has been, and will continue coordinating with all the governmental agencies and conservation orientated non-profit organizations in the preservation, protection and stewardship of large and small natural landscapes. Please see Exhibit B for a complete list of these organizations.

e. Through the working relationship with the DEP and the SJRWMD, the County was able to acquire 8,500 acres along the Matanzas River (part of the Intracoastal Waterway). The County makes a special effort and will continue to preserve and enhance all its natural resources in the parks, including parks acquired with Florida Community Trust (FCT) grant funds.

f. When feasible, the County purchases properties to provide water access on its blueways (i.e., Atlantic Ocean, Intracoastal Waterway and St Johns American Heritage River). These designated blueways provide a connection between the National Parks (i.e., Castillo De San Marcos and Ft. Matanzas) and other state, regional and local parks and conservation areas.

Phase II of the G, B & Trails Master Plan expansion, the County will continue its working relationship with St Johns River Alliance in establishing a distinct paddling trail with specific rest stops.

**Applicant and Partner Roles: (limit to 750 words)**

3. a. Describe your role and the level of commitment/services your organization can provide to the project.
- b. List the key partners involved with the project. Briefly summarize the existing or anticipated role and contribution of each partner.
- c. Please include three support letters from listed partners other than the applicant or individual(s) of the applying organization that note their support and list their contribution(s) and anticipated project role and responsibilities.

Many of the County Departments (Growth Management, Recreation, Engineering and Land Management (GIS Division)) would like technical assistance in updating and expanding the County's 2003 Greenway, Blueways and Trails – Master Plan from one map and document into four separate enlarged Planning District maps and documents. The County would also like assistance from the NPS on identifying other creative funding techniques utilized throughout the United States.

Please see the description in the Project Description - #1 under Vision for a full explanation of the purpose of creating enlarged G, B & Ts Planning District maps and documents.

In updating, expanding and creating separate Planning District maps and documents, the County Departments will contribute the following:

**Growth Management Department**

- Development Review Division - Location of the previously approved private development greenways, to provide connections between greenways.
- Transportation Division - Location of the existing and proposed bicycle paths through out the County.
- Environmental Division - Location of existing wildlife habitat conservation areas and proposed ecological corridors and wildlife crossings. This Division will work with the TDC to identify various themed trails, i.e., historical, cultural, artist and ecological trails.
- Long Range Planning Division - Coordinate with the local, regional, state and federal agencies on the location of existing unpaved hiking trails as well as, the surrounding cities and counties existing greenway. This Division will work with the TDC to identify agricultural themed trail.

Recreation Department - Identifying the existing greenways within the County's parks and proposed greenway, blueways, trail heads and bicycle corridors. This Department coordinate with the TDC to identify a community health theme trail.

Engineering Department - This Department will be helping with the pre-construction information on existing and proposed paved pathways.

Land Management Department - GIS Division Create four (4) comprehensive Planning District maps. GIS Division will coordinate with local developers, regional, state and federal parks to identify the location of the greenway, blueways and trails.

Tourist Development Council (TDC) Department - The TDC will help the county identify potentially viable themed trails.

The NPS technical support representative, with their extensive knowledge of greenways, blueways and trails throughout the USA, will assist the County in identifying all the ecological and cultural trails and provide insight on creative funding techniques for the identified trails. In addition, the County staff anticipates the NPS technical support representative will also assist with the Public Community (PC) Workshops, as described further below.

Once the background work is completed and four (4) Planning District maps and documents are created, this information will be shared with the community and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in an informal G, B & Ts Workshop.

After the BCC has reviewed and commented on the proposed four (4) Planning District G,B & T maps and documents, four (4) additional Public Community (PC) Workshops (one in each Planning District) will be held for public review and comments. The various cities and surrounding counties will be asked to attend at least one (1) of the scheduled PC Workshops. In addition, one (1) additional PC Workshop will be held at the School Board.

Upon completion of the consolidated G, B & Ts Planning District maps and documents and the six (6) PC Workshops; a final

Upon completion of the consolidated G, B & Ts Planning District maps and documents and the six (6) PC Workshops; a final public workshop and formal presentation will be made to the BCC for their review and acceptance.

Please see Exhibit C for the list of the letters of support. St Johns County will be coordinating with these, as well as other, governmental agencies in the strategic planning of the existing and proposed Greenways, Blueways and Trails Master Plan.

**Public Support: (limit to 500 words)**

4. Describe level of public support to date, and any plans for future public outreach and participation.

St Johns County held five (5) public hearing during the creation of the 2003 St Johns County Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan. The out reach efforts were extensive and consisted of all the large property owners, all the governmental agencies that own land in County, the Cities and Towns in the County, as well as to the surrounding Counties.

The County plans on holding a total of seven (7) Public Community Workshops (as stated above). The County out reach efforts will be very similar to the efforts made during the creation of its original 2003 Greenways, Blueways and Trails Master Plan.



**How the National Park Service Could Help:**

5. a. What are the biggest challenges and overall needs of the project? *(limit to 350 words)*  
b. What type of assistance are you seeking from National Park Service staff? Please include a short description of the specific project need(s) for each of the boxes checked. *(limit to 150 words for each box)*

- Defining project vision and goals
- Identifying and analyzing issues and opportunities
- Assessing and engaging partners and stakeholders
- Inventory and mapping of community resources
- Priority setting and consensus building
- Identifying funding sources
- Organizational development
- Designing community outreach and participation strategies
- Planning (trail, park, open space, greenway, etc.)
- Other

St Johns County biggest challenge is during these economic challenging times, the County has limited staff that can devote numerous hours to updating and expanding the 2003 Greenways, Blueways & Trails Master Plan.

Since the National Park Service (NPS) Community Assistant representative has extensive knowledge of what other communities are doing throughout the United States, the County is looking for the NPS Community Assistant representative to assist in the planning and location of the trails and trail heads, assist with the County's Community Public Workshop and provide the County with knowledge on creative funding techniques.

**EXHIBIT A**

**St Johns County's Youth Association**

Ponte Vedra Athletic Association

Creeks Athletic Association

Villages Athletic Association

Big League Development

Ancient City Soccer

Police Athletic League

St. Augustine Little League

Hastings Athletic Association

St. Johns Middle School Association

**EXHIBT B**

### **Federal, State Regional governmental organizations**

- National Park Service (NPS)
- GTM National Estuarine Reserve
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails (DEP-OG&T),
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT),
- Florida's Scenic Highway Program (FSHP),
- Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC)
- Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC)
- Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)
- St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)

### **Local Governmental Agencies and Non-profit organizations**

- City of St Augustine
- City of St Augustine Beach
- Town of Marineland
- Town of Hastings
- Flagler County
- Putnam County
- Duval County
- Conservation orientated non-profit organizations
  - East Coast Greenway Alliance
  - Friends of A1A
  - St Johns River Alliance
  - William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway (WBSH)
  - Friends of Alpine Grove



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

&  
Fort Matanzas National Monument

1 South Castillo Drive  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084  
904-829-6506

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 25, 2013

**Attn:** Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, Fl. 34233-3227

**Re:** National Park Service Community Assistance Application Letter of Support

Dear Jaime Doubek-Racine:

St. Johns County, one of the oldest counties in the state of Florida, is replete with natural, archeological, historic, recreational, cultural and scenic resources and tells a unique American story of how man from the beginning of time has interacted with the land. The County's largest City, St Augustine, was founded in 1565 and it is the oldest continuously occupied City in the Continental United States. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, the oldest masonry fort in the U.S., is located downtown. Fourteen miles south, along the Northeast Florida Blueway, lies another National Park Service site. Fort Matanzas National Monument. Both federal parks are located on the A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway, one of the County's major greenway / blueway trails.

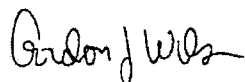
In 2003, the County adopted its first Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan interconnecting all the federal, state and local parks, cultural, historic sites, nationally designated scenic byway, state designated scenic highway, rails-to-trails corridors, designated blueways, conservation areas and ecological natural reserves with each other in an effort to provide access to its vast public land resources.

According to the St. Johns County adopted 2025 St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan, Policy A.1.20.4. the Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan shall be updated to show at a minimum all the adjacent previously approved developments trails, interconnections of these trails, dual use of the trails as well as all the federal, state and local parks, conservation lands, mitigation sites and other publicly acquired lands.

St Johns County was fortunate to be granted technical assistance from the National Park Service's River, Trails Conservation Assistance Program in the creation of the County's first Greenways, Blueways & Trails Master Plan and through this letter of support we are requesting technical assistance from the National Parks Service again to update and expand the 2013 St. Johns County Greenways, Blueways & Trails existing Master Plan.

As manager of two important nationally significant sites in St. Johns County, I enthusiastically support the effort to increase opportunity for our visitors to experience the many resources our county offers using this unique partnership system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon J. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gordon J. Wilson  
Superintendent



**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS BUILDING  
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000

RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

JENNIFER CARROLL  
LT. GOVERNOR

HERSCHEL T. VINYARD JR.  
SECRETARY

July 22, 2013

Ms. Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, Florida 34233-3227

RE: Support Letter for St. Johns County proposal to the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program

Dear Ms. Doubek-Racine:

The Office of Greenways and Trails would like to offer support for the St. Johns County proposal to the National Park Service's RTCA Program.

In 2003, in an effort to provide access to the public resources, the County, with RTCA assistance adopted its first Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan outlining a connected system of local, state and federally owned lands including parks, historic sites, rails-to-trails corridors, designated blueways, conservation areas, a nationally designated scenic byway and a state designated scenic highway. According to the St. Johns County 2025 St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan:

*Policy A.1.20.4. the Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan shall be updated to show at a minimum all the adjacent previously approved developments trails, interconnections of these trails, dual use of the trails as well as all the federal, state and local parks, conservation lands, mitigation sites and other publicly acquired lands.*

This RTCA project proposal will allow for the necessary updates to the existing St. Johns County Greenways, Blueways and Trails Master Plan.

The *Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) Plan 2013-2017* establishes priorities and defines the FGTS role to advance Florida's economy, tourism, health, alternative transportation, recreation, conservation and quality of life. Advancing the FGTS vision and priorities requires the coordination of allied programs, planning efforts and partnerships from the community to federal level. As identified in Strategy 4.6, Objective 4.6.1 of the FGTS Plan, OGT will:



Ms. Jaime Doubek-Racine

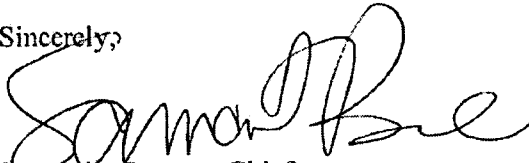
July 22, 2013

Page 2

*Work with local governments, regional planning councils, metropolitan planning organizations and the Department of Economic Opportunity to encourage adoption of greenways and trails master plans and comprehensive plan policies that recognize, support and advance the FGTS.*

We support the update of the initial St. Johns County Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan and believe that this update is consistent with the goals and objectives of OGT. This is a great opportunity to advance greenways and trails by more fully linking local and regional plans to the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha Browne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "B".

Samantha Browne, Chief  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Greenways and Trails

SB/rb



# St. Johns River Water Management District

Hans G. Tanzler III, Executive Director

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4049 Reid Street • P.O. Box 1429 • Palatka, FL 32178-1429 • (386) 329-4500  
On the Internet at [floridaswater.com](http://floridaswater.com).

July 26, 2013

Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, Fl. 34233-3227

**Re:** National Park Service Community Assistance Application Letter of Support

Dear Jaime Doubek-Racine:

The St. Johns River Water Management District has had the good fortune to work with St. Johns County for a number of years on master planning and land acquisition projects. As a governmental entity with ownership in more than 39,000 acres of public land in the County, this partnership is very important to the St. Johns River Water Management District.

In 2003, the County adopted its first Greenways, Blueways & Trails Master Plan interconnecting all the federal, state and local parks, cultural sites, nationally designated scenic byway, state designated scenic highway, rails-to-trails corridors, designated blueways, conservation areas and ecological natural reserves with each other in an effort to provide access to the vast public land resources available in the County. St Johns County was fortunate to receive grant funding for technical assistance from the National Park Service's River, Trails Conservation Assistance Program in the creation of the Plan. Through this letter of support, the St. Johns River Water Management District supports the request from St. Johns County for technical assistance from the National Park Service again to assist with the update and expansion of the 2013 St Johns County Greenways, Blueways & Trails Master Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond B. Bunton Jr.', is written over a large, stylized letter 'D'.

Raymond B. Bunton Jr., Chief  
Bureau of Real Estate Services

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**GOVERNING BOARD**

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Douglas Burnett  
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Chuck Drake  
ORLANDO

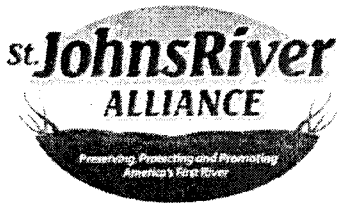
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JACKSONVILLE

Maryam H. Ghyabi, TREASURER  
ORMOND BEACH

Fred N. Roberts, Jr.  
OCALA

W. Leonard Wood  
FERNANDINA BEACH



July 18, 2013

**Officers:**

Com. Cyndi Stevenson, Chair  
*St. Johns County*  
Com. Lee Constantine, Vice-Chair  
*Seminole County*  
Mr. David Strickland, Treasurer  
*EverBank Community Bank*  
Mr. Clay Henderson, Secretary  
*Holland & Knight*  
Council Mem. Pat Northey, AtLarge  
*Volusia County*

**Board Members:**

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*Brevard County*  
Com. Chereese Stewart  
*Clay County*  
Mayor Alvin Brown  
*City of Jacksonville*  
Com. Wesley Davis  
*Indian River County*  
Com. Welton Cadwell  
*Lake County*  
Mayor Teresa Jacobs  
*Orange County*  
Com. Nancy Harris  
*Putnam County*  
Com. Brenda Carey  
*Seminole County*  
Mr. Hugh Harting, Jr.  
*East Central Florida Reg. Council*  
Mr. Brian Teeple  
*Northeast Florida Reg. Council*  
Mr. Jeff Prather, Director  
*Florida DEP - Central District*  
Mr. Greg Strong, Director  
*Florida DEP - Northwest District*  
Mr. James B. Payne  
*General Cable & Citrus*  
Mr. Bill Kay  
*WV Escobedo*  
Mr. Dan Loop  
*Steward of the St. Johns*  
Miss Diagona  
*West Volusia Historical Society*  
Mr. Al Davis  
*FLA - Apopka*  
Mr. John Wilson  
*Palmer, Foley & Leland, PA*  
Mr. Jeff Dean  
*Of Counsel, Gray Robinson*  
Mr. Ken Sirosholm  
*Cyprus, Darr & Mills*  
Mr. Greg Panzner  
*Corporate Business Development*  
Mr. Robert Orland  
*St. Johns County Library*  
Miss Vanessa  
*St. Johns County*

Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, FL 34233-3227

**Re: National Park Service Community Assistance Application Letter of Support**

Dear Jaime Doubek-Racine:

The St. Johns River Alliance, a coalition of 12 counties, state and regional agencies, and river stakeholders strongly endorses St. Johns County's application for a technical assistance grant to support its Greenways, Blueways and Trails Master Plan update.

In 2003, the County adopted its first Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan interconnecting all the federal, state and local parks, cultural, historic sites, nationally designated scenic byway, state designated scenic highway, rails-to-trails corridors, designated blueways, conservation areas and ecological natural reserves with each other in an effort to provide access to its vast public land resources.

The Alliance, organized as a result of the St. Johns River's federal designation as an American Heritage River, supports eco-tourism efforts throughout the region and believes that St. Johns County's Greenway, Blueway and Trails Master Plan is integral to that effort.

Sincerely,

Mark Middlebrook  
Executive Director



Velo Fest Community Initiative  
P.O. Box 1718 St. Augustine, FL 32085  
[www.velofest.org](http://www.velofest.org)

"Working together to make St. John's County a safer place for cycling"

Our Sponsors:

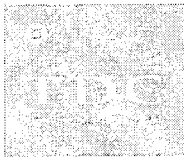
July 26, 2013



Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, Fl. 34233-3227



Re: National Park Service Community Assistance Application Letter of Support



Dear Jaime Doubek-Racine:

Velo Fest Community Initiative wants it to be known that there is a desire from the community in St. Johns County for the Greenway, Blueways, & Trails Master Plan to be updated and support our county seeking assistance from the National Park Service. Our 501 3c, founded and located in St. Johns County, has a commitment to bicycles specifically and serving the community to benefit all road users.



Through the ability of a strong working Master Plan that is current, we can pursue measures that will support the continued health of the trails and identify needs, both current and for future use. Velo Fest Community Initiative, with our strong and active group of citizens, knows that preserving the history of these spaces is both necessary and desirable.



Again, we encourage you to strongly consider supporting our uniquely beautiful county. If you have any questions please email [director@velofest.org](mailto:director@velofest.org) or call (904) 509 6895.



Sincerely,



Heather Neville  
Executive Director  
Velo Fest Community Initiative



Ride Director  
Bike Florida



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Growth Management

July 29, 2013

**Attn:** Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, Fl. 34233-3227

**Re:** National Park Service Community Assistance Application Letter of Support

Dear Jaime Doubek-Racine:

In 2003, through the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program's technical assistance award, St. Johns County created its first award winning Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan. Because St. Johns County is one of the oldest counties in the state of Florida, it is replete with natural, archeological, historic, recreational, cultural and scenic resources and tells a unique American story. There are two (2) National Parks located in St. Johns County: Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and Fort Matanzas.

The 2003 Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan interconnects all the federal, state, regional and local parks, cultural, historic sites, national and state designated scenic byway/highways, rails-to-trails corridors, blueway trails, conservation areas and ecological natural reserves with one other in an effort to communicate our unique American story and provide access to the County's vast public land resources.

Today, as directed by the County's adopted 2025 adopted Comprehensive Plan (specifically Policy A.1.20.4.) and the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, we are looking forward to updating and expanding the St. Johns County Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan into four (4) Planning District maps and documents.

In the past, the County was fortunate enough to receive technical assistance from the National Parks Service's River, Trails Conservation Assistance Program and today through this letter of support and our application. The County once again requests technical assistance from the National Parks Service to update and expansion the St. Johns County Greenways, Blueways & Trails existing Master Plan.

We look forward to working with the National Parks Service in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Konchan".

Suzanne Konchan, AICP  
St. Johns County Growth Management Director



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Parks & Recreation Department

July 25, 2013

**Attn:** Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, Fl. 34233-3227

**Re:** National Park Service Community Assistance Application Letter of Support

Dear Jaime Doubek-Racine:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of St. Johns County for technical assistance from the National Park Service in updating our St. Johns County Blueways, Greenways and Trails Master Plan. In 2003, the County adopted its first Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan interconnecting all the federal, state and local parks, cultural, historic sites, nationally designated scenic byway, state designated scenic highway, rails-to-trails corridors, designated blueways, conservation areas and ecological natural reserves with each other in an effort to provide access to its vast public land resources.

St Johns County was granted technical assistance from the National Parks Service's River, Trails Conservation Assistance Program in the creation of the County's first Greenways, Blueways & Trails Master Plan and through this letter of support we are requesting the invaluable technical assistance from the National Parks Service again to update and expansion the 2013 St Johns County Greenways, Blueways & Trails existing Master Plan.

As the Director of the St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department I would like to see the 2003 St Johns County Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan updated and expanded because of the recent completion of several major trail systems throughout St. Johns County and the public access afforded to our users. There has been tremendous momentum for safe and accessible routes to our blueways, greenways and trails lately and now is the opportune time to move forward with updating and improving our map. We are hoping that we can partner with you to accomplish this task that will benefit all who enjoy our trails in St. Johns County

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.C. Smith".

William C. Smith, Director  
St. Johns County Recreation and Parks Department



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

County Commission Office

July 26, 2013

**Attn:** Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, Fl. 34233-3227

**Re:** National Park Service Community Assistance Application Letter of Support

Dear Jaime Doubek-Racine:

St. Johns County, one of the oldest counties in the state of Florida, is replete with natural, archeological, historic, recreational, cultural and scenic resources and tells a unique American story of how man from the beginning of time has interacted with the land. The County's largest City, St Augustine was founded in 1565 and it is the oldest continuously occupied City in the United States. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, one of the oldest massive Spanish fortress, is strategically located in the downtown and lying south along the Northeast Florida Blueway lies the another National Park Fort Matanzas National Monument both of which protected the City from invasion during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Today, these federal parks are located on the A1A Scenic & Historic Coastal Byway, one of the County's major greenway/blueway trails.

In 2003, the County adopted its first Greenway, Blueways & Trails Master Plan interconnecting all the federal, state and local parks, cultural, historic sites, nationally designated scenic byway, state designated scenic highway, rails-to-trails corridors, designated blueways, conservation areas and ecological natural reserves with each other in an effort to provide access to its vast public land resources.

According to the St. Johns County adopted 2025 St. Johns County Comprehensive Plan, Policy A.1.20.4, the Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan shall be updated to show at a minimum all the adjacent previously approved developments trails, interconnections of these trails, dual use of the trails as well as all the federal, state and local parks, conservation lands, mitigation sites and other publicly acquired lands.

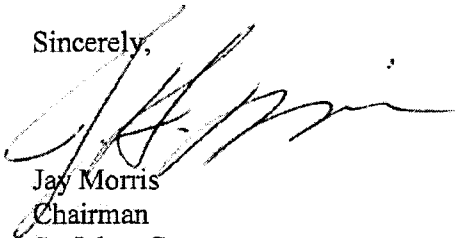
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Jamie Doubek-Racine  
July 26, 2013  
Page 2

update and expansion the 2013 St Johns County Greenways, Blueways & Trails existing Master Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of the County's request. If additional information is required please contact Vickie Renna at (904) 209-0615.

Sincerely,



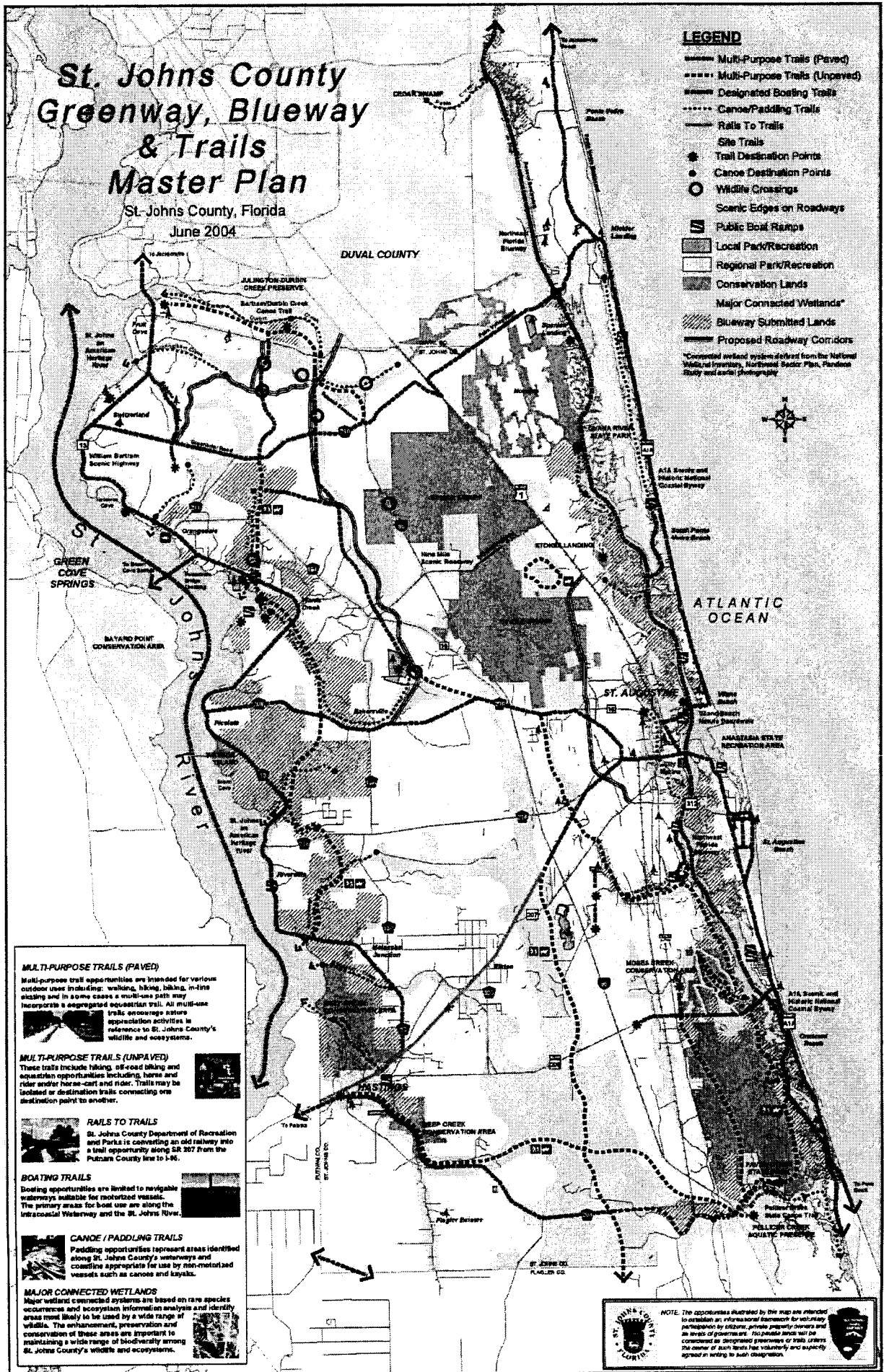
Jay Morris  
Chairman  
St. Johns County



# St. Johns County Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan

St. Johns County, Florida

June 2004



- LEGEND**
- Multi-Purpose Trails (Paved)
  - - - Multi-Purpose Trails (Unpaved)
  - ~ ~ ~ Designated Boating Trails
  - · · · · Canoe/Paddling Trails
  - Rails To Trails
  - Site Trails
  - Trail Destination Points
  - Canoe Destination Points
  - Wildlife Crossings
  - Scenic Edges on Roadways
  - ▭ Public Boat Ramps
  - ▭ Local Park/Recreation
  - ▭ Regional Park/Recreation
  - ▭ Conservation Lands
  - ▭ Major Connected Wetlands\*
  - ▨ Blueway Submitted Lands
  - ▭ Proposed Roadway Corridors
- \*Connected wetland systems derived from the National Wetland Inventory, National Sector Plan, Paudyal Study and aerial photography.

**MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS (PAVED)**  
Multi-purpose trail opportunities are intended for various outdoor user including: walking, hiking, biking, m-tire riding and in some cases a multi-use path may incorporate an equestrian trail. All multi-use trails encourage nature appreciation activities in reference to St. Johns County's wildlife and ecosystems.

**MULTI-PURPOSE TRAILS (UNPAVED)**  
These trails include hiking, off-road biking and equestrian opportunities including, horse and rider and/or horse-cart and rider. Trails may be isolated or destination trails connecting one destination point to another.

**RAILS TO TRAILS**  
St. Johns County Department of Recreation and Parks is converting an old railway into a trail opportunity along SR 207 from the Putnam County line to I-95.

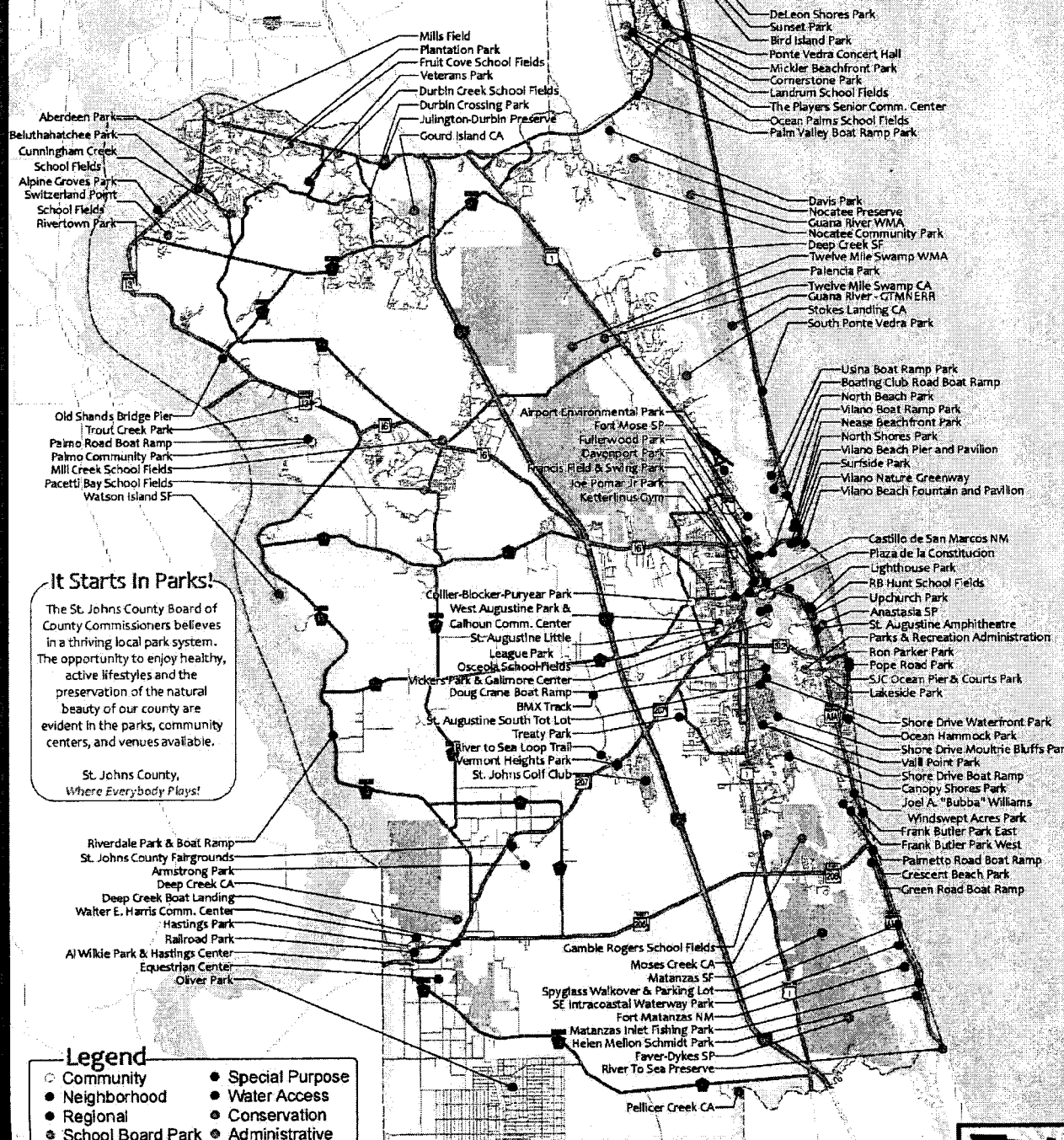
**BOATING TRAILS**  
Boating opportunities are limited to navigable waterways suitable for motorized vessels. The primary areas for boat use are along the Intracoastal Waterway and the St. Johns River.

**CANOE / PADDLING TRAILS**  
Paddling opportunities represent areas identified along St. Johns County's waterways and coastline appropriate for use by non-motorized vessels such as canoes and kayaks.

**MAJOR CONNECTED WETLANDS**  
Major wetland connected systems are based on rare species occurrence and ecosystem information analysis and identify areas most likely to be used by a wide range of wildlife. The enhancement, preservation and conservation of these areas are important to maintaining a wide range of biodiversity among St. Johns County's wildlife and ecosystems.

**NOTE:** The opportunities illustrated by this map are intended to establish an informational framework for voluntary participation by citizens, private property owners and all levels of government. No possible areas will be connected as designated greenways or trails unless the owner of such lands has voluntarily and explicitly agreed in writing to such designation.

# Public Recreational Parks, Sites & Venues Within St. Johns County



**It Starts In Parks!**

The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners believes in a thriving local park system. The opportunity to enjoy healthy, active lifestyles and the preservation of the natural beauty of our county are evident in the parks, community centers, and venues available.

St. Johns County,  
*Where Everybody Plays!*

- Legend**
- Community
  - Neighborhood
  - Regional
  - School Board Park
  - Special Purpose
  - Water Access
  - Conservation
  - Administrative

- CA - Conservation Area
- NM - National Monument
- SF - State Forest
- SP - State Park
- WMA - Wildlife Management Area

Parks & Recreation Dept  
www.sjcf.us/Recreation  
904-209-0333

St. Johns County Venues  
www.SJCvenues.com  
904-209-0367

Map Created: 11/25/2012





# St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

County Commission Office

July 26, 2013

**Attn:** Jaime Doubek-Racine  
Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program  
National Park Service  
Florida Field Office  
5342 Clark Road PMB #123  
Sarasota, Fl. 34233-3227

**Re:** National Park Service Community Assistance Application Letter of Support

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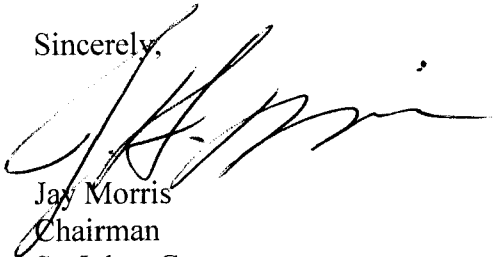
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Jamie Doubek-Racine  
July 26, 2013  
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Sincerely,



Jay Morris  
Chairman  
St. Johns County