



**What is a Greenway Trail?** “Greenway” is defined in the Florida Statutes as a linear open space established along either a natural corridor, such as a riverfront, stream valley, or ridge-line, or over land along a railroad right-of-way converted to recreational use, a canal, a scenic road, or other route; any natural or landscaped course for pedestrian or bicycle passage; an open space connector linking parks, nature reserves, cultural features, or historic sites with each other and populated areas; or local strip or linear parks designated as a parkway or greenbelt.

The major functions of a linear greenway open space are to protect and enhance the remaining natural, cultural and historical resources. These resources are vitally important to human health, well-being, aesthetic values and for maintaining functional native ecosystems. Greenways also assist in maintaining connectivity

between conservation lands, federal, state and local parks, recreational areas, historical and cultural sites and surrounding neighborhoods and communities.

Known for his walkable community concepts, planner Dan Burden stated, “ *A trail offers its users awareness of their surroundings. Trails preserve vistas. Trails preserve ecosystems, which allow natural sounds to drown out urban sounds. Trails invite touch and discovery. Trails protect and preserve fragrance. The trail experience offers users feelings of bigness and connection with the earth. Trails unfold the mystery, offer surprise, and preserve the detail. In fact, well designed trails offer the hikers, bicyclists, skaters, or other adventurers new sensations each time they are used.*”

### **What is a Blueway?**

A Blueway is a navigable waterway, including its tributaries, lying adjacent to conservation areas, federal, state and local parks, open space, environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands and uplands are used by humans and wildlife alike.

### **What are the benefits of Greenways and Blueways?**

- Provides interconnectivity between humans and natural resources, green spaces, historical/ archaeological resources, and cultural resources;
- Promotes awareness of the natural surroundings;
- Preserves and protects natural ecosystems;
- Provides ecological corridors between and among natural areas for wildlife;
- Promotes discovery, adventure and mystery;
- Promotes historical, cultural and environmental education;
- Promotes pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods and communities;
- Promotes social interaction;
- Promotes alternative modes of transportation by providing hiking, biking, boating and equestrian trails;
- Provides interconnectivity with surrounding towns, cities and counties;
- Promotes healthy physical activity;

- Promotes economic benefit to the local and regional economies
- Promotes eco-tourism;
- Promotes public/ private partnerships.