

Based upon community input and evaluation of potential greenway corridors, there are several general recommendations that the county should consider in order to provide the best recreational opportunities for its citizens. The following recommendations provide a general outline for Greenway and Blueway development, but each opportunity in the county as it is presented should be studied in detail before design or construction is considered:

Location

- Locate trail corridors in areas that limit extensive construction or major land acquisition efforts. Consider selecting sites where greenways can be accommodated in existing transportation corridors, rights-of-way, and easements or within proposed roadway corridors.
- Select sites that will have the least impact on the surrounding environment including wetlands, floodplains and significant habitats. To limit impact, paved multi-purpose paths should be limited to urban environments and unpaved multi-purpose paths should exist in more rural, natural areas.
- Provide sufficient buffers in areas where trails are parallel to the roadway or are adjacent to residential uses.

Connections

- Establish connections with existing trails, conservation areas, parks and boating facilities to promote trail use and activities. Also consider links to other facilities such as schools, community centers and any historical features that may provide a unique opportunity to users.
- Establish linear east-west and north-south greenway corridors that will help link the county's resources to one another.
- Provide connections to surrounding counties and create linkages to existing trails wherever possible.
- Establish a wetland connection system that will protect the existing environment and promote the migration of wildlife.

Acquisition

- Continue to identify easements throughout the county that can be used as connections for the Greenway and Blueway system, including utility and conservation easements.

- Consider promoting an effort with the county's major landowners, both collectively and individually, on ways to enhance and implement the Greenway and Blueway plan.
- Continue purchasing lands for conservation and preservation that can be used for trail systems, trail heads or canoe launches.

In addition to these general recommendations, several specific recommendations have been noted, as outlined in the report, that relates to trail design, trail maintenance, greenway management, comprehensive plan changes, and greenways implementation.

The existing Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan map will be updated periodically as new information becomes available (i.e., greenways are adopted as part of the new development plans and as St. Johns County GIS Department completes their own county owned land map).

Final Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan

