

The Planning Process for determining lands suitable for Greenways and for determining desires of the residents of St. Johns County involved the following steps:

- Development of GIS Base map and data layers
- Review of existing and proposed cultural, planning and environmental features
- Public workshops and meetings
- Review of Comprehensive Plan Initiatives (Please see page 6 for additional information)
- Review of previously approved DRI's (This information was incorporated on the maps)
- Review of all previously approved planning special projects (Please see pages 10 – 19 for additional information)

The following is a brief discussion and description of some of the items identified above:

Development of GIS Maps and Data Layers

The Greenway, Blueway & Trails Master Plan for St. Johns County was developed from overlaying, in a GIS format, a combination of environmentally sensitive lands (wetlands); unique habitat area for wildlife and vegetation; proposed conservation lands (Florida Forever properties); and existing protected lands and community cultural features including schools, parks and roads. During the initial stages of the project, the consultant coordinated with the County's GIS Department for the purpose of obtaining existing shapefiles and any additional information that would assist in developing the greenways master plan. The data obtained included information on existing recreation and conservation lands, wetlands, trails, wildlife areas and crossings, scenic highways and byways, existing and proposed school sites, boat ramp locations, potential county land acquisitions, historic and cultural data, Northwest Sector Plan details and recent aerial photography. The consultant also collected data from the planning department regarding approved developments and their components, including information on proposed roads, schools and greenways.

Environmental Planning, Cultural Features, and Studies

In addition to receiving GIS data from the county, the consultant collected additional information from several other sources. Data that was collected included:

- Existing and proposed Florida Forever acquisition lands
- Existing and proposed St. Johns Water Management District lands
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissions (FWCC) significant habitat areas including biodiversity "hot spots"
- Florida Natural Areas Inventory data (FNAI)
- Existing and proposed Greenway Master Plans from surrounding counties including, Flagler, Clay and Duval

The majority of data collected was in shapefile format. In cases where shapefiles could not be made available, information was digitized from hand drawn maps using ArcView. All data created throughout the master planning process followed national standards and used the following map projection parameters:

Projection: State Plane Coordinate System
Units: Feet
Datum: NAD83
Spheroid: GRS1980
Central Meridian: -81.0000
False Easting: 656166.6666
False Northing: 0.0000
Latitude of Origin: 24.3333

Once the data collection and shapefile creation process was complete, all pertinent information was incorporated into ArcView for future use, creating workshop base maps and Greenway and Blueway master plan maps.

Public Workshops and Meetings

During the planning process, three public meetings were held in January and February 2003 to solicit feedback from county residents and special interest groups. These meetings were held in the Northwest Planning District, the Northeast Planning District (Ponte Vedra) and the southern portion of the county. In addition, meetings were held with the LAMP Board and recreation providers to obtain information and identify major concerns.

Attendees of these meetings were asked to fill out an informal questionnaire identifying public interest and potential areas for greenway and blueway trails. A tabulation of questionnaire results can be found in **Appendix A**. In general, participants expressed interest in canoeing, kayaking, horse back riding, horse-cart riding, fishing, bicycling, hiking, walking, roller-blading, bird watching and general nature appreciation.

Five maps were created for the workshops identifying five different opportunities: bicycling, paddling, equestrian, multi-use and ecological. During each public meeting, attendees marked their comments and suggestions on the appropriate opportunities maps. At the completion of each meeting, shapefiles were created based on the public input and incorporated onto the maps for use at the following public meeting. Once all four meetings were complete, a composite shapefile reflecting all comments were finalized and used towards determining and evaluating the recommendations for potential greenway opportunities. The following maps and abbreviated public feedback summary reflect the comprehensive results from all four public workshops.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY
**Greenway / Blueway
Master Plan**

PLANNING FOR GREENWAYS AND BLUEWAYS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NEW MOVEMENTS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. GREENWAYS (STREAMS, RIDGE LINES, ABANDONED RAIL LINES, OR SCENIC ROADS) PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL SERVICES SUCH AS HABITAT, WATER QUALITY BENEFITS, OR SCENIC VIEWS. GREENWAYS TYPICALLY PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS FOR WALKING, HIKING, JOGGING, BICYCLING, HORSEBACK RIDING, AND OTHER ACTIVE OR PASSIVE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

QUESTIONNAIRE

IN WHAT AREA OF THE COUNTY DO YOU LIVE?

WHAT OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY?

HIKING JOGGING BIKING OFF-ROAD BIKING

HORSEBACK RIDING BIRD WATCHING FISHING

IN-LINE SKATING PADDLING NATURE APPRECIATION

OTHER _____

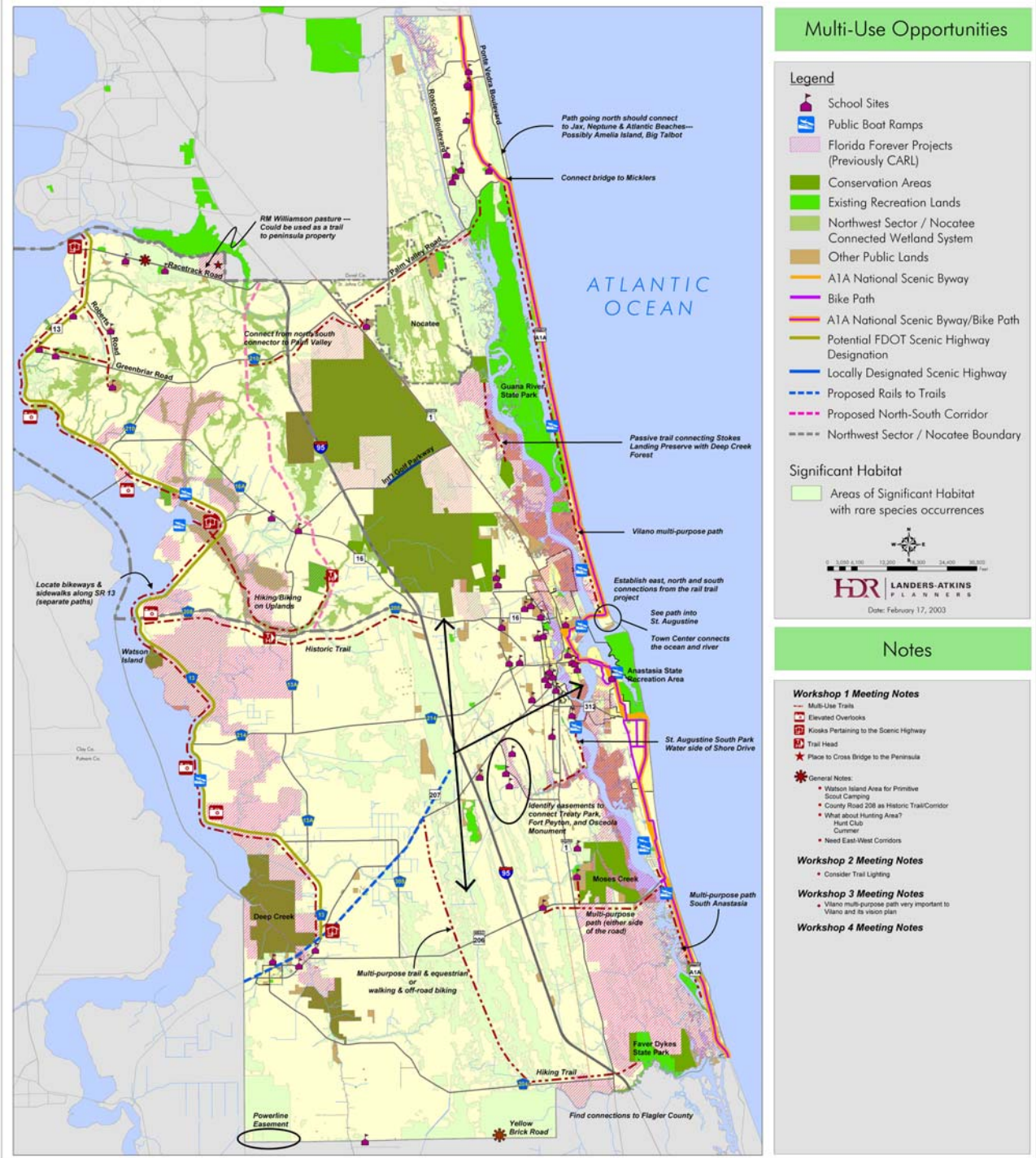
WHAT PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, TRAILS, ETC...DO YOU CURRENTLY UTILIZE IN YOUR AREA?

IDENTIFY A POTENTIAL AREA, TRAIL OR SCENIC VISTA FOR INCLUSION ON A GREENWAY/BUEWAY MASTER PLAN.

PLEASE WRITE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON BACK.

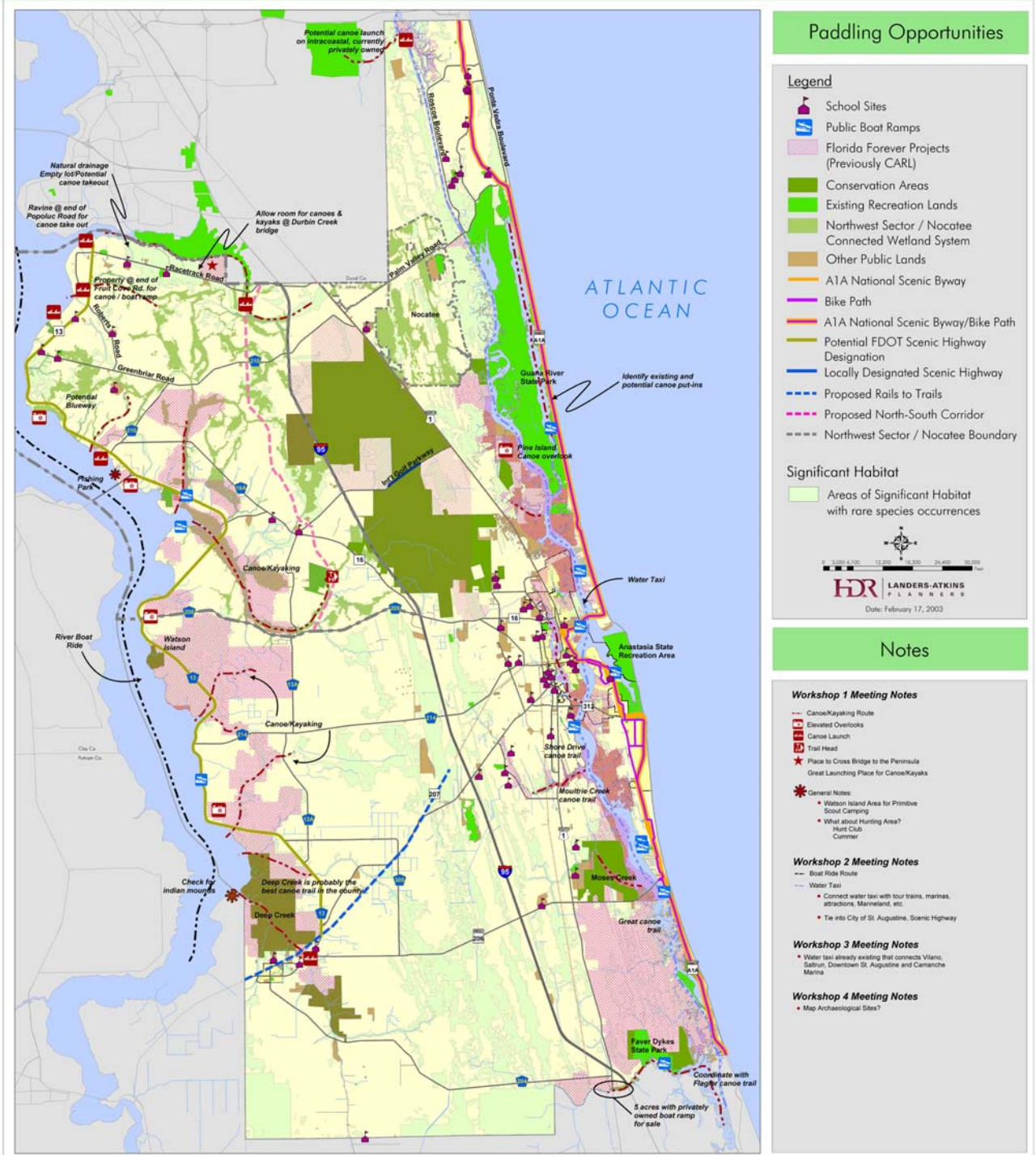
Multi-Use Opportunities

ST. JOHNS COUNTY GREENWAYS/BLUEWAYS MASTER PLAN



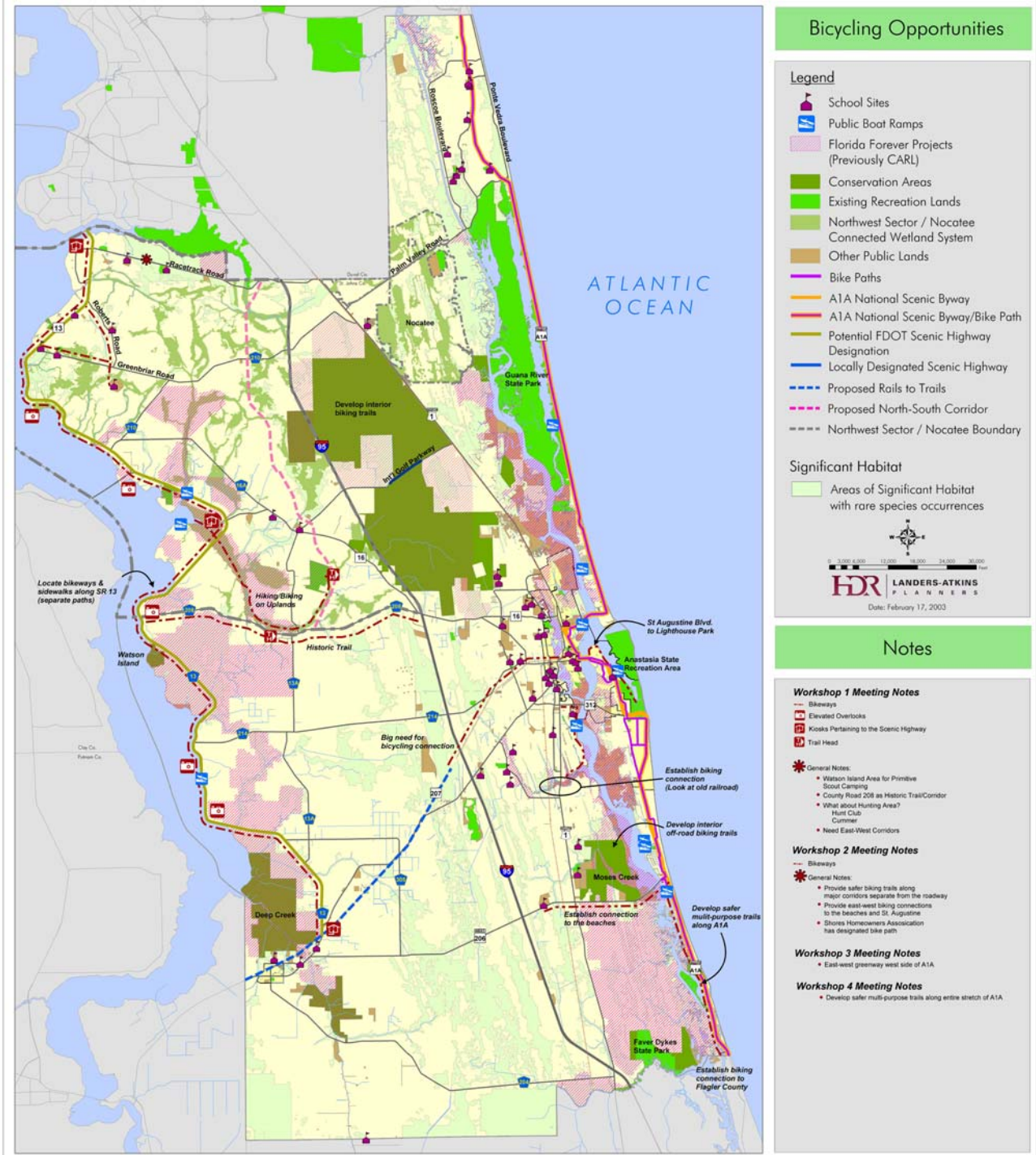
Paddling Opportunities

ST. JOHNS COUNTY GREENWAYS/BLUEWAYS MASTER PLAN



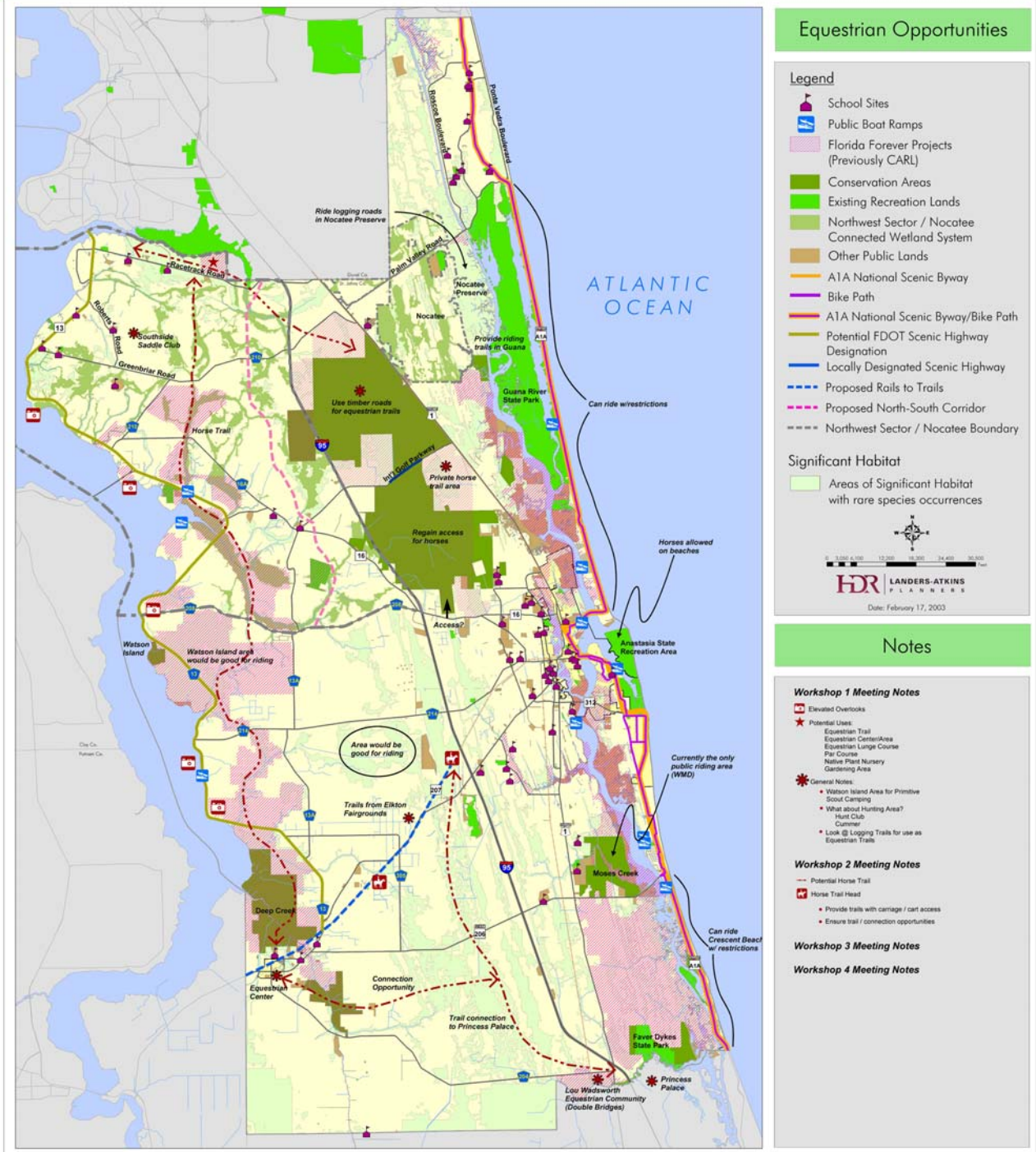
Bicycling Opportunities

ST. JOHNS COUNTY GREENWAYS/BLUEWAYS MASTER PLAN



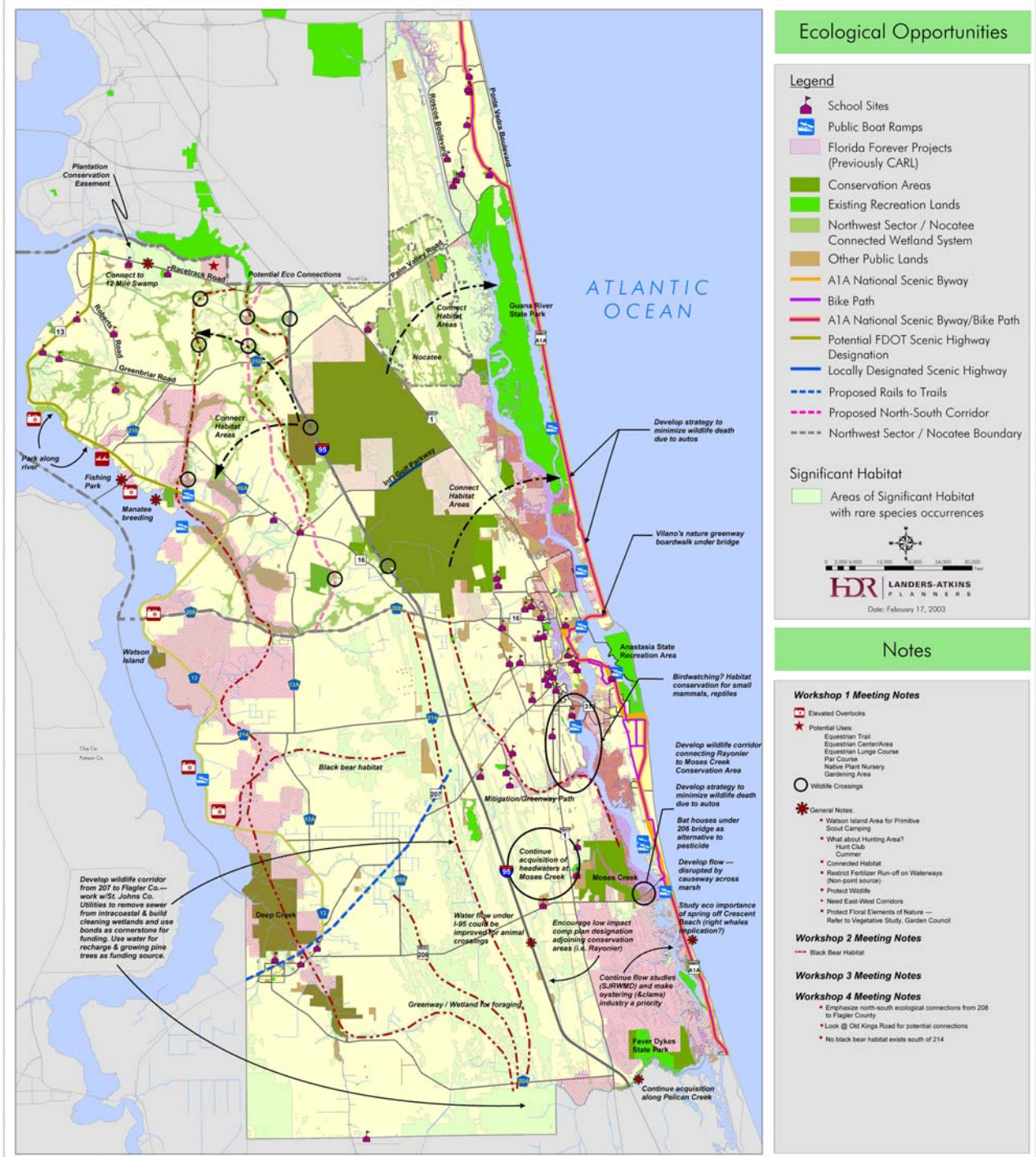
Equestrian Opportunities

ST. JOHNS COUNTY GREENWAYS/BLUEWAYS MASTER PLAN



Ecological Opportunities

ST. JOHNS COUNTY GREENWAYS/BLUEWAYS MASTER PLAN



Multi-Use Opportunities Summary

- Establish southwest and northwest connections from St. Augustine to Putnam County along the FDOT proposed rails-to-trails project.
- Develop a north-south multi-use paved connection parallel to the North-South Corridor, portions of CR 207 or CR 204.
- Establish a south multi-use unpaved connection to Flagler County and a north paved connection to Jacksonville, Neptune and Atlantic Beaches.
- Identify easements to connect Treaty Park, Fort Payton and the Osceola monument.
- Develop a multi-use paved path between the Intracoastal Waterway and Pedro Menendez High School running parallel to SR 206.
- Continue developing connections to existing multi-use paved paths including those located in Vilano Beach and St. Augustine Shores.
- Develop a multi-use paved path along Palm Valley Road between the proposed north-south corridor and Mickler's Landing.

Paddling Opportunities Summary

- Establish a canoe / paddling trail connecting Stokes Landing and Deep Creek Forest
- Designate canoeing trails along Deep Creek, Six Mile Creek, Moultrie Creek, Trout Creek, McCullough Creek and Julington-Durbin Creek.
- Identify and establish canoe launches along the Intracoastal and St. Johns River.
- Continue developing water taxi connections along the Intracoastal Waterway from Ponte Vedra to Marineland.
- Establish boat ride routes along the St. Johns River and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Bicycling Opportunities Summary

- Create separate bike paths running parallel to all major roadways.
- Provide east-west biking connections to the St. Johns County beaches and the City of St. Augustine.
- Develop safer cycling paths along SR A1A.
- Establish biking connections to surrounding counties.
- Establish a biking connection from the terminus of the rails-to-trails corridor to the City of St. Augustine.
- Create separate bike paths along SR 13.

Equestrian Opportunities Summary

- Establish an equestrian trail connection between the Hastings Equestrian Center and Princess Place and the Florida Agricultural Museum off US 1 in Flagler County.
- Provide interior riding trails at Guana River State Park and the Nocatee Preserve.
- Establish a north-south equestrian connection between Princess Palace and the Elkton Fairgrounds.
- Consider creating riding trails in the area south of CR 214 as well as the area surrounding Watson Island.
- Establish a north-south riding trail between the Hastings Equestrian Center and the Julington-Durbin Creek Preserve.
- Consider developing equestrian trails that would allow for carriage/cart access.

Ecological Opportunities Summary

- Consider developing a wildlife corridor between CR 207 and Flagler County.
- Continue land acquisition along Pellicer Creek and at the headwaters of Moses Creek.
- Encourage low impact trail designations for lands adjoining conservation areas.
- Consider establishing linear ecological corridors between Deep Creek and Julington-Durbin Creek, 12 Mile Swamp and Guana River State Park, and 12 Mile Swamp and Trout Creek Park.
- Strategically locate wildlife crossings throughout the county to minimize wildlife deaths.
- Consider creating an ecological corridor parallel to the proposed north-south corridor.