

Project Information

Biscayne - Everglades Greenway

The City of Homestead, Miami-Dade County, the Florida Office of Greenways & Trails, Biscayne and Everglades National Parks, the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service, numerous organizations, local businesses and citizens are collectively working together to develop a multi-purpose trail and greenway that will link south Miami-Dade communities with Biscayne and Everglades National Parks.

The Biscayne - Everglades Greenway will become an integral component of the South Dade Greenway Network that is overseen by the Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation Department. The Greenway will connect to a variety of other trails within the South Dade Greenway Network, including the Biscayne, Southern Glades and Everglades Trails; and will provide links to other transportation systems such as the South Miami-Dade Busway and the Biscayne Bay Blueway Boating Trail.



Draft Logo Design

A **Greenway** is a corridor of protected open space that is managed for conservation and/or recreation. These linear park systems can be found both within urban and rural areas, and can look very different, varying from community to community.

The common characteristic of a greenway is that they all lead to somewhere and typically link special natural areas or cultural and historical points of interest. **Trails** are linear corridors on land or water (blueways) providing public access for recreation or alternative modes of transportation.

Trails are located within the overall greenway system.

A local Greenway Steering Committee has been formed to oversee the planning process. The Committee is comprised of a diverse group which includes members from cycling clubs, area businesses, tourism groups, chambers, citizens and local organizations.

The project mission (as adopted by the Greenway Steering Committee) states:

The Biscayne - Everglades Greenway, linking Biscayne and Everglades National Parks with Homestead, Florida City and other communities will be a multi-purpose trail system linking area natural, cultural and historical assets of South Miami-Dade County, enhancing the quality of life for residents while offering a unique transportation alternative for national and international visitors to experience the area.

The project partners are enlisting the public's support and input for the project. If you would like to learn more about the greenway or provide input into the project please go to: www.cityofhomestead.com and look for the Biscayne - Everglades Greenway link on the homepage.



Everglades Bicycle Club

For more information



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Benefits of Greenways & Trails



Robert is Here

Recreational, Health & Wellness Benefits

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities enhance the quality of life for many individuals. Multi-use trails are great places for outdoor recreation such as hiking, cycling or equestrian uses. Multi-use pathways are great opportunities for communities to get to know one another. They offer a chance for people to get out of their homes and cars and come in contact with each other on a regular basis. Trails contribute to personal interaction, neighborhood socialization, and community unity.

Physical inactivity and unhealthy eating have a critical negative impact on health. Together, they are responsible for at least 300,000 preventable deaths each year only tobacco use causes more preventable deaths. In the U.S. between 1987 and 1998, obesity increased dramatically among adults. More than 50% of adults are now overweight or obese. Between 10%-15% of young people aged 6-17 years are now considered overweight. Regular physical activity provides short-term benefits and reduces long-term risks for disability and premature death. Moreover, physical activity need not be strenuous to be beneficial; men and women of all ages benefit from moderate physical activity, such as 30 minutes of brisk walking five or more times a week. The goal of creating a trails system will be to offer close to home recreation opportunities to reduce obesity and the chronic, lethal health problems associated with a sedentary lifestyle. (Source: *Physical Activity & Good Nutrition, Essential Elements for Good Health, At-A-Glance 2000, CDC*)

Environmental Benefits

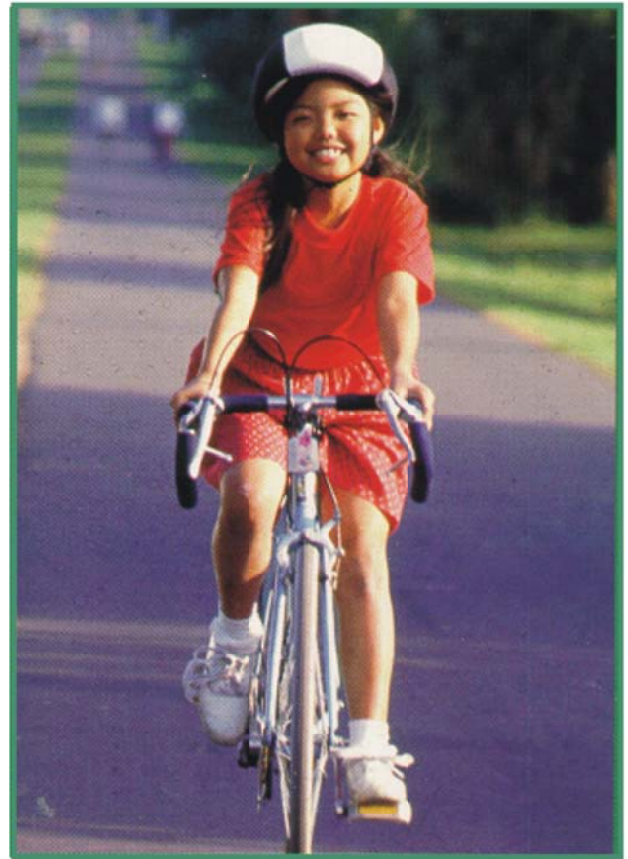
Along with on-road facilities and sidewalks, trails encourage the use of non-polluting transportation alternatives to the automobile for those short trips to work, school, or the local store. It has been estimated that, in 1991 alone, bicycling and walking trips in the U.S. replaced nearly 18 billion motor vehicle miles. These non-motorized trips saved about 850 million gallons of gasoline, which would have added 10.4 million metric tons of exhaust emission air pollution into the atmosphere. Additionally, greenways and other off-road trails also provide environmental benefits by linking existing parks, open spaces, and undeveloped lands while allowing for the preservation of the natural landscape. Such facilities are havens for flora and fauna, whether they are endangered, threatened, rare, or abundant. (Source: *NBPC Technical Brief, #2, 11/95*)

Economic Benefits

Outdoor recreation represents one of the most vigorous growth areas in the U.S. Economy. According to the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of Americans, outdoor recreation generated at least \$40 billion dollars in 1996, accounting for 768,000 full-time jobs and \$13 billion dollars in annual wages. Local trail systems encourage residents to participate in local, rather than out-of-town recreational opportunities. Dollars spent by the residents for leisure activities therefore are spent within the local economy. Florida's West Orange Trail, the average annual expenditure for clothing accessories, equipment, books, and other items as a direct result of the trail was \$190.34 per user. (Source: *The West Orange Trail, A Study of the Economic Impacts and Trail Users, June 1998*).

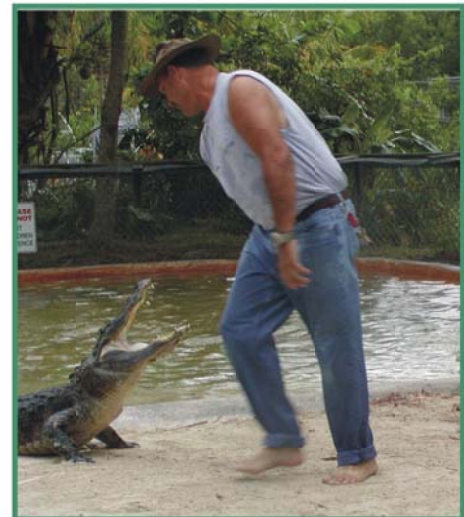
Eco-Heritage Tourism

Eco and Heritage Tourism is big business for the state of Florida and growing. Did you know in 2005, there were 85.8 million visitors to our state! 94% of those visitors will return. Did you know the number one requested information at the Florida Welcome Centers is where are the bicycling trail brochures?



Travel Trends

What other pursuits and experiences are vacationers seeking when they come to Florida? The trends indicate travel seekers need authenticity. They want to immerse themselves in regional culture and heritage as well as to experience the local flavor of the area. Their desire is to mingle with the locals, be outdoors and to experience nature and trails. 68% of those vacationers coming to Florida are pursuing nature-based activities, not including going to the beach! (Source: *Kerry Post, Visit Florida, 2006*)



Everglades Alligator Farm