



STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING

Summary of the reprioritization
of the Florida Ecological
Greenways Network plan, a
project of the Conservation Trust
for Florida

Introduction

The adoption of new base boundaries of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) plan in 2004 by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council resulted in additions to the FEGN that were not prioritized due to the fact that the first delineation of priorities preceded the boundary update. This report discusses the options for updating the Greenways Network priorities. This report is based on the first iteration of Greenways Network prioritization. For information on these efforts, please contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Office of Greenways and Trails) for the two previous reports: 1) Ecological Greenways Network Prioritization for the State of Florida (2001); 2) Identification of Critical Linkages within the FEGN (2002).

There are three primary goals of reprioritization:

1. Delineate priority classes for additions to the 2004 Greenways Network.
2. Simplify priority classes to solidify the identity of the areas most important for completing a statewide Greenways Network.
3. Determine whether any changes in priority classes are warranted especially regarding adding new Critical Linkages or expansion of existing Critical Linkages.

Conservation Plan Reprioritization

The plan was produced for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection by the departments of Urban and Regional Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Florida. The sections of this report represent the three major steps recommended to reprioritize the FEGN plan. The first step assigns priority classes to the Greenways Network additions based on the nearest and connected existing priority class. The second step combines the original priority classes 2 and 3 into one new 'priority 2' class. The final step includes all of the additional recommended changes in priority classes based on re-assessment of development pressure, logical consolidations or other edits of project boundaries, and new conservation projects relevant to protecting the high priorities within the Greenways Network. A draft set of changes were presented in a technical review meeting in August 2005. Recommendations made by the Conservation Trust for Florida and other stakeholders for modifying the draft reprioritization were the basis for the proposed priority changes discussed in this report.

The reprioritization begins with the necessary step of assimilating additions to the Greenways Network approved by the Florida Greenways and Trails Council in 2004. The additional proposed changes to the prioritization serve to simplify the prioritization, increase priority classes for some areas based on changes in project status or pressure from development, enhance the use of the highest priority ecological greenways in the planning process, and to reflect refinements in priority areas.

Online LTA Resources

A full copy of the Florida Ecological Greenways reprioritization report, including project maps along with other samples of strategic conservation materials, can be downloaded from The Learning Center, a Web resource available to Land Trust Alliance members and partners: <http://learningcenter.lta.org>

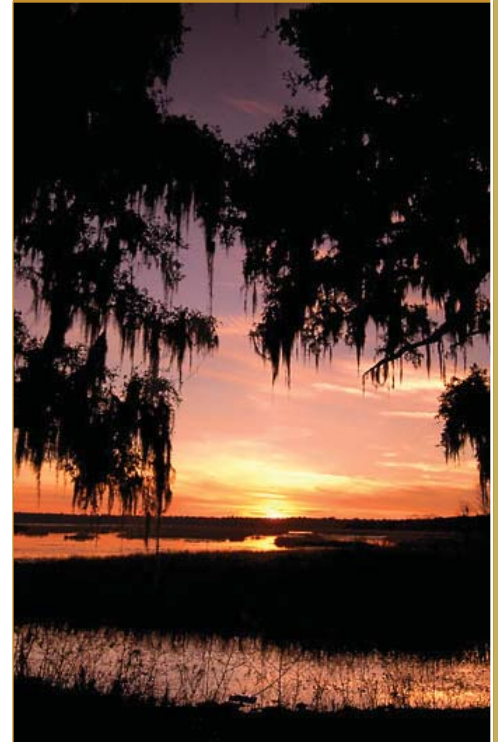


Photo: Larry Korhnak

Project area name: State of Florida
State: Florida
Project area counties: All Florida counties
Local land trust: Conservation Trust for Florida

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Figure 1: Florida ecological greenways reprioritization map

