

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

# TRAIL-GO Local Trail Management Grant

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### **TRAIL-GO Program Overview**

TRAIL-GO, the Local Trail Management Grant Program created in Chapter 2024-58, Laws of Florida, is a grant funding program administered by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT). TRAIL-GO provides grants to local governmental entities for the operation and maintenance of trails located within the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS). Links to the FGTS Land Trails and Paddling Trails are provided below. Local governments may request up to \$200,000 in funding per grant application and may submit more than one application during the submission period.

To view a **PDF** of the Florida Greenways and Trails System Priority and Opportunity corridors with the 5-mile buffer applied, <u>click here</u>. Locally managed trails that are located <u>within</u> either of these corridors identified on the map (green or brown) are eligible to apply for TRAIL-GO funding. If you prefer to download a **shapefile** of the corridors, you may do so <u>here</u>. A shapefile is also available for the Florida Wildlife Corridor, downloadable <u>here</u>.

### **Eligible TRAIL-GO Projects**

Trail projects **MUST** be located within the FGTS to be eligible for grant funding under TRAIL-GO.

A local government may only use TRAIL-GO grant funds for the operation and maintenance of trails, including, but not limited to:

- Purchase of equipment and capital assets.
- Funding of necessary repairs to ensure the safety of trail users.
- Other necessary maintenance, such as pressure washing, bush pruning and clearing debris.
- Local governments may **NOT** use TRAIL-GO grant funds for the planning, design, or construction of trails.

Examples of eligible TRAIL-GO projects can be found here.

### **Grant Application Process**

The TRAIL-GO Grant Application Cycle will be held from August 1-31, 2024.

Applicants must submit a complete TRAIL-GO Grant Application through <u>DEP's Grantee Portal</u>. The Portal will open at 8:00 a.m. EDT on August 1, 2024, and will close at 5:00 p.m. EDT on August 31, 2024. Incomplete applications or applications submitted after 5:00 p.m. will not be considered.

For assistance using DEP's Grantee Portal, contact Zachariah Robinson, OGT Grant Coordinator, by email at <u>Zachariah.Robinson@FloridaDEP.gov</u> or by phone at 850-245-2052.

DEP will announce future TRAIL-GO grant application cycles in the Florida Administrative Register prior to each cycle. The application period will last thirty (30) days or for the time period specified in the announcement.

TRAIL-GO grant funding will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, with priority being given to applications in the below referenced categories:

- A local government that provides cost share for the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the trails (except for trails within fiscally constrained counties or rural areas of opportunity).
- Trails within fiscally constrained counties or rural areas of opportunity.
- Trails within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

OGT will evaluate each eligible application and determine if it meets the requirements for priority level. Those given priority will be sorted by date and time of receipt and recommended for funding in that order. Those not meeting the priority requirements will be sorted by date and time of receipt and recommended for funding in that order, after the priority projects have been funded.

Based on this evaluation, OGT will prepare and submit a recommendation to the Director of the Division of Recreation and Parks for funding consideration. Grant awards are contingent upon appropriation by the Florida Legislature.

### **Webinars**

OGT will be hosting four informational webinars to share more about TRAIL-GO and answer questions. All webinars will cover the same information. <u>Click here to register.</u>

- July 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. EDT
- July 18, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. EDT
- July 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. EDT
- July 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. EDT

<u>Trail-Go Overview presentation</u>

#### Resources



## STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Local Trail Management Grant Program Application

### 1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of Applicant: Seminole County Board of County Commissioners

**Contact:** Amanda Hamer

### 2. Project Information

Name of Trail: Cross Seminole Trail

**Project Type:** Maintenance

### 3. Project Location

Street Address: 1101 East 1st Street

City: Sanford County: Seminole

The Local Trail Management Grant Program is created to assist local governments with costs associated with the operation and maintenance of trails within the Florida Greenways and Trails System.

### 4. IS THE TRAIL LOCATED WITHIN THE FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS SYSTEM?

If Yes, submit a map of the project area providing a description and sketch of the project area boundaries.

Trail Florida Greenways: Yes

The department shall give priority to each of the following: • A local government that provides cost share for the costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the trails (except for trails within fiscally constrained counties or rural areas of opportunity). • Trails within fiscally constrained counties or rural areas of opportunity • Trails within the Florida Wildlife Corridor as defined in s. 259.1055.

### 5. WILL THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDE A COST SHARE FOR THIS PROJECT?

Local Cost Share: Yes

If Yes, provide the cost share amount in the Financial Information section below.

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### 6. IS THE PROJECT WITHIN THE RURAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY (RAO)?

**Rao Identify:** 

### 7. IS THE TRAIL LOCATED WITHIN THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

Florida Wildlife Corridor:No

If Yes, submit a boundary map of the trail project with the Florida Wildlife Corridor identified on the map

### 8. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:

A local government may not use grant funds for planning, design, or construction of trails.

A local government may only use grant funds for the operation and maintenance of trails. Operation and maintenance of trails, includes, but is not limited to:

purchase of equipment and capital assets;

Funding of necessary repairs to ensure the safety of trail users; and

necessary maintenance, such as pressure washing, bush pruning, and clearing debris.

Provide a brief description of how funding for the trail project will be utilized. You may select more than one. Include funding request amount for each item selected

The applicant will purchase equipment and or capital assets.

**Equipment Capital:**\$0.00

The applicant will fund necessary repairs to ensure the safety of trail users

**Repairs:**\$548,400.00

The applicant will fund necessary maintenance, such as pressure washing, bush pruning, and clearing debris.

Maintenance: \$0.00

**Other:**\$0.00

#### 9. FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

A. Local Trail Management Grant Funds Requested(State Share)

**State Share:** \$200,000.00

**B.** Local Funds Available: (Grantee Share - not required)

Cash:\$348,400.00

**In Kind:**\$0.00

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The TRAIL-GO program receives \$4 million annually contingent upon legislative appropriation. Individual applications are limited to the request amount of \$200,000. Applicants may submit more than one application during the submission period.

### **Upload**

### **Uploaded Files**

Title	File Type	Created
Cross Seminole Trail_Maps	IZIP	8/5/2024 10:25 AM

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### **Submittal**

#### **Grantee's Certification Statement**

By signing this Statement page, the undersigned certifies that:

- 1. This application is in all respects fair and submitted in good faith without collusion or fraud;
- 2.If selected through this application process,the recipient will work in good faith and in partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection to manage its subcontractors in a timely and accurate manner:
- 3. Any funds awarded as a result of this application process will not be used as matching funds to apply for or receive other state funds without departmental review and approval;
- 4. The undersigned has full authority to bind the applicant.

The selection of the checkbox below acts as your signature.

### **Grantee's Authorized Signer's Name**

Please see the certification statements above and ensure you have entere a value for each indicated required field or section in your application. Once all fields are complete, click the checkbox to agree to the certification statements and select "Submit" below

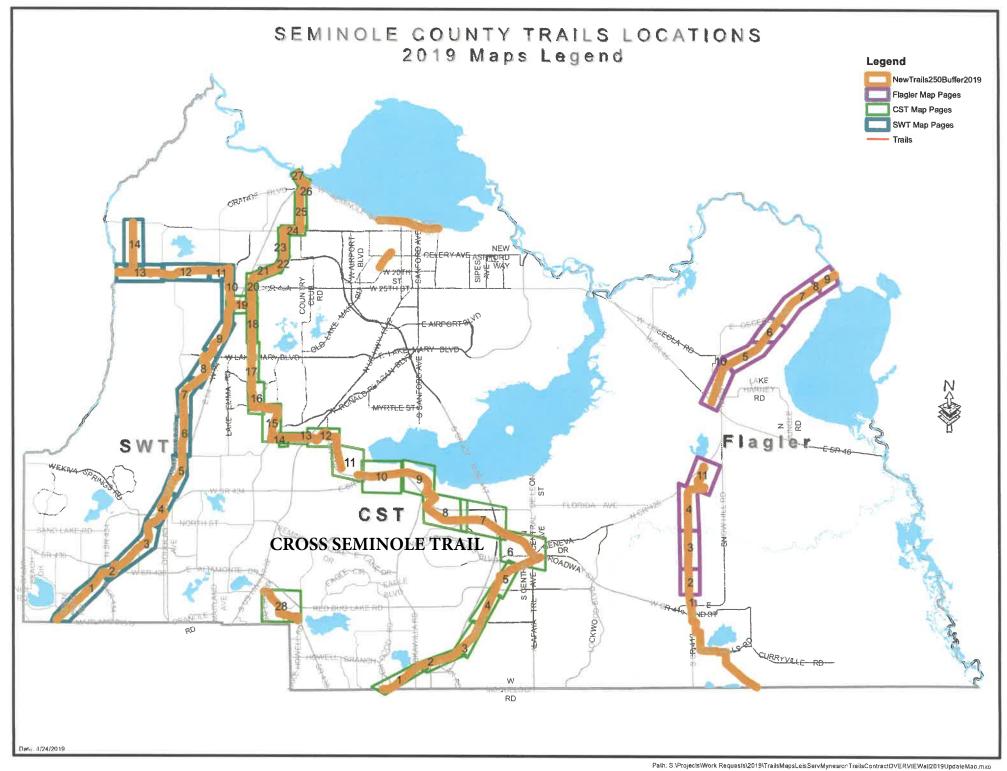
**Certification Agreement:** 

Signature: Darren Gray

Signature Title: County Manager

Signature Date:8/5/2024

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Seminole County, in Central Florida, boasts a variety of recreational trails that connect parks and communities while showcasing natural beauty. One of the longest, the Cross Seminole Trail, part of the Florida Greenways and Trails System, is in urgent need of maintenance. Since 2019, the Seminole County Parks and Recreation Department has been planning improvements for safety and usability. An RFP was issued in early 2024, and a bid was chosen, but repairs have been delayed due to funding issues.

The selected contractor will begin at one end of the trail and carry out a range of repairs, including sod replacement, clean fill dirt application, concrete work, asphalt repair, base repair, road replacement, and patch work along the entire trail. The northern terminus is just south of the St. John's River at the Lake Monroe bridge (28.837201, -81.324648), and the southern terminus is just north of Aloma Avenue and Goldenrod Park (28.61167, -81.281911). The trail connects to the Spring to Spring Gemini Trail in Volusia County at the northern end and the Cady Way Trail in Orange County at the southern end. On the map of the trail above, repairs will be affected on sections 1 – 27 on the Cross Seminole Trail.

The project is estimated to cost \$548,400, with Seminole County requesting \$200,000 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and providing \$348,400 in county funds. Work will begin once an agreement with FDEP is reached, with an anticipated completion date of May 2025, assuming a start in October 2024.