

101: Florida Trail

**Florida Trail Manual**

The intent of this manual is to serve as a guide for volunteer roles, trail development, trail construction, and trail maintenance for the Florida Trail and the Florida Trail System.

**The Florida Trail’s Most Valuable Resource: Volunteers!**

From the Big Cypress to Fort Pickens the Trail can be very different. In places it is a very primitive single track footpath while elsewhere it is on a dike or wide pavement. In multiple locations the path remains on road shoulders. Yes, much has been accomplished in forty plus years but much is left to do! The Trail is a work in process. While closing current gaps is, and will continue to be, a priority, searching for the optimal location for all trail segments should never cease.

Advocating for the Trail, identifying new routing opportunities and in many instances influencing doors to open is a vital function for Florida Trail Association (FTA) volunteers. Local volunteers working on the Trail are wonderful, but those that work with an eye to the future of the Trail are GOLDEN! Volunteering for the Florida Trail includes being at the local, state and federal tables when long term and local management plans are being developed. If FTA volunteers are not there to advocate for a woodlands trail those with very different visions will prevail.

FTA volunteers are building and maintaining a legacy that is the **Florida Trail**, but individually can only secure a small piece of that legacy. We share it with those very committed FTA volunteers who came before us and we build on their accomplishments.

Trail work is important but recruiting like-minded individuals to carry that legacy into the future is essential.

**The Three Legs of the Florida Trail Partnership**

