



## Florida Department of Environmental Protection

### TRAIL-GO

#### The Local Trail Management Grant

#### Frequently Asked Questions

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### WHAT IS TRAIL-GO AND HOW IS IT ADMINISTERED?

TRAIL-GO the Local Trail Management Grant is a competitive program which provides grants to local governmental entities for the operation and maintenance of **trails located within the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS)**. A map of the FGTS is located [here](#). The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) administers TRAIL-GO.

### WHO MAY APPLY FOR TRAIL-GO FUNDS?

Local governments in the State of Florida

### WHO IS PRIORITY GIVEN TO?

DEP will evaluate the applications and will 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, and
- Trails within the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

### HOW DO I APPLY?

Applicants must submit a completed TRAIL-GO Grant Application during the announced submission period, **AUGUST 1 – 31, 2024**. The Department will announce the application submission period in the Florida Administrative Register prior to each cycle. Application period will be open for thirty (30) days or by the deadline in the announcement.

**TRAIL-GO Grant Applications must be submitted through DEP's Grantee Portal (Portal) at <https://fdep.force.com/grants/s/>.** The Portal will not accept any applications submitted after 5:00 p.m. EDT on August 31, 2024. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicant **must** upload proof from the local government that the person submitting the application has the authority to apply for funds on behalf of the county and a letter indicating that the local government approves of the project. For assistance using DEP's Grantee Portal, contact OGT staff via email or phone 850-245-2052.

Trail project **MUST** be located within the FGTS to be eligible. Failure by an applicant to submit an application by August 31, 2024, will result in the application being declared ineligible for funding consideration during the current funding cycle. **Applications will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, with priority being given to the above referenced categories.**

**WHAT IS THE FLORIDA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS SYSTEM?** [Section 260.014, F.S.](#)

Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) is the vision of a statewide system of connected greenways and trails. A map is located [here](#).

**WHAT IS THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR? [Section 259.1055, F.S.](#)**

The Florida Wildlife Corridor means the conserved lands and opportunity areas defined as priority one, two, and three categories of the Florida Ecological Greenways Network. A map is located [here](#).

**WHAT IS THE RURAL AREA OF OPPORTUNITY? [Section 288.0656, F.S.](#)**

Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), also known as Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), means a rural community, or a region composed of rural communities, designated by the Governor, which has been adversely affected by an extraordinary economic event, severe or chronic distress, or a natural disaster or that presents a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact. A map is located [here](#).

**WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT?**

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

**WHAT CAN I USE TO MATCH A TRAIL-GO GRANT?**

Cash and In-kind Services.

**HOW ARE TRAIL-GO GRANTS AWARDED?**

OGT evaluates each eligible application and determines if they meet 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. An estimated timeframe for funding projects is located [here](#).

**DEP's performance and obligation to award program grants is contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Florida Legislature. Should the project receive funding, the grantee will have until July 1, the start of the state's fiscal year, to complete the project.**

**WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE TRAIL-GO PROGRAM?**

A local government may only use grant funds for the operation and maintenance of trails, including, but not limited to, the purchase of equipment and capital assets; the funding of necessary repairs to ensure the safety of trail users; and other necessary maintenance, such as pressure washing, bush pruning, and clearing debris. **A local government may not use grant funds for the planning, design, or construction of trails.** A list of examples of eligible TRAIL-GO projects can be found [here](#). This list is not exhaustive and is offered only to provide examples.

If questions arise while preparing the application, contact the Office of Greenways and Trails staff via email: [Zachariah.Robinson@floridadep.gov](mailto:Zachariah.Robinson@floridadep.gov) or [Britney.Mulholland@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Britney.Mulholland@FloridaDEP.gov)

### **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Use this list to make sure that all applicable and all required documentation is included. The Portal will prompt you where to upload the documents.

<b>Application Item - If Applicable</b>	<b>Label as Exhibit</b>
Location map - Submit a detailed street, road or highway map precisely locating the trail site. This map will be used to verify inclusion in the Florida Greenways and Trails System and will be used to verify inclusion in the Florida Wildlife Corridor or Rural Area of Opportunity if noted in the application.	<b>A</b>
Photographs of the Trail - Submit full color photographs of the trail for all elements listed in your application that will be impacted by this funding. These baseline photos will be used to determine progress during the funding cycle and upon project completion.	<b>B</b>
Upload proof from the local government that the person submitting the application has the authority to apply for funds on behalf of the county and a letter indicating that the local government approves of the project.	<b>C</b>