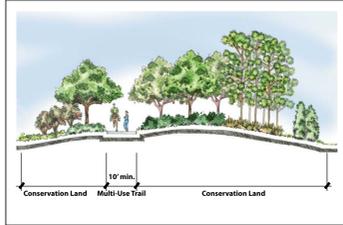
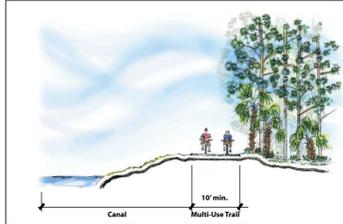


Typical Sections

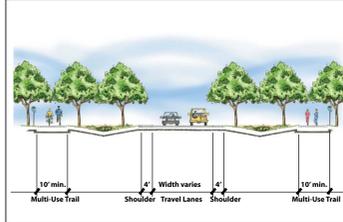
Trails adjacent to Conservation Lands



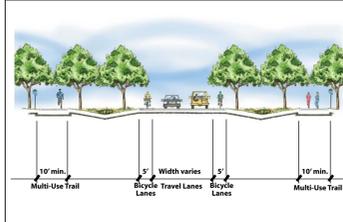
Trails in SFWMD Canal Right-of-Way



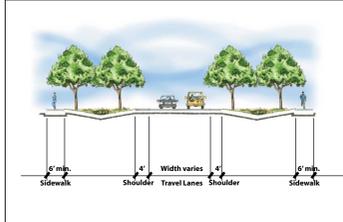
Trails along Roadways



On-Street Bicycle Lanes



Sidewalks



Trailheads/Hubs



As one of the principal objectives of this Master Plan is to connect the conservation lands of St. Lucie County's Environmentally Significant Lands program, recreationally-oriented trails through these lands are recommended throughout the western portion of the County. These trails are envisioned as unpaved trails suitable for hiking, walking and equestrian uses.

The priority of the Master Plan is to expand transportation options for non-motorized modes in addition to providing recreational opportunities, so in places these trails may complete a network of transportation-oriented pathways intended to serve bicyclists and pedestrians. In these cases, the overall recommendation for these trail types is paved surfaces that are amendable to cycling, walking and running. The use of paved surfaces should be reserved for when the trail system in urbanized areas of the County (east of Shinn Road) relies on one of these conservation land trails to complete a larger network.

This trail type recommends similar dimensions regardless of its primary use, whether that be for long-distance walking or bicycling or for equestrian purposes.

The South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) canal network through St. Lucie County provides an opportunity for trails connecting over longer distances, especially in the western portion of the county.

Typical canal rights-of-way are sufficiently wide to accommodate a multi-use trail on one side of the canal. Most of the County's canal length is currently paralleled by service roads, many of which allow the trail to be constructed within the existing stabilized area of the roadway.

It is generally intended that trails within canal rights-of-way will not be paved. West of Shinn Road, the primary focus of the County's trail system is to serve equestrian and nature-oriented activities; these trails complement the proposed network of greenways through the County's Environmentally Significant Lands. In the urbanized areas of the County where these trails pass, construction with a paved surface may serve a greater community-wide need. In these areas the appropriate surface treatment (paved or unpaved) should be chosen based on how essential a paved trail is to completing the overall network.

The Master Plan envisions trails continuing along roadways and not just in environmental lands. This not only allows users to identify their direction with understood travel patterns, it also takes advantage of existing right-of-way where it is available.

When possible in the long term, these multi-use trails should be constructed on both sides of the roadway with which they are aligned, as shown in the illustration to the left. Commitment to one trail per side increases the safety of the trail system in allowing safer passage of bicycles and pedestrians and minimizing dangerous road crossings.

This section presents similar dimensions but uses designated bicycle lanes on the roadway. Note that the roadway width may vary but proper placement of bicycle lanes is always on the outside of the outermost travel lane in each direction.

When on-street bicycle facilities are to be added, the need for off-street multi-use trails on both sides of the street becomes less important; a single two-way path of a width allowing bicycles to safely pass pedestrians should meet the needs of slower-speed cyclists who are more comfortable using an off-street facility.

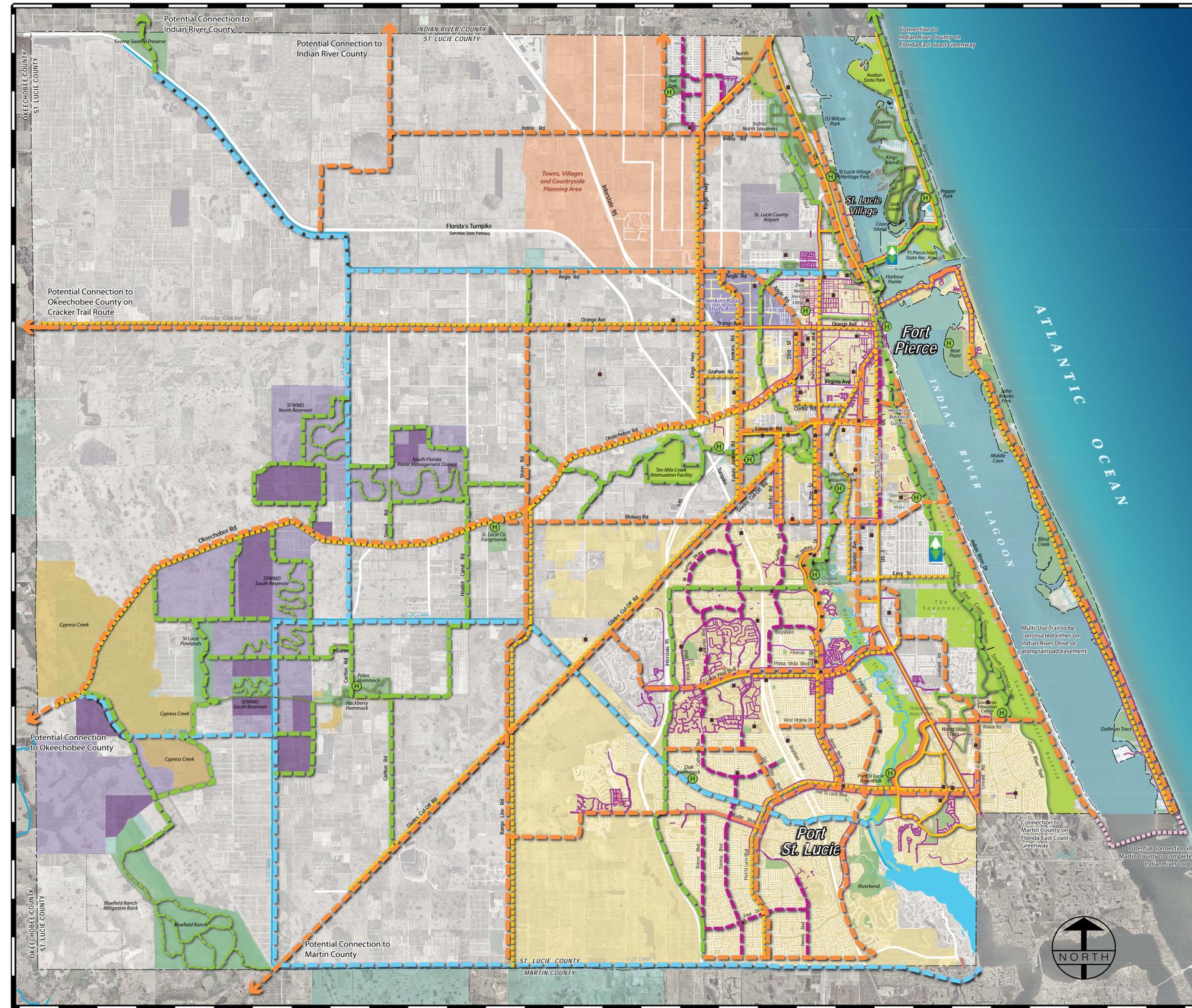
Sidewalks are the most basic element of bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. Though most of the urbanized areas of St. Lucie County are located in incorporated municipalities, the County can help to further pedestrian connectivity by committing to routes along arterial and collector roadways. At a minimum, 6-foot sidewalks should be constructed along these major roadways throughout the County.

While off-street trails allow travel for both cyclists and pedestrians, sidewalks are not facilities that should be shared. Context can help to determine where sidewalks are appropriate as opposed to trails; on streets with frequent driveway access, the placement of cyclists and pedestrians on the same off-street path presents a danger from vehicles entering and exiting driveways.

Trailheads provide convenient and functional end-of-trip facilities for users. They are the points at which paths intended for walking, cycling or equestrian uses start. Modern trailheads often contain rest rooms, sign posts and distribution centers for informational brochures about the trail and its features, and parking areas for vehicles and trailers.

The design and scale of these facilities should follow the user demand and the order of magnitude of the parts of the trail and greenway system they are serving. In this system, larger trailheads connecting different facilities and located at key points in the system are intended to serve as hubs capable of serving a broader range of user needs.

Master Plan



Countywide Bicycle, Pedestrian, Greenways and Trails Master Plan

LEGEND

SIDEWALKS/ROADWAY ELEMENTS

- Existing Sidewalks
- Proposed Sidewalks for Collectors & Arterials
- Existing On-Street Bicycle Lanes
- Proposed On-Street Bicycle Lanes

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

- Existing Nature Trails
- Proposed Greenways and Recreational Trails
- Existing Multi-Purpose Trails
- Proposed Multi-Purpose Trails
- Proposed Trails within Canal Right-of-Way

HUB FACILITIES

- Proposed Locations for Hubs/ End-of-Trip Facilities

OTHER FEATURES

- SFWMD Canals
- County Boundary
- Lands in SFWMD Ownership
- Lands Proposed for SFWMD Ownership
- City and County Parks and Acquired St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands
- Proposed St. Lucie County Environmentally Significant Lands
- State Parks
- Municipal Boundaries
- Major Water Bodies
- Sites of Schools and Educational Facilities

Map Prepared March 2008

Data Sources: St. Lucie County GIS, Florida Geographic Data Library, South Florida Water Management District, Aerial Source: AerialExpress (March 2006)

