

# Blue Run of Dunnellon Park Update



December 2015

# Aerial View of Blue Run of Dunnellon Park



# Property Acquired in 2008 with a Grant from the Florida Community Trust



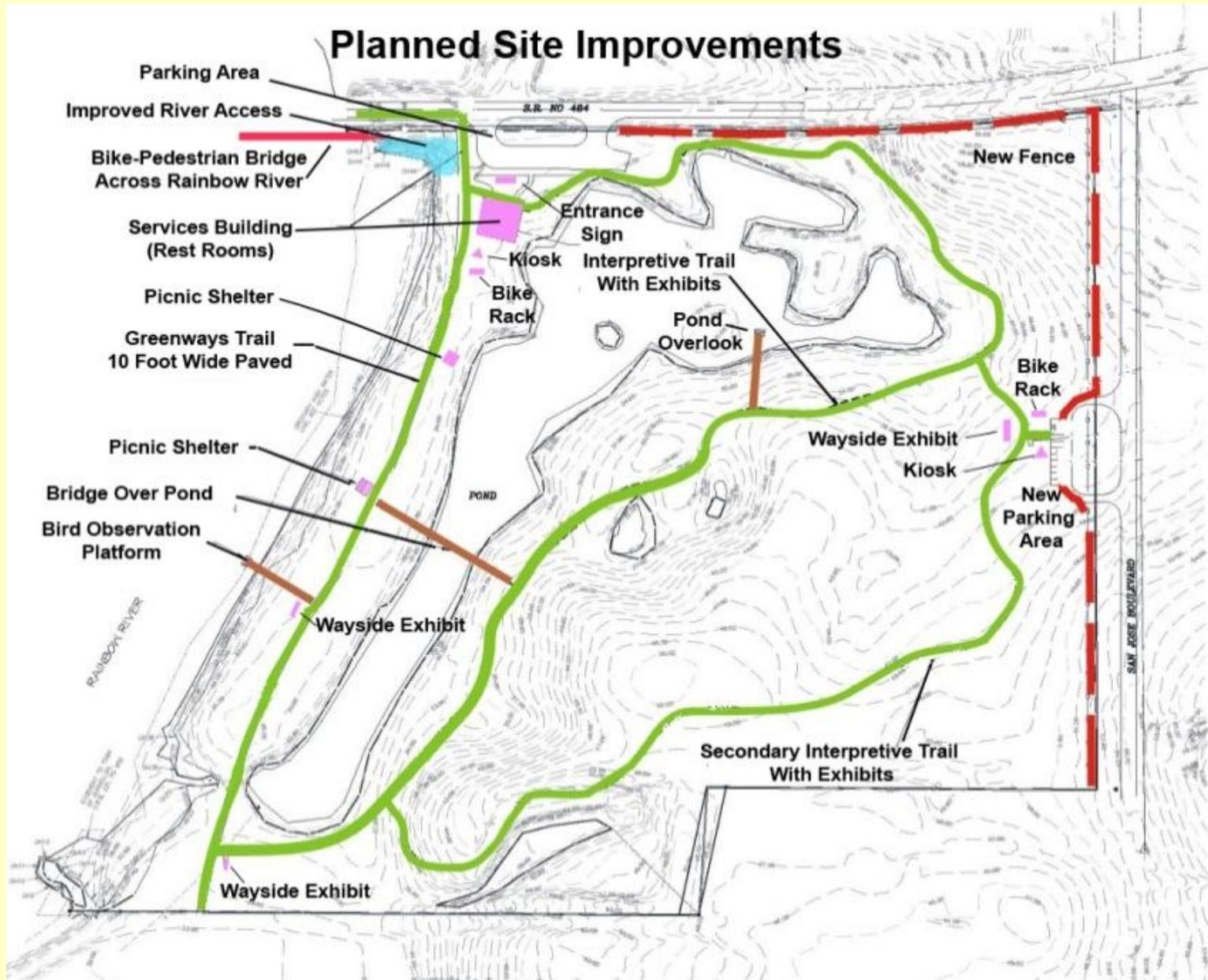
# MANAGEMENT PLAN



## **BLUE RUN OF DUNNELLON PARK** **Project No.: 07-022-FF7**

November 16, 2007

# Master Site Plan



# Improvements Include New Trails and Directional Signs



# New Fence and Park Entrances

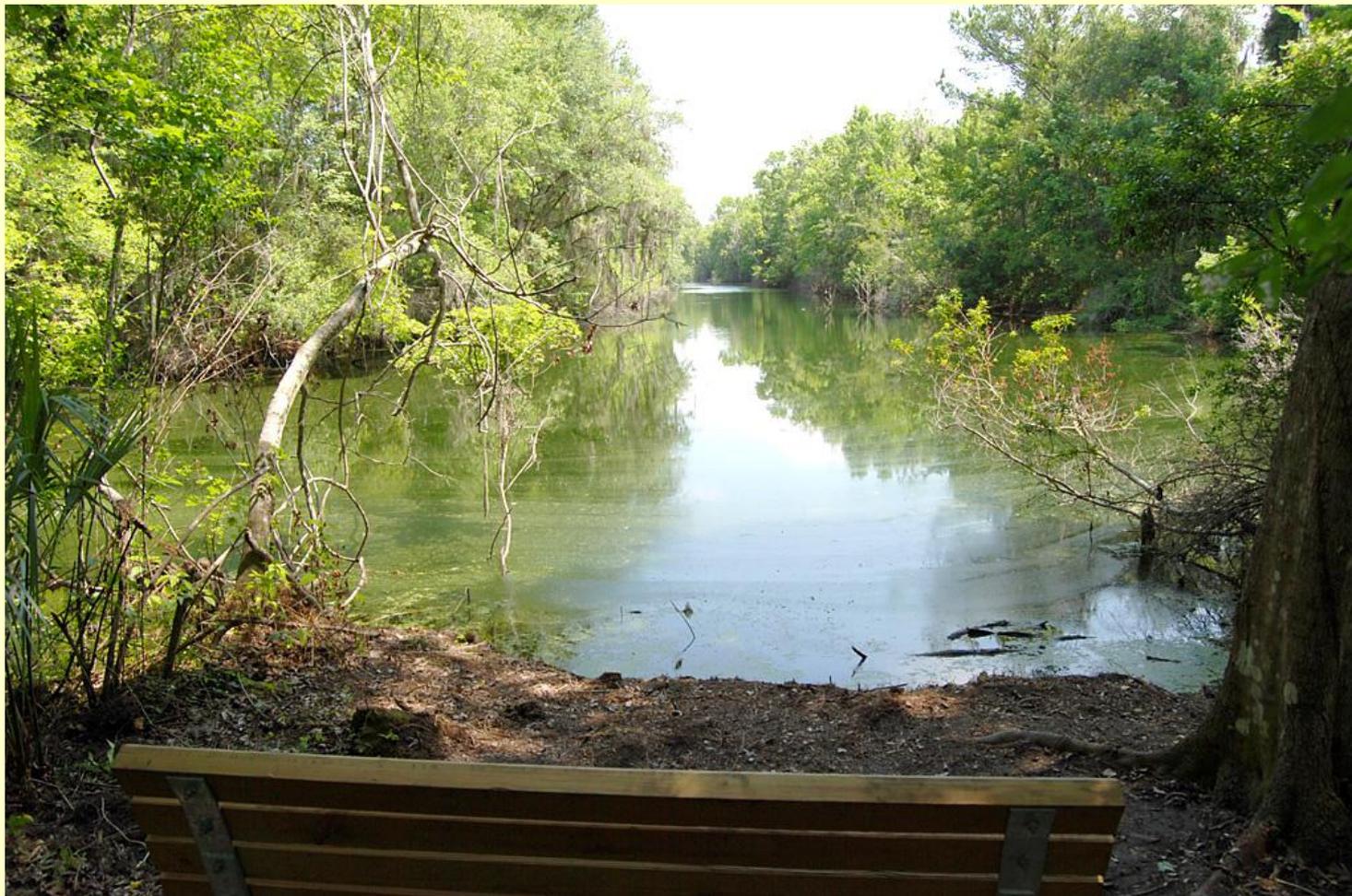


Two rail fence around park perimeter

New parking area off San Jose Blvd



# New Benches



# New Main Parking Area



# New Kayak Launch Ramp and Tuber Take Out



# Recent Park Improvements Include 24 Interpretive Signs Installed by Dunnellon High School ROTC



# Three New Memorial Benches Along the Trails

Hilton family bench on the Sand Hill Trail



Jack and Marilyn Bench at the connection of Blue Run and Dunnellon Cross Florida Trails



Mike and Rook Dennis Bench on Dunnellon Trail half way to the Withlacoochee River bridge



# New CR 484 Trail Head Kiosk with Map of Park



# New San Jose Blvd Trail Head



# New Cool Concrete Area for Staging Tubes and Kayaks



# New Bike Rack





Trista Sylvester, Park Manager

# Two Goals for Additional Park Improvements

Install a handicap accessible restroom including a drinking fountain for the comfort of the thousands of visitors that come to the park each year.



Install a pedestrian bridge over the Rainbow River so people coming from downtown Dunnellon do not have to walk on the narrow road shoulder and risk contact with car or truck traffic



Blue Run of Dunnellon Bridge Approach June 12 2015

# Blue Run of Dunnellon Park has become a focal point of the city and a hub for a wide variety of recreation

- Visitors from Dunnellon, Marion County, other area of Florida, many other states, Canada and Europe have enjoyed visiting and using Blue Run of Dunnellon Park
- It is estimated that
  - 32,000 tubers
  - 16,000 kayakers
  - 21,000 bikers and hikersused Blue Run Park in the last year.



This is a place where all ages and life styles can connect



Tubing is very popular during the warm months



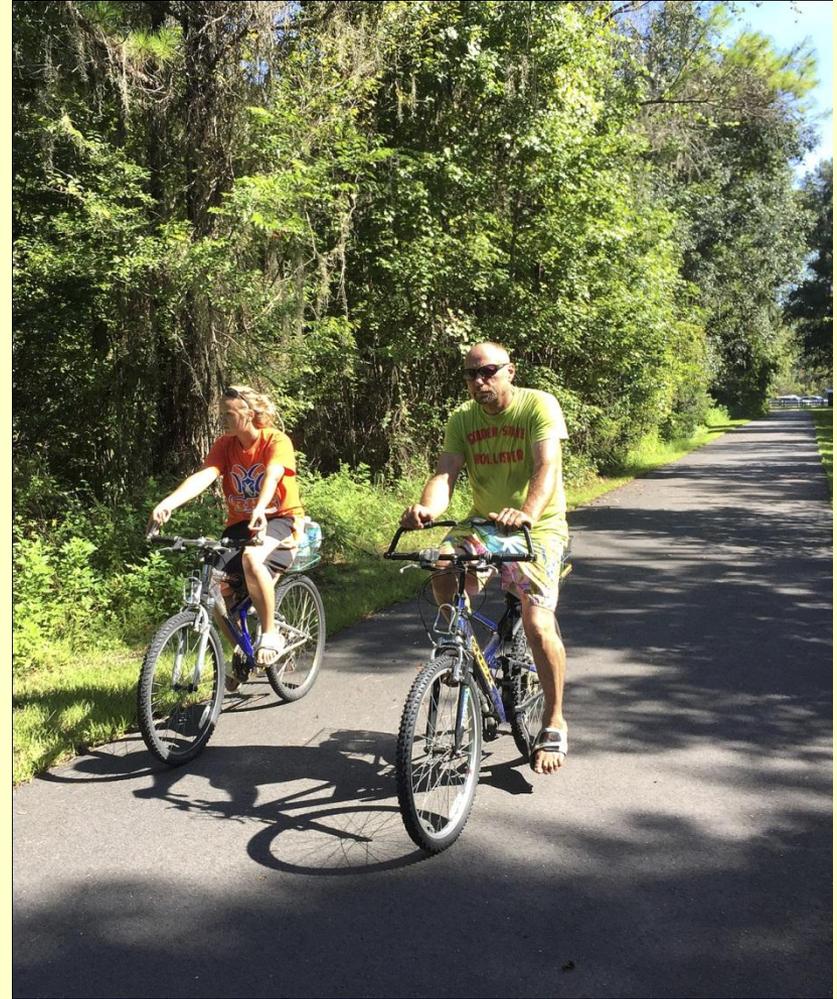
Trail is suitable for events such as a 5K Run







# New Multi-Use Trail Link to Dunnellon Trail and Withlacoochee River



# Construction of Bridge Across Withlacoochee River Key to Making Blue Run Park and Dunnellon a Major Trail Hub

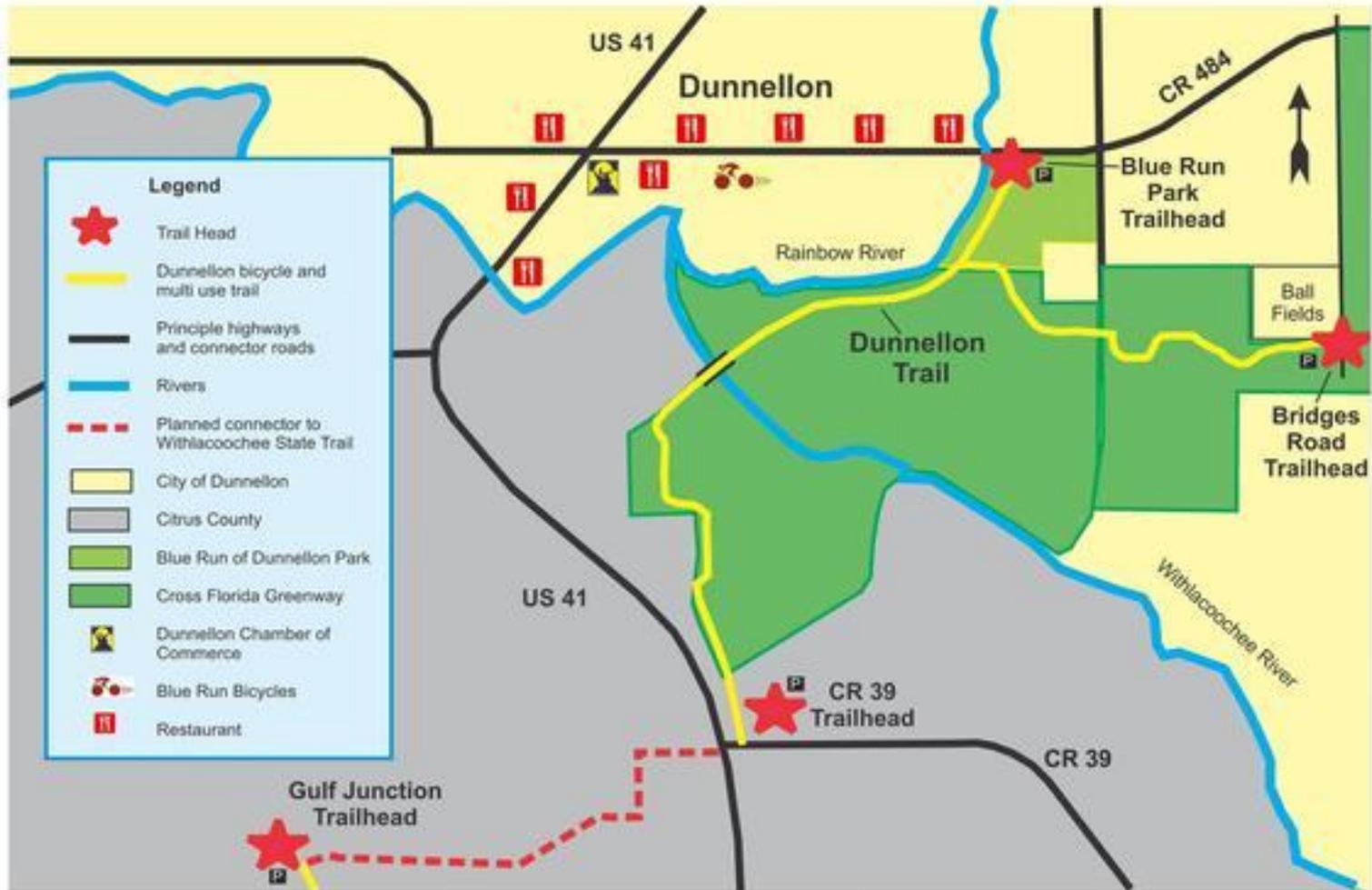






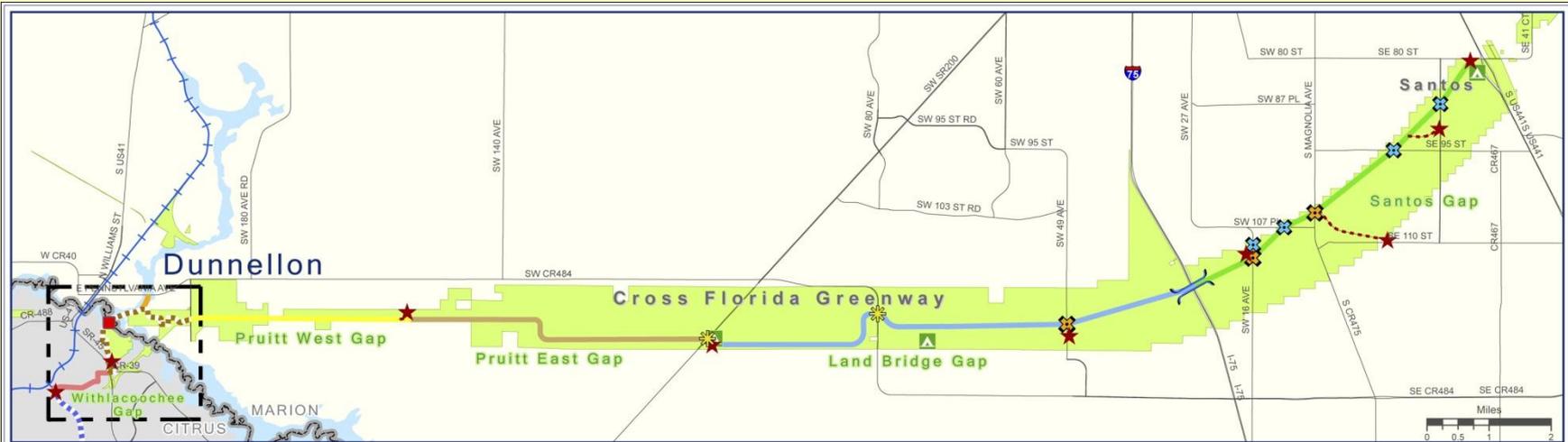
Connection of Blue Run Trail with Cross Florida Trail

# Map of the Dunnellon Trail



Presented by the Dunnellon Chamber of Commerce

gum 6/28/15



### Cross Florida Greenway Trails

#### Future Trails and Facilities

\*Conceptual Gap Alignment and Facility Placement

#### Trail Gaps (Located West to East):

- Withlacoochee Gap
- Spur to Blue Run of Dunnellon Park
- Pruitt West Gap
- Pruitt East Gap
- Land Bridge Gap
- Santos Gap

#### Connectors From Gaps to Existing Trailheads:

- - - Connector

#### Planned Facilities:

- Planned Trail Underpass

\* Final trail alignment and facility placement to be determined in design.

#### Existing Trails and Facilities

##### Existing Trails:

- - - Withlacoochee State Trail
- - - Withlacoochee Bridge Trail

##### Existing Facilities:

- Trailhead
- Withlacoochee Bridge
- I-75 Land Bridge
- Campground
- Trail Crossing
- Trail Underpass

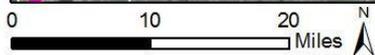
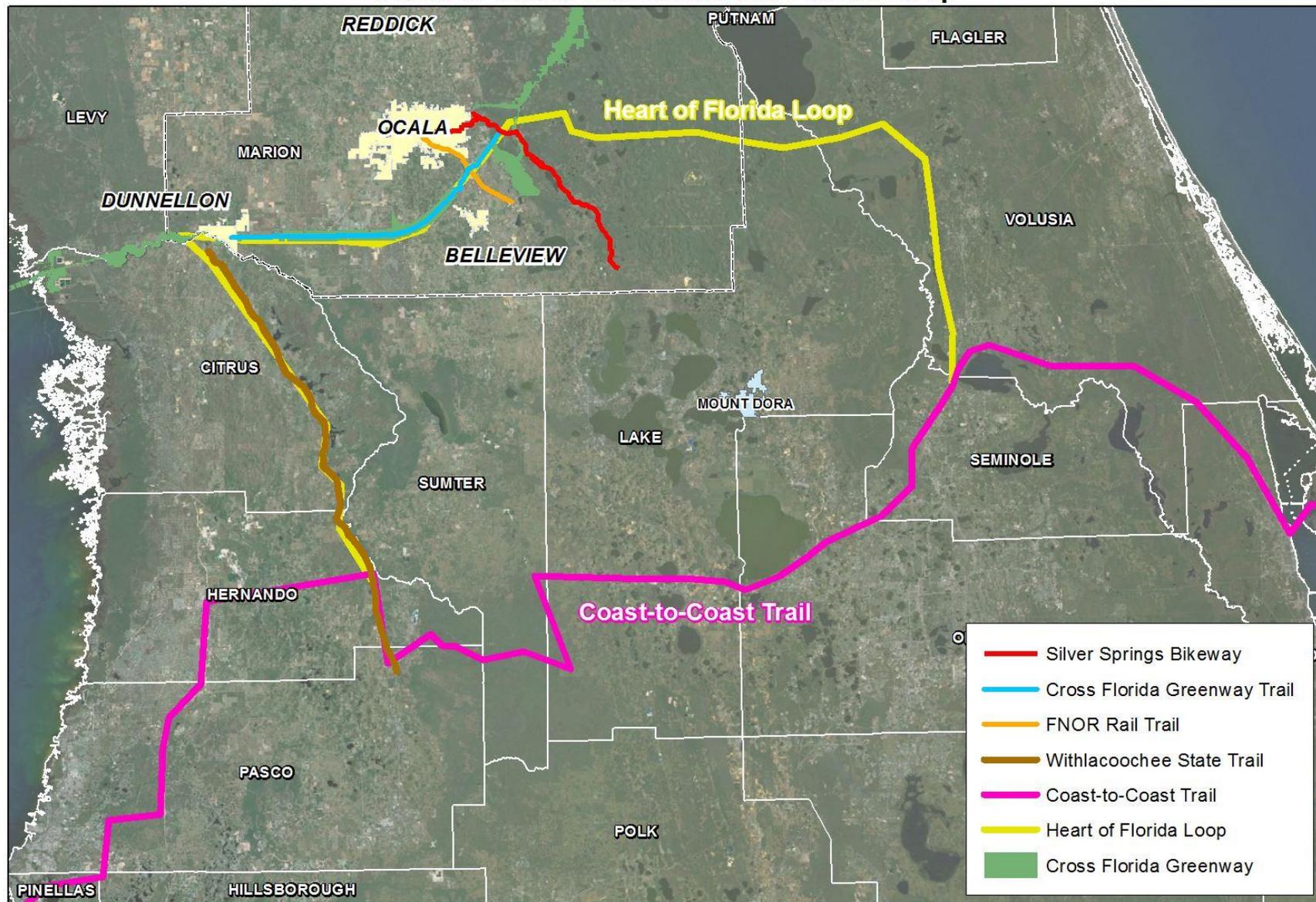


- Streets
- Railroad
- Cross Florida Greenway
- Rainbow and Withlacoochee River
- Marion County
- Citrus County
- See Inset Map



Future Cross Florida Bike Trail – Construction starting fall of 2016

# Regional Connections: Coast-to-Coast Trail & Heart of Florida Loop

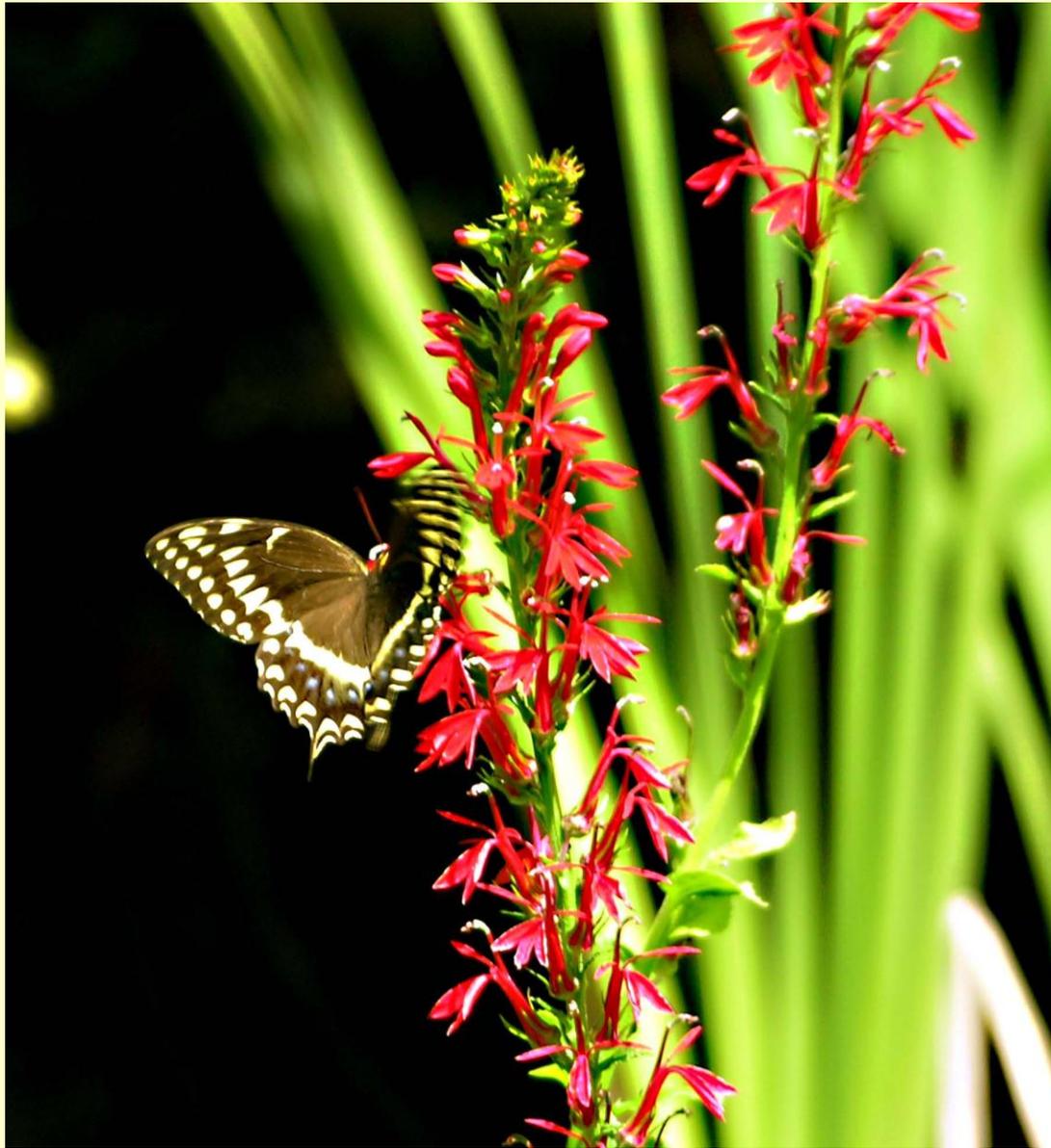


A scenic view of a river flowing through a dense forest. The water is a deep blue-green color, reflecting the sky and the surrounding trees. The foreground is dominated by lush green vegetation, including tall grasses and various shrubs. The background is a thick wall of green trees under a clear blue sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

# Natural Communities of Blue Run Park

# Spring Run





Cardinal Flower



Suwannee Cooter



American Alligator



Limpkin

# Flood Plain Forest





Bald Cypress



Willow



Groundsel Bush



Elderberry



Barred Owl

# Hydric Hammock





Cabbage Palm



Florida Elm



Southern Magnolia



Piliated Woodpecker



White-tailed deer

# Mixed Upland Forest





## Hickory

Hickories are valuable hardwood trees. The nuts are a popular food for wildlife as well as man. The wood is tough and strong and is used for a variety of purposes. The leaves are compound with 5-11 leaflets. Hickories often hybridize in the wild resulting in a variety of trees that are sometimes difficult to identify.





Sweet Gum



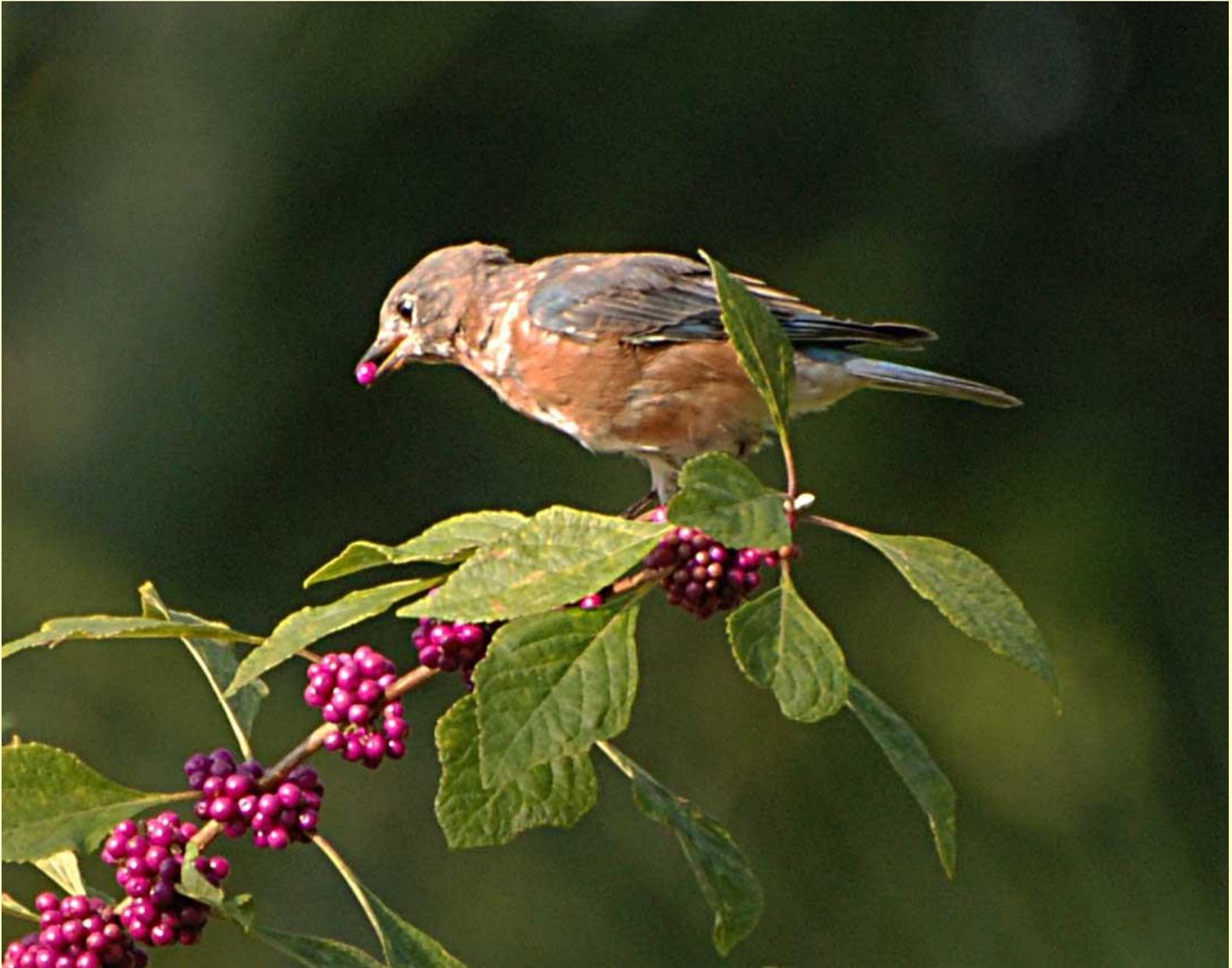
Mulberry



Slash Pine



Saw Palmetto



Beautyberry



Red-shouldered Hawk

# Sandhill





## Turkey Oak

The turkey oak is common on sandy ridges, often found together with pines. The bright green leaves are deeply divided into 3 or 5 lobes. Like other oaks, the acorns of the turkey oak are important wildlife food.



### Sand Live Oak

An important member of the dune community, the sand live oak is a common species along the coast. It is a shrub-sized to medium-sized tree with thick, leathery, evergreen leaves that are usually rolled downward.



Sparkleberry



Prickly Pear Cactus



Gopher Tortoise

