



# 2010 Legislative Priorities

## PARKS AND CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION/DEVELOPMENT

**Support Full Funding of The Florida Forever Program and the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program:**

- Conservation Land Acquisition and Development programs allow the public to enjoy and safely access public parks, environmental lands and to connect with nature.
- Historical and cultural heritage sites require preservation and restoration assistance.
- Parks and environmental lands provide a low cost and high return on investment by providing “green” infrastructure that protects natural resources, supports clean air and reduces “Green House” gasses.



*Geneva Wilderness Area,  
Seminole County*

## INCENTIVES FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

**Support programs, grants and initiatives** that provide opportunities for business, local and state governments and non-profit organizations to work together to sustain and enhance vital community services.

- Maximizing accessibility to parks, schools, social services, after school programming, senior services and special use facilities promotes physical activity and reduces health care costs.
- Protecting natural resources through multi-agency cooperation and collaboration saves tax-payer dollars.
- Promoting community programming, safety and security using incentives for law enforcement services and other community service programs to work together achieves a better ROI for citizens.
- Oppose the State of Florida to further limit local governments’ ability to generate revenue necessary to meet citizen-supported community needs.



*Tom Brown Park, City of Tallahassee  
Florida Recreation Development  
Assistance Program Grant*

## ADVANCE THE DEVELOPMENT/RE-DEVELOPMENT of ACCESSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE and ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

**Support sustainable State growth management policy and programs** to encourage quality planning and development of walkable communities which promote active, healthy living and access to schools, parks and social services.

- Creating a built environment that promotes an interconnected system of parks, schools, bike paths, trails and community “places and spaces” provides for more active living and reduces auto dependency.
- Funding and incentives should be incorporated into federal transportation, housing and food programs to support local efforts to provide for healthier communities.



*Seminole Wekiva Trail, Seminole  
County*

**Parks offer the perfect venue for community and regional events, tournaments, concerts, exhibitions, and festivals -- that draw visitors and new dollars into our vibrant, growing community.**

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**It Starts  
in Parks**

## Enhance Safety of Community Services

**Support programs and funding** that help keep our youth safe.

- Take available measures to protect youth from exposure to sexual predators and offenders. This would include supporting the funding of technology to make available more affordable fingerprinting and background screening of all volunteer coaches who work with youth.
- Support criminal penalties for the assault and battery of employees working for public parks and recreation agencies. This would include recreation employees, parks maintenance staff, and lifeguards.

## Promote Energy Efficient Communities, Programs and Projects

**Provide for reducing energy use** and reliance.

- Address the design of communities, transportation networks, buildings, and lighting.
- State policy and programs should support and encourage the development of “green” communities, parks and buildings along with providing incentives to local businesses and governments to implement green technology and design.



*Weston Regional Park, City of Weston  
FRDAP Grants combined with Broward  
County Challenge Grant*



## Federal Issues

**Support the expansion** of the SAFETEA-LU program for active transportation systems which improve citizens’ transportation options in a cost-effective manner.

**Support the expansion** of the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program to include high schools.

- Many high school students live within walking or biking distance of school, and SRTS provides a congestion-reducing transportation alternative while contributing to healthy, active lifestyles among our youth.

**Support the requested appropriation** in 2010, of \$125M million in funding for:

- Land and Water Conservation Stateside Assistance Program.
- Urban parks through programs such as the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR) or other comparable federal programs. Funding should include \$1.1 million for program administration.
- Community Development Block Grant Program at \$4.6 billion in FY '10.

**Florida** will always be an attractive place to live, work and play. Continued population growth means people need places to connect and form new relationships, to learn about Florida’s heritage and its natural treasures – a place to become Floridians. Florida’s parks are the place where it all comes together – a sense of community, an appreciation of history, respect for nature. How do you weave strangers into citizens?

**It Starts  
in Parks**

Florida’s public parks and recreation agencies provide services, programs, and open spaces that add value to their communities. That value can be measured in the achievement of our most precious natural resources – our youth; the cohesiveness of our communities; our ability to conserve open space; the economic development provided through tournaments, concerts and festivals; the physical health of our residents; the protection and communication of those places and spaces that preserve the heritage of our State; the protection of the natural environment that provides our outdoor classroom space for all to learn the appreciation of the out of doors; and most of all, our ability to do all this to ensure Florida’s future.

**For more information on the Florida Recreation and Park Association’s legislative priorities please contact:**

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