



# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Shawn Hamilton**  
Secretary

July 20, 2023

Dear Community Connectors Grant Review Committee,

The Office of Greenways and Trails supports the City of Pensacola's efforts to build a public greenway, the Bluffline Project, from Scenic Heights to West Pensacola. Development of such a greenway would fill an important gap in the Florida Greenways and Trails System. If built, this trail would provide a valuable connection between two regionally significant greenways; the US 90 Trail Corridor and the Great Northwest Coast Connector.

The multiuse path would connect to an existing protected greenway on the Pensacola Bridge, as well as a separated path heading east from Gulf Breeze. Development of the greenway would provide a total of approximately 12 miles of connected, safe infrastructure for residents of these urban communities.

The Bluffline Project supports several Strategic Objectives outlined in the Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan. These goals also address the intent of the Community Connectors Program:

- Strategy 1.2.5 – Identify routes that would provide access to underserved communities
- Strategy 1.3.3 – Expand the presence of greenways and trails in rural and urban Florida through education and innovative partnerships to drive economic impact to these areas
- Strategy 1.4.5. - Identify opportunities to connect the Florida Greenways and Trails Priority System to urban and rural trails, transit systems and practical destinations such as employment, commerce and population centers

The Bluffline Project also supports the Strategic Objectives outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

- Strategy 2.1.4 – Citizens and recreation providers should work to strengthen federal, state and local initiatives that support the creation, enhancement and expansion of urban parks and open spaces.
- Strategy 2.5.1 – Local governments should identify gaps in outdoor opportunities, including equal access to parks, then work to improve access and increase the number of parks, greenways and land and water trails in urban areas and other underserved communities.

If you need additional information, I can be reached at [justin.baldwin@floridadep.gov](mailto:justin.baldwin@floridadep.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Baldwin".

Justin Baldwin, Regional Coordinator  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Greenways and Trails