

Resolution No. 3427

A Resolution of the City of Sanford, Florida, in support of the concept of the Lake-to-Lake Multiuse regional trail as an eco-tourism corridor for the wildlife and people, incorporating the proposed regional trail as an eco-tourism corridor for the wildlife and people and directs staff to incorporate the proposed regional trail in the appropriate transportation maps for the City of Sanford transportation study area; providing for implementing findings; implementing administrative actions; providing for a savings provision; providing for conflicts; providing for severability and providing for an effective date.

WHEREAS, the SUN Trails (Shared Use Non-motorized) Program was established in FDOT by the 2015 Session of the Florida Legislature to promote and fund the connection of local trails into regional long-distance trails to improve the transportation and safety aspects of existing local trails; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, Senate Bill (SB)106 - passed by both Chambers of the Legislature and signed by Governor DeSantis - doubled the annual funding for SUN Trails and added Florida's vast array of conservation lands and public parks as linkages to encourage eco-tourism pathways in the Florida Wildlife Corridor; and

WHEREAS, SB 106 also seeks to promote both trails-for-people and greenway corridors-for-wildlife to expand public awareness of Florida's unique landscape and encourage economic development via eco-tourism in rural areas as well as financially support these regional trails through "sponsorship agreements" with FDOT and not-for-profit or private sector entities; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 the Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation (FGTF), in collaboration with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation (FWCF), undertook a research effort to identify such a linked eco-tourism trail through the eastern reaches of the Florida

Wildlife Corridor between Lake Okeechobee and Lake Monroe, a vast conservation and cattle ranching landscape that includes no trails on the SUN Trail opportunity or priority trail system; and

WHEREAS, this research identified two abandoned railroad corridors that could serve as the alignment for such a connection; the “Kissimmee Valley Extension” of Flagler’s East Coast Railroad (historically linking DeLand and Kenansville) and the Peavine Railroad (begun to link Kenansville to Lake Okeechobee but never completed) via the historic railroad towns of Geneva, Chuluota, Bithlo, Wewahotee, Holopaw, and Kenansville; and

WHEREAS, the proposed alignment of the Lake to Lake Regional Trail would establish an eco-tourism trail connection to these historic communities and promote “slow travel” tourism to rural areas in four East Central Florida counties: Seminole, Orange, Osceola and Okeechobee, exposing Florida residents and visitors to the history of early 19th and 20th century settlement and the use of the land for farming, logging, cattle ranching and wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sanford supports the proposal to request that the Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) add this corridor and its linkages to the Florida Opportunity Map; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sanford City Commission supports the importance of developing an eco-tourism corridor along and adjacent to the Lake-to-Lake Regional Trail in this area of the Florida Wildlife Corridor and encourages the Office of Greenways and Trails to rank this corridor as a State Trail Priority during the next ranking cycle; and

WHEREAS, to address the long-term operation and management costs of the Lake-to-Lake Regional Trail corridor, staff will work in collaboration with FDOT and each of the counties along the corridor as set forth herein, as well as non-profit organizations such as the Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation and the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation, private entities, and corporate landowners to create a regional trail alliance to support the long-term operation and management of this unique and valuable trail and wildlife corridor as provided in SB106.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANFORD, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings.

The foregoing recitals (Whereas clauses) are true and correct and are hereby adopted as legislative findings and made part of this Resolution.

Section 2. Implementing Administrative Actions.

The City Manager, through the Administrative Official, is hereby authorized and directed to implement the provisions of this Resolution by means of such administrative actions as may be deemed necessary and appropriate in support of the lake-to-lake regional use concept.

Section 3. Savings

The prior actions of the City of Sanford relating to the SUN Trials Program are hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 4. Conflicts

All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed.

Section 5. Severability.

If any section, sentence, phrase, word, or portion of this Resolution is determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional; said determination shall not be held to invalidate or impair the validity, force or effect of any other section, sentence, phrase, word, or portion of this Resolution not otherwise determined to be invalid, unlawful, or unconstitutional.

Section 6. Effective Date.

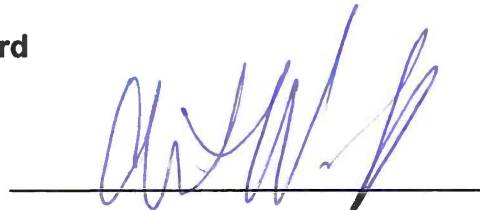
This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon enactment.

Passed and adopted this 10th day of November, 2025.

Attest: City Commission of the City of Sanford

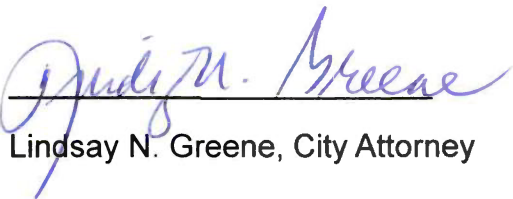


Traci Houchin, MMC, FCRM
City Clerk



Art Woodruff, Mayor

For use and reliance of the Sanford
City Commission only.
Approved as to form and legality.



Lindsay N. Greene, City Attorney



CITY OF
SANFORD
FLORIDA



WS X RM X

Item No. 9.K

CITY COMMISSION MEMORANDUM 25-267
NOVEMBER 10, 2025 AGENDA

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
PREPARED BY: Robert Beall, Operations Manager
SUBMITTED BY: Norton N. Bonaparte, Jr., ICMA-CM, City Manager
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2025-3427, Supporting Lake-To-Lake Trail

SYNOPSIS:

Requesting to approve Resolution No. 2025-3427, in Support for the Lake-to-Lake Trail.

FISCAL/STAFFING STATEMENT:

There is no funding required for this Resolution. General maintenance of the existing trail is already incorporated in the Parks and Recreation repair and maintenance fund.

BACKGROUND:

In 2024 the Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation (FGTF), in collaboration with the Florida Wildlife Corridor Foundation (FWCF), undertook a research effort to identify a linked eco-tourism trail through the eastern reaches of the Florida Wildlife Corridor between Lake Okeechobee and Lake Monroe, a vast conservation and cattle ranching landscape that includes no trails on the SUN Trail opportunity or priority trail system. This research identified two abandoned railroad corridors that could serve as the alignment for such a connection; the "Kissimmee Valley Extension" of Flagler's East Coast Railroad (historically linking DeLand and Kenansville) and the Peavine Railroad (begun to link Kenansville to Lake Okeechobee but never completed) via the historic railroad towns of Geneva, Chuluota, Bithlo, Wewahottee, Holopaw, and Kenansville.

The proposed alignment of the Lake-to-Lake Regional Trail would establish an eco-tourism trail connection to these historic communities and promote "slow travel" tourism to rural areas in four East Central Florida counties: Seminole, Orange, Osceola and Okeechobee, exposing Florida residents and visitors to the history of early 19th and 20th century settlement and the use of the land for farming, logging, cattle ranching and wildlife conservation.

Once completed, the trail would span approximately 150 miles, linking Sanford, located on the south shore of Lake Monroe, to Okeechobee, on the north shore of Lake Okeechobee. Intended for biking, walking, and other nonmotorized uses, offering a car-free route through scenic and ecologically significant areas.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney has reviewed this agenda item and has no legal objection.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends that the City Commission approve Resolution No. 2025-3427 in Support of the Lake-to-Lake Trail system.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

“I move to approve Resolution No. 2025-3427 in support of the Lake-to-Lake trail system, as proposed.”

Attachments: (1). Resolution No. 2025-3427