Preserving a Community Treasure

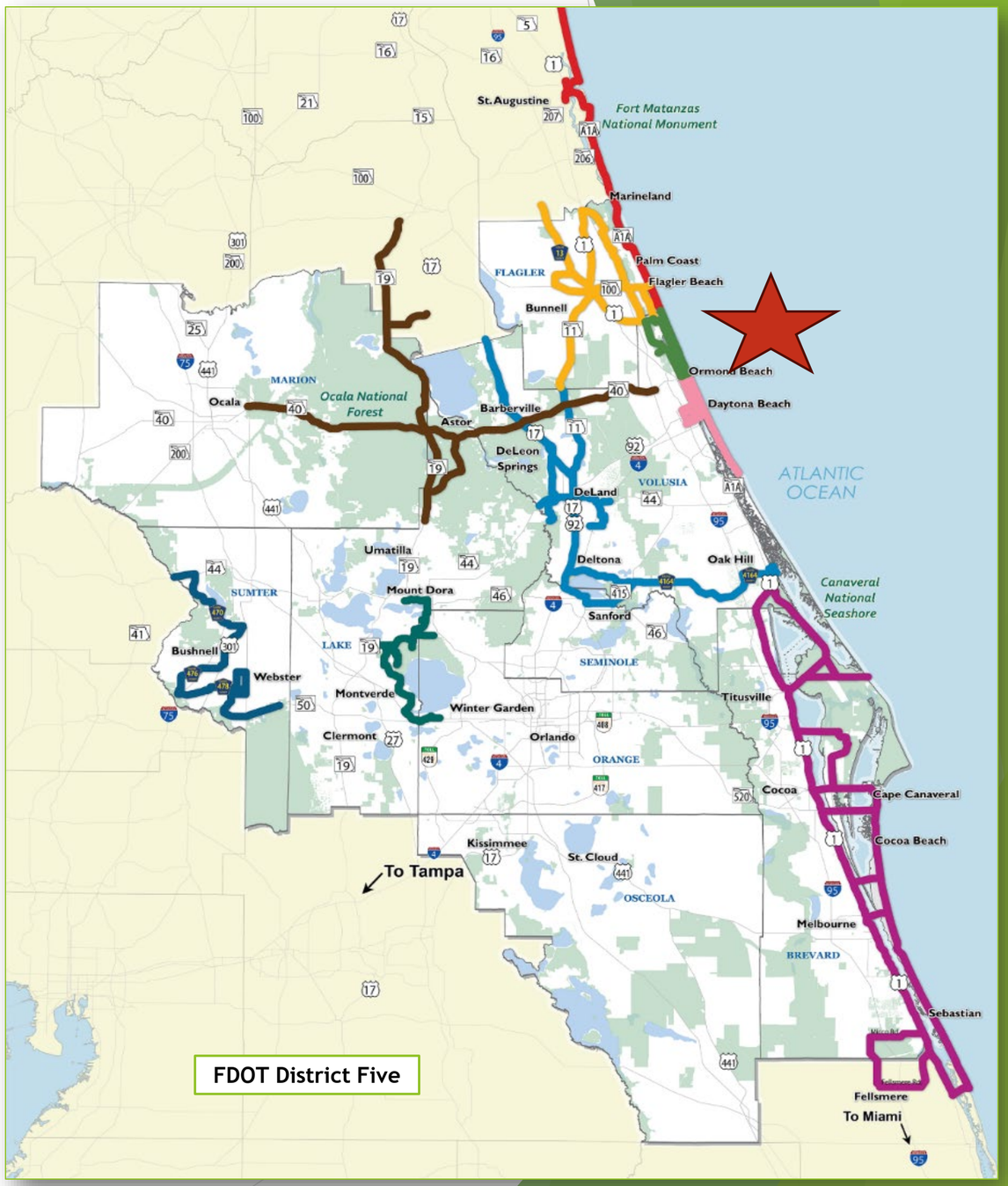
Byway Success through Partnership

Nancy Galdo – Vice Chair
Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail National Byway

Kalan Taylor – County Extension Director
UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County

Florida Scenic Highways Program (FSHP)

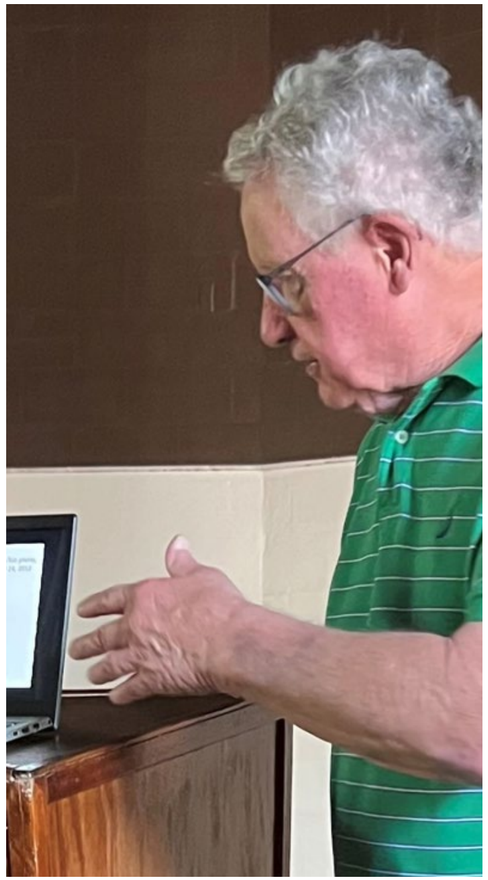
- The OSL&T is one of 9 byways located in **FDOT District Five** including several that have received a national designation
- There are nearly **800 miles** of designated roads in D5
- Our District Scenic Highway Coordinator is **Claudia Calzaretta**



Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail National Byway (OSLT)

- **34-mile** double loop of roadways
- **Access** to Atlantic Ocean, North Peninsula, Bulow Creek and Tomoka State Parks
- **Scenic views** include rivers, creeks, marshes, dunes, and beaches
- Rare and protected **Wildlife** on the beach
- **Recreational and Historical Resources** abound

*Our Mission… To **preserve, protect and enhance** the Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail by serving as a focused source of **education, community outreach**, **and enhancement projects** consistent with our volunteer resources and the guidelines of the Florida Scenic Highway and National Scenic Byway programs*



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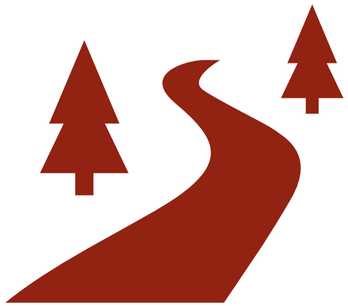
Introducing the ReGrow the Loop Initiative

Kalan Taylor, Director
UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County

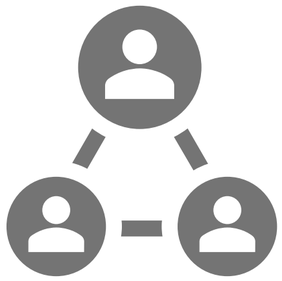
ReGrow the Loop Initiative

Volusia County

Overview



ReGrow the Loop Initiative

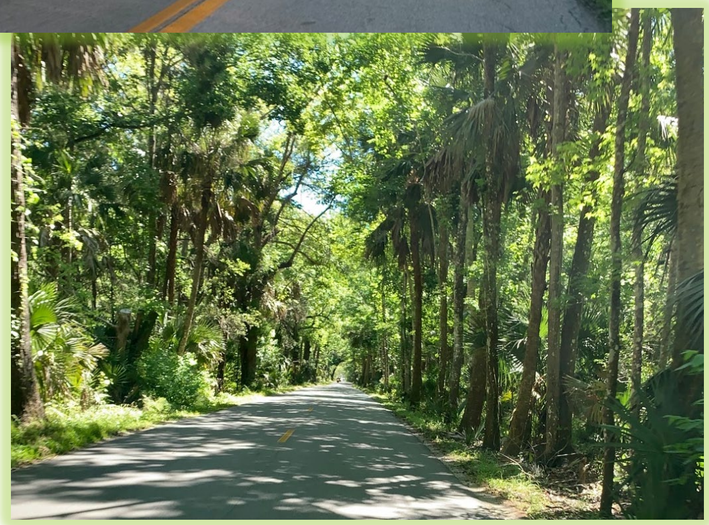


Partnerships

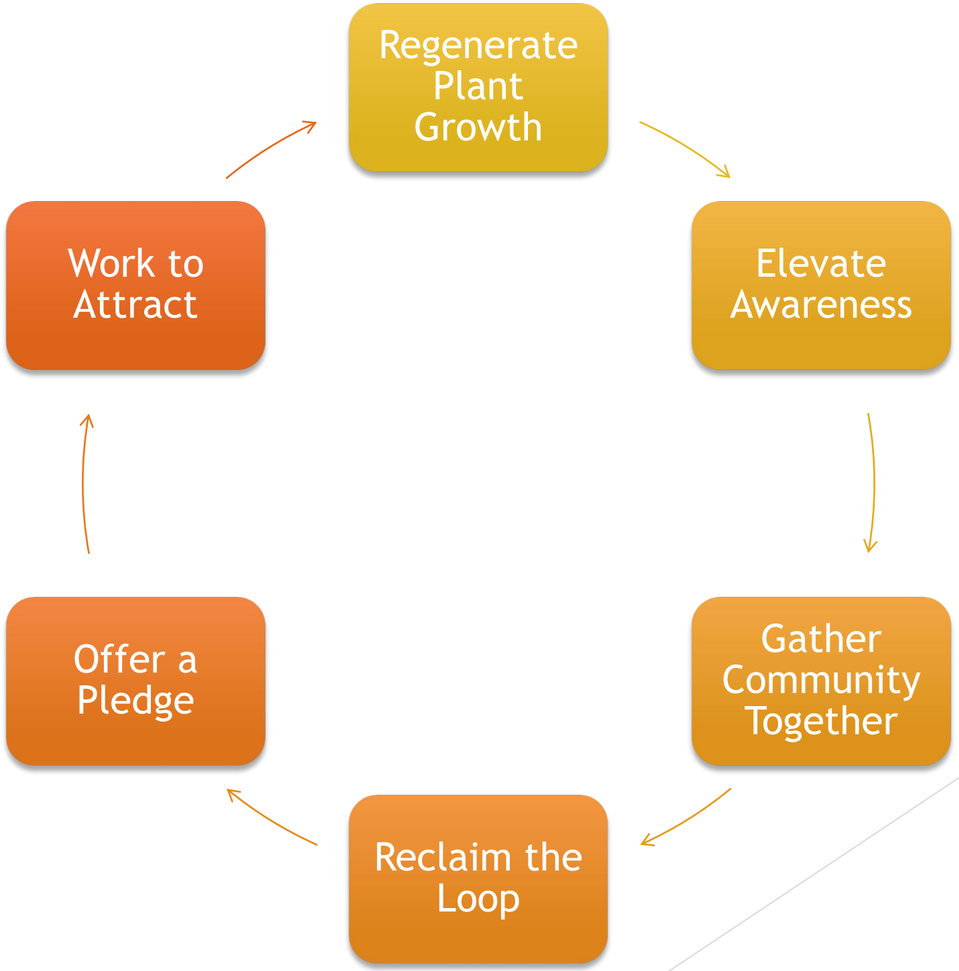
Success Story

The Origin & Inspiration

- Ormond Beach resident Alan Burton
- June 2023, Volusia County government launched the 12-month initiative
- Partnership between UF/IFAS Extension and other local organizations
- Pilot program
- Restore and enhance the natural beauty of the loop



Program Components



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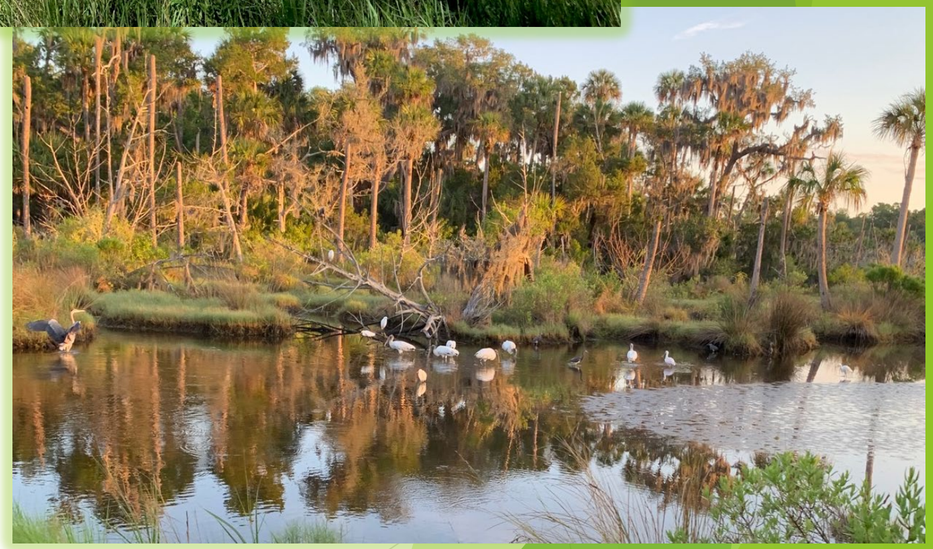


Pledge → Educational Activity → Tree Voucher

Citizen Pledge

GROW GREEN ON THE LOOP

- Testing soil pH
- Adapting Florida Friendly Landscaping™ practices
- Plant a tree, shrub, or flower using the “right plant, right place” principle
- Avoid planting and/or spreading invasive species

Citizen Pledge

PROTECT WATER QUALITY ON THE LOOP

- Keep gutters/road drains cleaned
- Redirect downspouts from a paved surface
- Maintain a buffer or living shoreline
- Keep litter out of waterways
- Clean up after pets
- Fertilize appropriately
- Install a rain barrel
- Follow landscape BMPs

Citizen Pledge

ENGAGE FOR THE LOOP

- Install drain markers
- Volunteer to help
- Attend a RGL educational event
- Promote and share the RGL program

Educational Activities

- Formal and In-Formal Settings
- Based on the program objectives and pledge
- UF/IFAS Extension and local organizations

Lose this one! Choose this one!

ReGrow the Loop Key Partners

Florida Native Plant Society

Volusia County Florida

Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail

Yellow Squirrel Banana or Volusia Pawpaw – Deeringothamnus rugelii

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

City of Ormond Beach Florida

Dream Green Volusia

Halifax River Audubon Est. 1923

UF | IFAS Extension University of Florida

FDOT

Importance of Partnerships

- Expertise Sharing
- Community Engagement
- Resource Optimization
- Sustainability and Impact
- Networking and Support
- Innovation
- Education and Outreach

Recent Opportunities for the Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail Organization

ReGrow the Loop's affect on the Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail

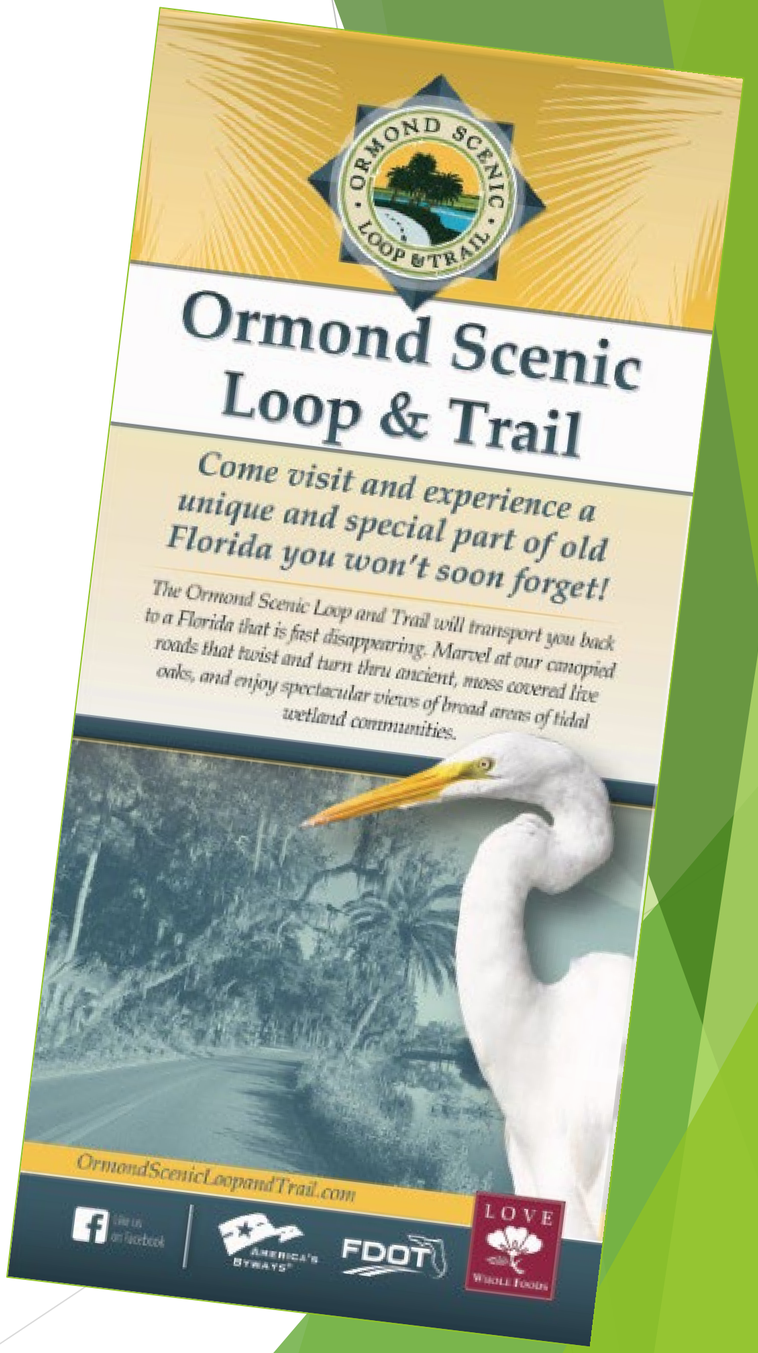
ReGrow the Loop Partners

- Volusia County BOCC
- City of Ormond Beach
- University of Florida / IFAS Extension
- Florida and Local Pawpaw Native Plant Societ Chapters
- Halifax River Audubon
- Tomoka & Bulow Creek State Parks
- Friends of Tomoka Basin State Parks
- Gamble-Rogers State Park
- Dream Green Volusia

Exciting projects are a result of these partnerships!

OSL&T Board Reenergized

- Determined that **communication with the public** was the first action we needed to address.
- **Recruited** volunteers to oversee the organization's efforts to improve the group's communication through social media platforms, rebuilding our website and participating in events throughout the city to get the word out about the OSLT. Volunteers Karen Pillar & Andrea Miller have become our social media and website heroes!
- **Created** and now issue a monthly byway **newsletter** that goes out to community and keeps our partners informed.



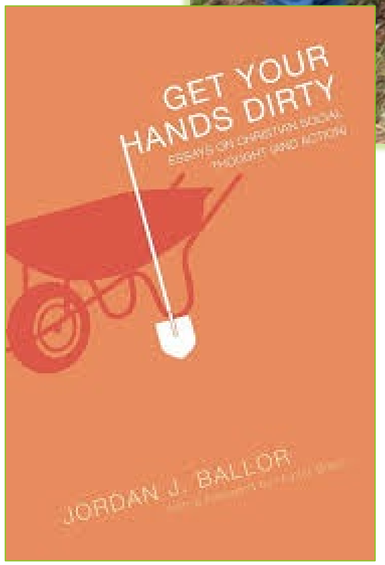
Community Engagement

- Provided a **PowerPoint** briefing on the OSL&T at initial ReGrow the Loop Partners Meeting.
- Participated in **strategy development** for implementing the ReGrow the Loop program
- **Local community/local government engagement** efforts.
- Scheduled an educational ReGrow the Loop **Fall trail walk.**
- **Participation** at many scheduled educational programs throughout the year to interest people in participating in our projects and recruit volunteers.

Education: ReGrow the Loop offered the opportunity to advance the byway organization's mission and work plan

Planting Partnerships

- Florida Arbor Day – January 19, 2024, Tomoka State Park's Native Plant Garden
- Many ReGrow the Loop Partners participated
- These trees are the first trees planted in the partnership between these local organizations and who plan to work together to rebuild the state park's native plant garden.



Planting Partnerships - Tomoka State Park Native Plant Garden

- Arbor Day planting organizations also participated in this project.
- Initial plans and plants are set.
- The first planting was January 24th, and subsequent maintenance and watering days have been scheduled
- Many plants donated by individuals and local native plant nurseries
- Native Plant Society offered a grant for plants.

Preservation through the use of native plants. **Education** of those that visit the garden

Canopy Research & Enhancement

CaRE – Canopy Research & Enhancement

- Originally a sub-committee of ReGrow the Loop formed t address the aging tree canopy and invasive plant concern
- OSL&T Board established its own committee to study and implement a plan
- Committee of highly qualified, professional arborists, volunteers who will assess the overall health of our trees and identify invasive species.
- Trees are aging, exotics are outcompeting many native species, and there is a need to renourish the existing canopy, so the canopy remains for generations to come.
- Step I is a Pilot GIS mapping project to establish current conditions
- Findings of pilot survey will be presented to the ReGrow the Loop Canopy subcommittee
- Long-term project

Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail

CaRE

Canopy and Remove Exotics Project

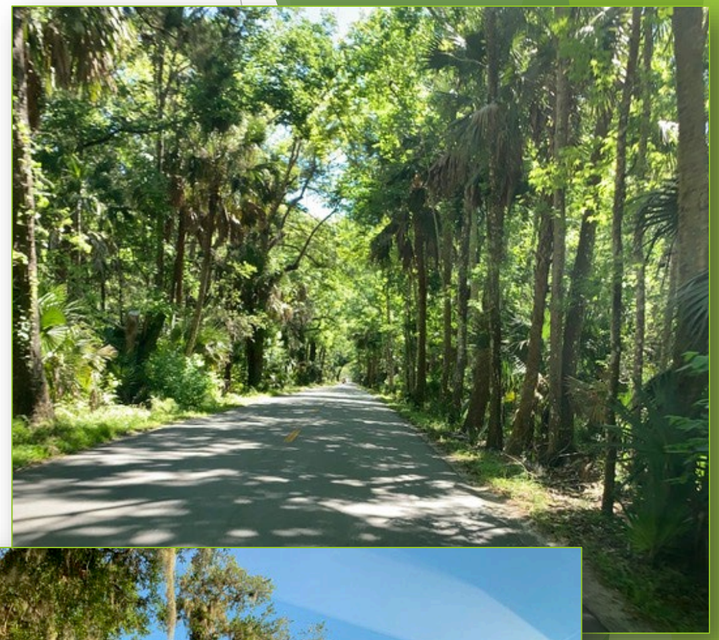
Preservation of the Loop canopy for today and tomorrow

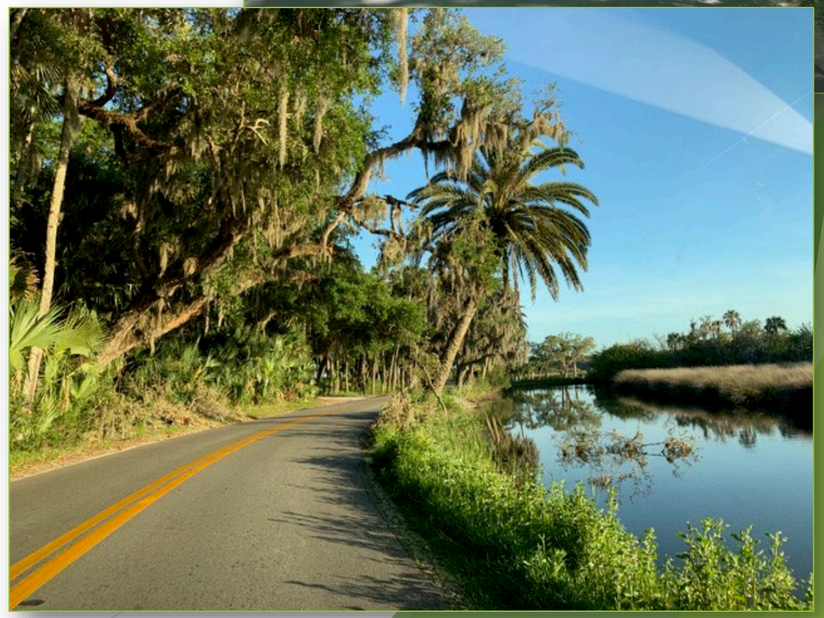
Resource Preservation & Revitalization

Next Steps - Looking ahead

Public/Private partnerships to **renourish the canopy** around the Loop,

- Many of the large oak trees along the OSL&T are aging out.
- There is a need to begin renourishing many areas on the Loop with trees to replace them.
- **Remove invasive plants and trees**
- Environmentally, the trees will continue to help reduce the carbon footprint.
- **Ensure the tree canopy remains on the Loop for future generations to enjoy.**





Preservation of the Loop canopy for future generations

Gateway to the OSL&T!

- Concept initiated by Alan Burton & supported by City of Ormond Beach Commissioner Lori Tolland. Planning is in the early stages of an approval process to build a “Gateway Park”

- We envision a small park near OB City Hall that would indicate where the Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail begins.

- Public confusion persists about the begin and end of the byway and amenities like beach access, parks, trails & restaurants

Gateway to the OSL&T!

Anticipated amenities:

- Educational Kiosks and signage to include Map of the Loop, local attractions, historical resources, hiking trails etc.
- QR Code Scanners for City, Loop and others
- Appropriate parking and seating
- Native Plant Garden
- Close to other educational, historic attractions

Education: Arm visitor with information on the Loop community

For Further Information

OSL&T

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ReGrow the Loop

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Check out the all New OSL&T Website:

OrmondScenicLoopandTrail.com

Questions?