



FROGG

Friends of the River of Grass Greenway



FROGG

Volume V Issue 1
website: www.evergladesROGG.org

FROGG, P.O. Box 5031, Everglades City, FL, 34139
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Fall 2019

Schedule of Rides Saturdays

October 19

Shark Valley

November 9

Port of the Islands

December 7

Everglades City /
Chokoloskee

January 11

Janes Scenic Drive
in the Fakahatchee

February 8

Loop Road
in the Big Cypress

March 7

Bear Island
in the Big Cypress

Please email

info@evergladesrogg.org

or call (239) 719-0020
for more information.

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**1st Annual
"Sprint" Triathlon
Kayak / Bike / Run
Saturday, February 1
Everglades City**

see page 3 for more information

Bike Rides through the Everglades

Come join us again this season as we tour different parts of the Everglades, some on road and some off road within our National/State Parks and Preserves. These tours are free and guided. As in the past we will be riding for the fun of exploring the Everglades area. The tours will be self-supported rides so be sure to bring your own snacks and repair kits. We will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. with plans for lunch together after each ride. This year we will be offering the bike rides on **SATURDAY** rather than Sunday so please mark your calendars! Also, we are asking that you sign up in advance so we can prepare for the number of participants. Just email info@evergladesrogg.org or call 239-719-0020 to join us!



FBA Sponsored Program

Ride Leader / Ride Marshal

Saturday, October 26, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Maitland Senior Center

345 S. Maitland Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751

FBA's final public session for 2019 – sign up soon !

For the bicycle club member, this means group ride leader education needed to ensure confidence and leadership. For those participating in organized bicycle tours or events, this means ride marshal certification by completing a course designed to address the safe practices of group riding comprised of all skill levels.

\$20.00 FOR ALL FBA MEMBERS

\$35.00 FOR ALL NON-FBA MEMBERS

Registration in advance is required - space is limited. Please use FBA's online form. Deadline to register is **Thursday, October 24** - don't miss out! For more information, please visit FBA website www.floridabicycle.org//fba-ride-leader-ride-marshal-program/.

Save the Date

The Paradise Coast Trail (PCT) Kick Off event will be held on **February 2** at the Baker Park Pavilion in Naples. It will be a family oriented, Sunday afternoon event to raise awareness of the PCT.

FROGG is committed to establishing the safe use by the general public of US41 across the Everglades between Naples and Miami, focusing on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, and cycling through south Florida and the Everglades.

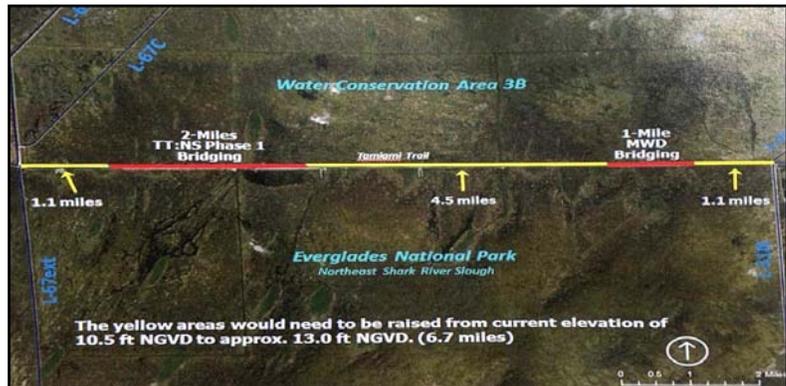
Cycling the Tamiami Trail

US41 – West End

For several years FROGG has been requesting that the Raised Pavement Markers (RPMs) between SR92 (entrance to Marco Island) and Port of the Islands be removed for the safety concerns of the many cyclists who travel on this section on a regular basis, especially during season. FROGG continues to encourage FDOT District One to improve road conditions along this section. Our latest update from FDOT re **RPMs**: *“The Department is currently going back to look the area(s) from Marco Island to Port of the Islands to evaluate whether we may program a project to enhance the safety for cyclists... more to come....”*

US41 - East End

As reported in the Summer Newsletter, funds have been approved for the Tamiami Trail Next Steps Phase II project to restore the Everglades with plans to elevate the remaining 6.5 miles of roadway between the two bridges built during Phase I and the bridge constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2008; six sets of concrete culverts will be installed to allow the water to flow. The schedule is to open the construction bids in December 2020 with expectations for construction work to begin in the summer of 2021. Currently, the National Park Service (who is working on the design of the project) is planning for 5' shoulders on either side of the road. Considering the number of cyclists who use this corridor as they travel through south Florida, FROGG is requesting consideration of safer alternatives in conjunction with the road improvements.



When the bridges were built, 10 foot shoulders on both sides were included. Our ROGG website keeps cyclists up to date with current road conditions: www.evergladesrogg.org, click on “Visit the Tamiami Trail”, then “Cycling US41” which has specific information for each section of the corridor from Naples to Miami. We will continue to keep bicyclists informed as construction activity moves forward on the east section of US 41.



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SR29 Widening Project

The widening of SR29 is currently in the design phase and Big Cypress Preserve and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have submitted comments which would re-direct and improve the water flow through southwest Florida. FROGG is also encouraging FDOT to take a broader “complete streets” approach in their design to consider the environment, land use, water quality and recreational aspects of the project.

FDOT provided this update re **SR29**: *“The department understands there are large numbers of bicyclists and pedestrians in the Immokalee area that rely on these modes of transportation. This will play a role in the design of the SR-29 segments in Immokalee. The PD&E study is concluding, and we will look at the recommendations that come of the study. Right now, we are in the very early stages of the evaluation process but we will be looking at the recommendations laid out by the PD&E to determine if we need to re-evaluate them based on the needs in the area.”*

FROGG Board Members:

Dayna Fendrick (Naples) Patty Huff (Everglades City) Scott Shook (Marco Island) Oscar Rattenborg (Ft. Myers)

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BROCHURES AVAILABLE

“Everglades City Florida State Trail Town”

After Everglades City was designated a Florida State Trail Town, a new brochure was created and is now available in the card rack in the lobby of Everglades City Hall and around town. It highlights the opportunities for eco-tourists in our community.

“Welcome to Historic Everglades City, FL”

A new Visitor Information Brochure has been developed listing all the businesses and services available in Everglades City. This guide is for anyone visiting the area seeking lodging, restaurants, and other amenities, etc.

“Hiking, Cycling and Paddling the Everglades”

This updated brochure includes information about the various opportunities and amenities along the Tamiami Trail, including information about safety on the Trail and links to the various state and national parks in the area.

For copies of these brochures,
email
info@evergladesrogg.org

EVERGLADES CITY UPDATE

- The Trail Town Committee is ordering an updated City map to be located at the kiosk approaching Everglades City; it will replace the old signage coming into town on CR29.



- PACE-EH (Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health) has established a new Action Plan for Everglades City with the goal to improve the overall health of its residents and the surrounding communities. Potential programs include activities for kids, raised gardens, cooking education and classes, transit services, etc.

In conjunction with PACE-EH and Gulf Coast Runners, Drug Free Collier will host a triathlon to be held on **Saturday, February 1st**. The event will be a “paddle-bike-run” style with distances for Kids (under 11), Youth (11-15 years), and Sprint (16 and older). Kids can race for free and all sprint proceeds will go to the Everglades Lions Club. For more information about the course and registration, contact Tony Pernas at tpernas@bellsouth.net.

- The Everglades City Dero Bike Repair Station, located in the center of town at McLeod Park, has the necessary tools to fix your bicycle and includes an air pump with a gauge to check your tires. It is protected from the weather so you can work in the shade and your bike can be lifted onto the station for accessibility. Bike Rentals are also available in Everglades City next to the grocery store at *Tour the Glades*, 104 Buckner Avenue South, Everglades City, FL 34139; telephone number (239) 260-4577 or visit website <http://tourtheglades.com/bike-rentals> for more information.



Dero Bike Stations can be found throughout the world (mostly in the United States), and cyclists can access their locations by checking the Dero website www.dero.com, just click on Resources, then Fixitmap: <https://www.dero.com/fixitmap/fixitmap.html>. Our repair station in Everglades City was the first in Collier County; Naples is planning to install one in Baker Park at the north side of the pavilion on the Blair Path, a direct trail to the bridge; in Lee County several are located on the FGCU campus. Also, many are available on the southeast coast in the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area and two in Key West. Stop by and fill up your tires when you're in our area.

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FBA Elects New Officers



At its Annual Meeting in July, the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) elected new officers: pictured left are Becky Afonso (Executive Director), Courtney Reynolds (President), Jim Dodson (rotating off the Board), Eddie Mingus (Vice-President), and Patty Huff (Treasurer). FBA's Mission is to encourage more people to bicycle through education and advocacy. FBA's Vision is for bicycling to be safe, accepted and encouraged in Florida. To learn more about cycling in Florida, visit FBA's website www.floridabicycle.org.

Join FBA so we can all work together to make Florida a great place to ride SAFELY!

Everglades City submits

“Call for Non-Motorized Projects” Application to Collier MPO

In August Everglades City, with the assistance of the Everglades City Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee, submitted an application to the Collier County MPO. If approved, funding to improve the infrastructure in Everglades City will include the following:

1) Rebuild the original sidewalks that once lined Broadway from City Hall to the Barron River (photo on right from the 1920s shows sidewalks along Broadway).

2) Add striping for cyclists along the main roads in the center of Everglades City.

3) Bike lanes are also being proposed on Copeland Ave South to provide an important connection to both the Everglades Airpark (which offers bike rentals to its fly-in clients) and to Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Visitor Center (a launch point for the paddling trails of the Wilderness Waterway and the Circumnavigational Trail Segments 13 and 14). Providing a connection from these trails to the central business district is crucial to the ongoing improvements associated with being designated a Florida Trail Town. In addition, these bike lanes will connect to the existing paved shoulders that continue onto the Chokoloskee causeway, which is heavily utilized by tourists, seasonal and local residents.



“Bicycling is life with the volume turned up!”

by Lee Agur

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