



Central Indian River County Greenways Plan

Tech Memo #2:

Greenways Methodology: Selection & Evaluation Criteria

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Scope

This technical memo outlines the greenway selection and evaluation criteria for the Central Indian River County Greenways Plan. It establishes a tool that can be used to identify and evaluate greenway alternatives as part of the planning process. The scope of services for the Central Indian River Greenways Plan calls for the development of Greenway Selection and Evaluation Criteria as follows:

“The CONSULTANT shall develop criteria and a methodology that shall be used to identify and evaluate greenway alternatives. The criteria should be quantitative, understandable to the public, and sensitive to the potential differences between various greenways elements (bicycling, equestrian, hiking, and multi-use). Selection criteria shall be used to establish the need and function of the proposed greenways. Greenway selection criteria shall include but not be limited to the following:

- *constructability;*
- *the ability to provide regional connectivity to greenways adjacent to the study area;*
- *the ability to create greenways on existing publicly owned land, existing canal and utility rights-of-way, and abandoned rail corridors; and*
- *The ability to establish connections to and within parks, conservation lands, and other recreation facilities.”*

Technical Memorandum #2 – Greenways Methodology

The CONSULTANT shall document and summarize the methodology to be used in identifying and evaluating greenways. The CONSULTANT shall summarize this information in the form of a technical memorandum.

Purpose

The purpose of these criteria is to develop a process that can be used to identify potential projects for inclusion in the draft greenways plan and to provide tools that can be used to identify priority projects. The criteria are intended to be quantitative, understandable to the public, and sensitive to the potential differences between various greenways elements (bicycling, equestrian, hiking, and multi-use). These tools will help the PSC and the consulting team to understand the relative value of potential projects so that a system can be developed which is appropriate to local issues. The identified corridor listings should be considered a “living document and should be a flexible guideline used in combination with professional judgment for developing the proposed system.

Subtask 1: Identify Potential Greenway Corridors

The selection criteria are a tool for identifying potential corridors for the Central Indian River Greenways Plan. The following are the steps involved in this part of the planning process:

- 1: Work with the Project Steering Committee (PSC) in developing the Selection Criteria Matrix, which is summarized in the table below.
- 2: Utilize the matrix during field work and corridor inventory tasks to collect appropriate data.
- 3: Integrate potential corridors based on the Criteria into the draft Greenways Plan.

Central IRC Greenways: Selection Criteria		
Criteria	Description	Weight
Environmental Benefits	Provides conservation values, watershed protection and connects people to natural habitats as a 'green' open space corridor	10
Connectivity to Destinations, Transportation, Public Lands	Provides transportation and recreational access to activity centers (schools, employment and commercial districts, parks and public lands).	20
Regional Benefits	Economic and tourism potential to link into a network that extends throughout the region.	15
Multiple Use	Walking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrians, and other uses will share the Central IRC Greenways system. The system needs to address ways to provide for these multiple uses	10
Agency Support	The project is on publicly owned or accessible land and has the potential support of the agency responsible for its use	20
Enhances Safety for Non-Motorized Travel	The Greenways system should be safe for all users, including people traveling along and across roadways, railroads, waterways and other barriers.	10
Constructability	Ease of implementation based on the following factors: intact rights-of-way, probable cost, and design constraints	15

Subtask 2: Prioritize Projects using Evaluation Criteria

Once a draft network plan has been developed based on the selection criteria, potential projects will be prioritized using evaluation criteria and a scoring system. This will allow the Project Steering Committee to have input into the process of recommending projects for implementation, and will provide the Consultant with input for the Implementation section of the Greenways Plan.

Using the evaluation criteria, projects will be ranked based on information obtained from site visits, field work, public involvement and the Project Steering Committee. These rankings can then be used to group the proposed projects into phased recommendations for Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 potential corridors.

- >75 Points: Tier 1 projects are the highest potential greenway projects for near-term project implementation within 1-5 years.
- 50-75 Points: Tier 2 projects are moderately challenging projects that can supplement the core network within 6-10 years.
- <50 Points: Tier 3 projects are projects that are not currently ready to be implemented, but are included as long-term potential projects over the next 11-20 years.

The following are the steps involved in this part of the planning process:

- 1: Integrate comments from the Project Steering Committee into the proposed Evaluation Criteria.
- 2: Utilize the scoring matrix with the PSC to rank priority projects.
- 3: Use recommendations based on the matrix for the Implementation section of the Greenways Plan.

Central IRC Greenways: Evaluation Criteria		
Criteria	Description / Points	Maximum Score
Transportation Benefits	<p>Increases use of non-motorized travel by providing access to the following destinations within .5 mile of the proposed corridor:</p> <p>Access to Schools: 3 Access to Major Destinations: 3 Access to Parks & Recreation: 3 Access to Transit: 3 Bike/Ped Safety: 3</p>	15
System Connectivity	<p>Provides an essential link in the proposed network: 20</p> <p>This link is important as a 'stand alone project, but not critical to the overall system 10</p> <p>This is a long-term element and potential future link 5</p>	20
Regional Benefits	<p>Tourism: 3 Environmental: 3 Economic: 3 Health / Fitness: 3 Quality of Life: 3</p>	15
Multiple Use	<p>Bicyclists: 3 Pedestrians / Runners: 3 Water Trail: 2 Equestrian: 2</p>	10
Agency Support	<p>Project currently has support (20)</p> <p>Project has potential to receive agency support (10)</p> <p>Project is not likely to receive support (0)</p>	20
Cost	<p>Project can be implemented for:</p> <p>< \$200k / mile (10) \$200k - \$500k / mile (5) > \$500k / mile (0)</p>	10
Constructability	<p>Project requires further study but is likely to be advanced (5)</p> <p>Project is feasible and ready for implementation (10)</p>	10

Using the Selection & Evaluation Criteria Tools

The following Selection Matrix and Evaluation Matrix tools will be used as part of the analysis for identifying and prioritizing potential greenway projects. The criteria will be applied as follows:

Selection Criteria

- The selection criteria will be used by the Consultant in laying out the future greenway network by identifying the features of a network that are most important to the Project Steering Committee.
- Projects that score 70 points or above will be considered appropriate for inclusion in the Draft Greenways Plan. Projects below this threshold will not be included in the plan unless there is a specific issue that the corridor addresses that is considered significant enough to override the low score, such as providing a critical link in the network.

Evaluation Criteria

- The evaluation criteria will be scored by the Project Steering Committee to identify the relative importance of potential projects based on the Draft Plan.
- The scores will be applied by the Consultant to develop the implementation section of the Greenways Plan. Projects will be prioritized for short term (1-5 years), mid-term (6-10 years) and long term (>10 years).

The Greenway Selection Matrix and Evaluation Matrix forms are provided on the following pages.

Central Indian River County Greenways Selection Matrix: Potential Projects

Criteria								
Project	Environmental Benefits (10)	Connectivity (20)	Regional Benefits (15)	Multiple uses (10)	Agency Support (20)	Safety (10)	Constructability (15)	Total

0 = Strong Negative Impact/Low Benefit/High Cost -- Mid Point (5-8) = Neutral Impact/Benefit/Average Cost -- High Point (10-25) = Low Negative Impact/High Benefit/Low Cost

Central Indian River County Greenways Evaluation Matrix: Priority Projects

Criteria

Project	Transportation (15)	Connectivity (20)	Benefits (20)	Multiple uses (10)	Agency Support (20)	Safety (10)	Constructability (10)	Total