

BUILD IT...

they will come!

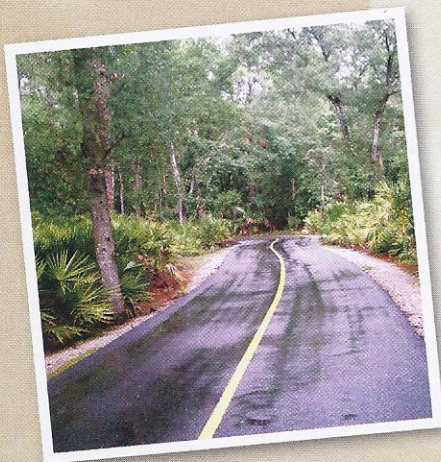
by Larry French



Like the expression, “build it and they will **come**” was to the movie, *Field of Dreams*, trails suggest promising prospects to Volusia County. Trails offer local residents and communities three **important** opportunities: quality of life choices; sustainable economic **development**; and health & fitness opportunities.

People visit Florida because of its climate and **beautiful** natural scenery. Residents like the relaxed lifestyle and **unlimited** outdoor recreational opportunities. Besides its beaches, Volusia County has been blessed with expanses of river valleys, marshlands, **lakes**, oak hammocks, and pine forests. These provide residents with the **natural** setting they value and want to preserve for their way of life. This **desire** can be met by the prospect of trails.

The same beautiful beaches, lakes, rivers, and **forests** are important economically. People come to Volusia County to **visit** and enjoy its natural features. Our visitors are also looking for **affordable** ways to see Florida. Residents are looking for recreation **closer** to home. Trails can meet many of these current needs by **providing** one of the best most low-cost ways to see Florida.



Trails offer residents an easy way to get **outdoors** and exercise affordably. I recently discovered a local **section** of the Spring-to-Spring Trail at Gemini Springs Park on west Dirksen Drive. From there, a lovely stretch of trail runs south to Lake Monroe Park on south US HWY 17-92. The paved trail is **clearly** marked and winds 2.4 miles through spreading oaks, pine forests, and crosses some spectacular open plains overlooking Lake Monroe. The trail is easily accessible from a trail head and parking at either park and was just minutes from home.