



William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway

Meeting with St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department (PRD)

October 14, 2025

Attendees:

Ryan Kane, Director	PRD
Jamie Baccari, Asst Director	PRD
Timothy Connor, Project Manager	PRD
Nathan Otter, Natl Resources Supt	PRD
Joe McAnarney, Chair	William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway (WBSHH)

1. Joe distributed an Agenda, and all introduced themselves.
2. As Meeting Objectives, Joe indicated that he hoped:
 - a. He would renew Parks and Rec's (PRD's) familiarity with the Scenic Highway, and
 - b. The door would be opened to ongoing discussions between PRD and WBSHH.
3. Joe displayed the large WBS&HH Master Plan booklet and indicated that it had been the result of community meetings and County input resulting from a large County grant in 2010. From the Master Plan, Joe highlighted:
 - a. The overall Master Plan booklet features,
 - b. The 17-mile length of the State Scenic Highway,
 - c. "Big Ideas 1 - 8" identified by the Master Plan for activities along the Scenic Highway.
4. Joe thanked PRD for co-sponsoring the events at Alpine Groves, and would like to think long-term about other types of activities with the Scenic Highway.
5. Mutual opportunities might include:
 - a. Creating a "Switzerland Village" around Alpine Groves, a new Community Center across the road, and possibly the historic Switzerland General Store and Post Office.
 - b. Activities in Orangedale.
 - i. PRD does have a small fishing pier in Orangedale and will have a length of the existing Shands Bridge after the new First Coast Expressway is opened in 2030.
 - c. Trout Creek Park and area
 - i. Joe highlights Jack Wright Park as a possible passive park with riverfront lands.
 - ii. Joe also mentions a possible Bartram Botanical Garden near Jack Wright.
6. Ms. Baccari mentions that the County's Blueways, Greenways, and Trails Master Plan (GBT) is being updated. It was prepared in 2002.

- a. Joe mentions that WBSHH would like to have a “seat at the table” in the GBT revisions.
 - i. Joe has talked with County Grants Coordinator, Adam Tecler, who mentioned that “trails” is a hot button in grants programs.
 - ii. Joe would like to suggest trail opportunities identified in the WBSHH Master Plan.
7. Tim mentions that the County PRD has an active and interactive website.
 - a. This includes “audio tours” that feature County history.
 - i. These are self-guided tours that have been developed with the County Tourist Development Council (TDC).
 - ii. Joe would like to listen to these and add any more regarding William Bartram and the historic highway.
 - b. PRD welcomes new ideas and write-ups for these.
8. Joe has added a clipping here of various organized activities shown on the PRD website:

Welcome	117	Pavilion Rentals	18	Beach Accessible Wheelchair	4	Community Special Events	15	Nature Programs	40
Youth Programs	32	Adult Programs	36	Outdoor Court Rentals	63	Beach Permits	62	Community Centers	8
Fairgrounds	1	Equestrian Center	1	Recreational Facilities & Athletic...	0	Pier Park	4	Boat Ramp Permits	3
Tennis/Pickleball Instructor Regi...	1	Drop-In Programs & Classes	0	Field Application	1				

- a.
- b. WBSHH should look at these and see if there are any additional possible ideas along the Scenic Highway.
9. The County PRD website is: <https://www.sjcfll.us/departments/parks-recreation/>

Submitted by,
 Joe McAnarney, Chair
 William Bartram Scenic & Historic Highway