

## Figure 8: Gardenia Trail



The Gardenia Trail begins at the Leesburg-Wildwood Trail in Leesburg and travels north to the Town of Lady Lake. PD&E studies have been completed for all three phases and would need to be revisited if this trail becomes a priority for funding. This trail connects the communities of Leesburg, Fruitland Park, The Villages and potentially to the rural areas of Marion County. Phase I identified a trailhead at Susan Street. This trailhead will utilize the existing parking area at the Susan Street Sports Complex and the Leesburg Recreational Complex. Restrooms and picnic pavilions, as well as bicycle racks should be included. Phase II proposed a trailhead at the ball park on Shiloh St and Phase III proposed one near the Lady Lake Town Center. Trail stops (bench, shade, trash can, and water fountain) are recommended throughout. An overpass or bridge is proposed just north of CR 24 at SR 441.

| Number | Trail  | Miles | Segment  | Lead Agency             | Anticipated Timing | Funding  | Notes/Phases   |
|--------|--|-------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|--|
| 1      | Gardenia Trail Phase 1: Leesburg-Wildwood trail and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd (CR 466A) | 1.71  | From Tally Road to Martin Luther King Blvd (CR 466A) | County / Municipalities | TBD                | Unfunded | PD&E Study complete 2006; ROW proposed is abandoned rail line owned by the City of Leesburg. Small segment north of Tally Rd needs to be acquired.                       |
| 2      | Gardenia Trail Phase 2   | 5.09  | From CR 466A to Lake Ella Rd                         | County / Municipalities | TBD                | Unfunded | PD&E Study complete 2008; Alignment includes rail right-of-way as well as alternative alignments.  |
| 3      | Gardenia Trail Phase 3   | 4.05  | From Lake Ella Road to Marion County Rd in Lady Lake | County / Municipalities | TBD                | Unfunded | PD&E Study complete 2008; Preferred right-of-way is a combination of existing publically-owned right-of-way, proposed developers' agreements and a former rail corridor. |
| 4      | Marion County Connector  | 1.5   |  | County / Municipalities | TBD                | Unfunded | Next steps include a study and coordination with Marion County.  |

Figure 8: Gardenia Trail Alignment

