

Funding

County Funds

The current funding on all trails in Manatee County comes from two revenue sources. The Gas taxes - \$300,000 and \$200,000 set aside from the County's environmental millage for trails design and construction every year. That comes to only \$500,000 a year set aside for new trails. But this \$500,000 is not set in stone for trail funds.

At any time the commissioners may decide to take this money and use it for other transportation needs. That is why it is important that we attend budget meetings that affect the County's decision on Trail dollars. Increasing our membership is another factor that will make us more visible to the County Commissioners too. We will also assist the county by helping in making design decisions on new trails for Manatee County.

State and Federal Grants

The County does have the ability to apply for grants from Federal and State programs. However, in some cases there is only enough money for two grants in a given year from a funding source. Yet there may be 30 grant proposals from within the state from non-profits, city and County governments, which means only two out of 30 grant applications will receive money in a given year.

As a non-profit organization friends of the trails can apply for grants from private foundations and businesses and some state agencies. We plan to work closely with Manatee County Government on all trails applications. This helps to insure that all land purchases needed are identified along with competitive bidding and implementation dates.