

From Stock Island, the Trail continues into Key West, where travel by bike around the celebrated City of Key West is well established. In Key West, there are many historic and cultural points of interest to explore including Fort Zachary Taylor State Park, Key West Botanical Garden, Bayview Park, Higgs Beach and the famous monument marking the Southernmost Point in the continental United States.

Key West

The trail section connecting Seven Mile Bridge to Stock Island is broken into several sections with some still in the design phase. The Trail will eventually traverse a series of historic bridges from Bahia Honda State Park to Key West. The south end of the Seven Mile Bridge features a fishing pier and access to a small beach at Veterans Park. The historic bridges can be used for fishing. Existing bike paths are located on Big Pine Key, Rarudo Key, Big Coppitt Key, Lower Sugarloaf Key, Saddlebunch Keys and Stock Island. Please see map. Many of the existing bike paths are short sections at this time, however, in some areas, there are connections to alternate paths that provide much longer bike rides and phenomenal opportunities for viewing wildlife.

Lower Keys



The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail (FKOHT) is a multi-use bicycle and pedestrian facility that will ultimately traverse the Florida Keys. The vision is that of a 106-mile scenic trail extending from Key Largo to Key West, serving the communities as a linear, alternative transportation corridor and recreational pathway. The FKOHT originated as a local initiative designed to link communities with a safe and continuous multi-use trail, offering an alternative transportation route and providing recreational, health and economic benefits for Keys residents and visitors. The Trail’s corridor closely parallels U.S. Highway 1, which has been federally designated as a National Scenic Highway and an “All American Road.” The Division of Recreation and Parks maintains approximately 85 miles of existing trail and bridges and is responsible for the design and construction of the remainder of the Trail, in partnership with Monroe County and many organizations. Funding for these capital improvements is provided by the Florida Department of Transportation through a federal program for alternative transportation.

Florida Keys Overseas Paddling Trail

The Florida Keys Overseas Paddling Trail offers a paddling destination for those involved in the growing sport of kayak and canoe touring. The “blueway” introduces visitors to the history and ecology of the Keys while providing recreational opportunities that minimally impact the environment. The Trail is a segment of the 1500-mile Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail, a project coordinated by the Office of Greenways & Trails. For maps and descriptions of the Florida Keys Overseas Paddling Trail, visit FloridaGreenwaysAndTrails.com.

An 11-mile bike path runs from Grassy Key past Curry Hammock State Park and Crane Point Museum to the Seven Mile Bridge at the southwest entrance to the City of Marathon. Knight’s Key, at the base of the Seven Mile Bridge, is the entrance to Pigeon Key—a tiny island that once served as a construction camp for the Flagler railroad workers. The Pigeon Key museum features a rich collection of photographs and artifacts from the Flagler era. The Seven Mile Bridge has a narrow five-foot shoulder and heavy vehicular traffic. Side trails down Coco Plum Drive and Sombrero Beach Road offer scenic views of local beaches.

Marathon



About 8 miles of bike path runs from Channel 5 Bridge to Long Key State Park and the Long Key Historic Fishing Bridge. The Tom’s Harbor Cut Historic Bridge and the Tom’s Harbor Cut Historic Bridge have been constructed on several of the historic bridges to provide space for fishing and facilitate access to the Trail where it crosses the bridges. The Trail will eventually connect Long Key to the City of Marathon.

Long Key



Historic Bridges

The old Keys bridges form a central component of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, providing opportunities for fishing, sightseeing, recreation and historical reflection. Before the great City of Miami existed, Henry Flagler envisioned a railroad across the sea that would promote a cultural and economic connection with Cuba, the Panama Canal and South America. By 1905, Flagler had begun construction on the Keys section of his Florida East Coast Railroad. On January 22, 1912, Henry Flagler rode the railroad to Key West where the project was heralded by the press as the “Eighth Wonder of the World.” Ten thousand celebrants crowded the streets of Key West for a weeklong celebration of this momentous occasion. The railroad transformed the wilderness of the Florida Keys into an economically viable destination. Today all of the remaining 23 Flagler Railroad Bridges have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Recreation and Parks as part of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail.



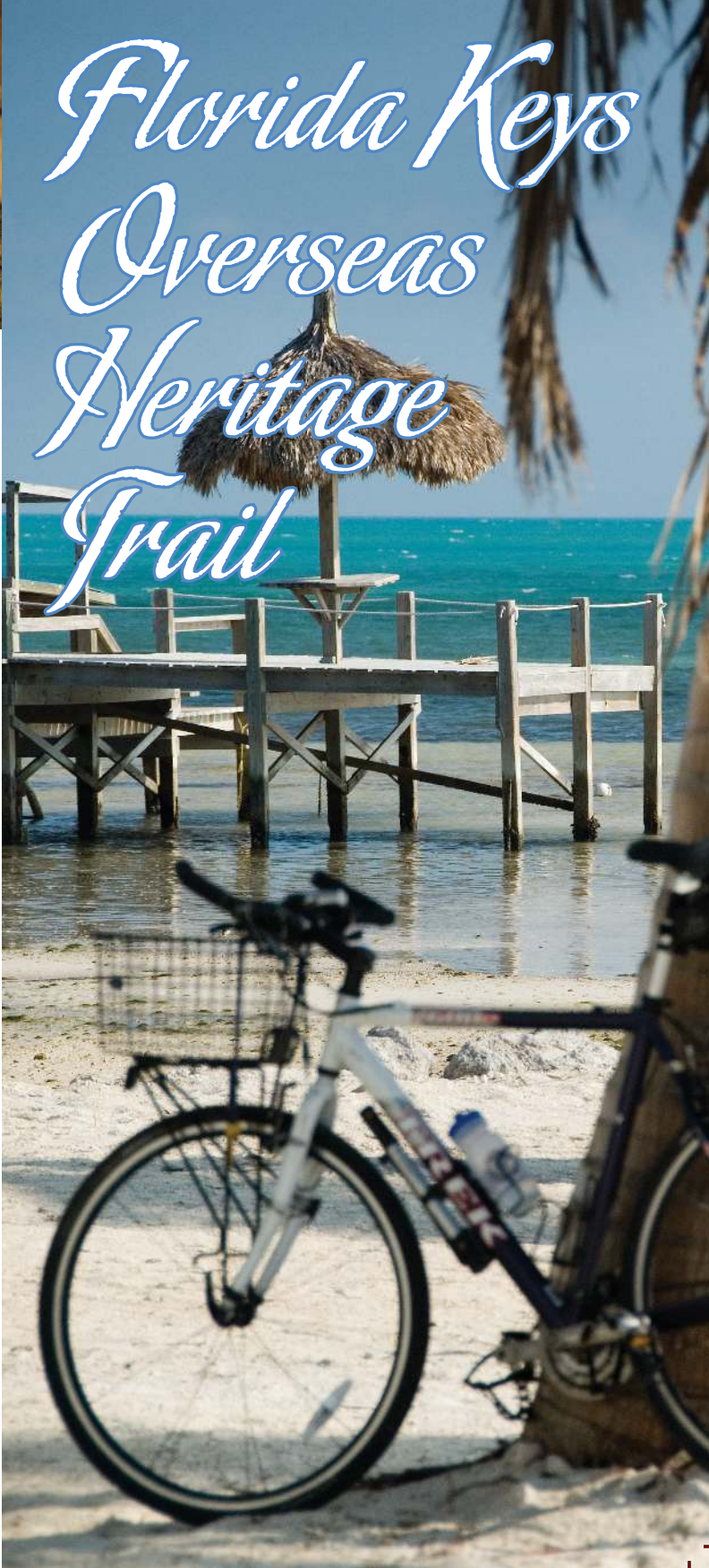
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail
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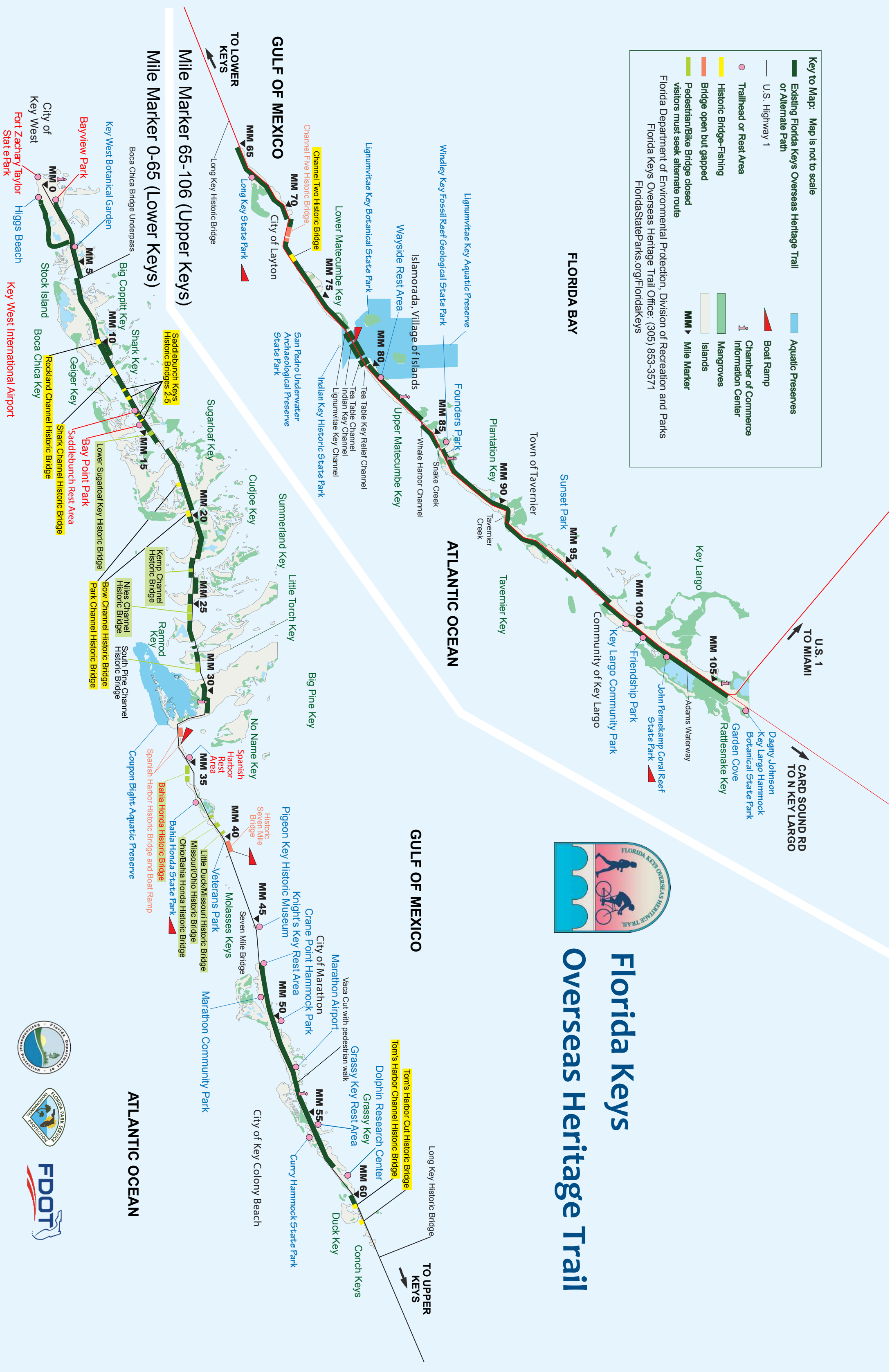
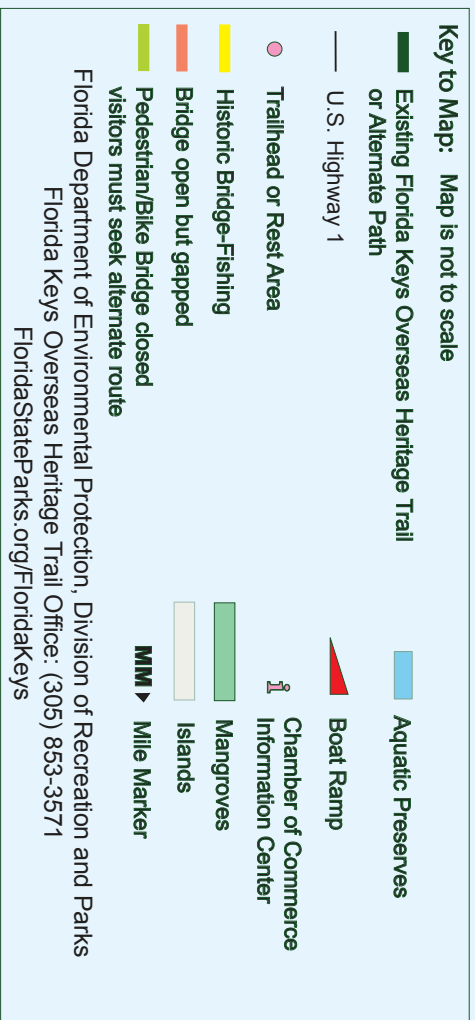
The islands that make up the Village of Islamorada have 20 miles of bike path which, in some areas, are on both sides of U.S. Highway 1. South of Tavernier Creek, the old state road, parallel to U.S. 1, provides a less traveled alternate route. Founders Park and Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park serve as trailheads. Indian Key Historic State Park, Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park and San Pedro Underwater Archaeological Preserve State Park offer interesting paddling side trips. The Channel 2 and Channel 5 historic Flagler railroad bridges are popular fishing sites.

Islamorada

Shaded in places by tropical vegetation, a 15.5-mile bike path runs by numerous businesses and parks. Side trips to John Pennnekamp Coral Reef State Park, Key Largo Community Park and Harry Harris Park provide opportunities for recreation and relaxation along the way to Islamorada.

Key Largo





Note: The Overseas Heritage Trail is still in development, therefore the information shown here may have changed since this map was printed.

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