

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1026

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Improved Lighting Along the Hawthorne State Running Trail

AUTHOR(S): Senator Ava Rathet, Senator Emma Jabbour, and Senator Sara Rodriguez

SPONSOR(S):

WHEREAS, the Hawthorne State Trail is a 16-mile paved multi-use path that extends from Boulware Springs Park in Gainesville to the town of Hawthorne, Florida, serving as a popular route for recreational activities such as running, walking, cycling, and wildlife observation [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the trail currently lacks adequate lighting, making it difficult for users to see hazards or feel secure, especially during morning and evening hour which creates an environment that deters use and increases the potential for dangerous activity; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Florida encourages health and wellness among its students and community, and safe access to recreational facilities plays an essential role in promoting an active lifestyle; and,

WHEREAS, research has shown that increasing street lighting results in a reduction of crime and significantly decreases accidents and injuries along trails [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) centers on the belief that “proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in fear and incidence of crime” [3]; and,

WHEREAS, about 41% of workouts take place between 7–9 AM or 5–7 PM which are hours that are usually lacking natural light [4]; and,

WHEREAS, aligning with the University of Florida's environmentally conscious goals, implementing lighting solutions can be done in a sustainable and cost-efficient manner such as solar-powered LED lights; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the need for more lighting on the Hawthorne State Trail.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the University of Florida to promote awareness about safety enhancements and encourage students and faculty to take advantage of the trail.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes and supports the implementation of lights along the Hawthorne running trail for safe and increased usage of this valuable resource.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Rec Sports Director for Facilities & Operations Marty Dempsey.

[1] <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/gainesville-hawthorne-state-trail>

[2] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK316511/#:~:text=A%20previous%20systematic%20review35,of%20both%20daylight%20and%20darkness>

[3] https://www.oregonmetro.gov/sites/default/files/2019/05/28/LightingRegionTrail_April2016_rev.pdf

[4] <https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/exercise-timing-conundrum-optimal-workout-timing/#:~:text=It's%20a%20long%2Dstanding%20discussion,approach%20for%20achieving%20fitness%20goals.%22>



Blake Cox
Senate President

2/10/25

Date