**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Groundwork Jacksonville Connects the Community through Green Links**

***Community Invited to Help Create a Vision for the S-Line to Hogans Creek Greenway***

Jacksonville, Fla 5/27/15 – This summer, citizens of Jacksonville will have an opportunity to shape the vision and future for the long-awaited S-Line to Hogans Creek Greenway.

Groundwork Jacksonville, in partnership with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Florida Chapter, and the City of Jacksonville, invites the community to participate in a design charette to help develop a vision and concept plan for the S-Line Rail Trail, linking the communities of Historic Springfield and Eastside and to the Hogans Creek Greenway. The design charette, facilitated by volunteers from ASLA, will be held June 1-2 at the Karpeles Manuscript Library, located at 101 West 1st Street in Jacksonville, Florida.

The S-Line is an urban greenway planned along a 4.8 mile stretch of abandoned CSX railroad Right-of-Way that was acquired by the City of Jacksonville. The development of this trail will offer the surrounding citizens a safer transportation alternative to vehicle-dominated streets as well as a linear recreation corridor. The trail concept began from the need to offer residents and adjacent neighborhoods the opportunity for safe walking and biking activities, and access to parks, schools, work, and retail. The S-Line is only partially complete – a 1.5 mile section of the trail is open from Myrtle Avenue to Boulevard Street – with many gaps in links and infrastructure.

This community vision and concept plan will serve as a planning and fundraising tool for Groundwork Jacksonville to begin coordinating a phased approach to developing the remaining connections, linking the neighborhoods to the S-Line and the Hogans Creek Greenway, which would ultimately connect the neighborhoods to the Northbank Riverwalk.

On June 1, 2015 the event will be held from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. The charette will begin with a welcome and opening remarks by James Richardson, Board Chairman of Groundwork Jacksonville. Presentations will be given by the following: Dr. Dawn Emerick, CEO, Groundwork Jacksonville; Daryl Joseph, City of Jacksonville Parks & Recreation; Ken Bryan, Executive Director, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy; Doug Smith, ASLA, Florida Chapter Representative; and, Kevin White, ASLA, Jacksonville Section Chair.

After the presentations, participants will conduct various mapping exercises by joining several facilitated work groups, led by ASLA landscape architects and planners. Input on constraints, types of desired recreational opportunities and amenities, as well as priority areas and information on the planning and design of the local trail will be garnered.

On June 2, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. community participants are invited to attend a luncheon where the Florida ALSA will present an overview of the findings and vision for the S-Line Rail-Trail based on their field study and community input from the charette the evening before.

In 2000, ASLA and the National Park Service (NPS) formalized a partnership to help communities across the nation plan, design, and manage their natural, cultural, and recreation resources. This unique partnership expanded opportunities for ASLA chapters and NPS staff across the country. Dozens of community projects have benefited from this valuable collaboration, and the two groups have selected the City of Jacksonville and the newly launched Groundwork Jacksonville Trust to assist in the S-Line project.

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***About Groundwork Jacksonville***

*Groundwork Jacksonville envisions a future of Historic Springfield and Eastside that includes healthy neighborhoods free of brownfields and other toxic sites, clean waters for our children to play and fish, well-maintained scenic parks for the entire city to enjoy and the development of a community stewardship ethic that ensures these positive community changes are guaranteed for the future. Founded in Jacksonville in 2014, Groundwork Jacksonville is a partnership between the City of Jacksonville, US National Park Service, US Environmental Protection Agency and Groundwork USA, Inc. and is part of the Groundwork USA network. Learn more at* [*www.GroundworkJacksonville.org*](http://www.GroundworkJacksonville.org)

***About the National Park Service***

*More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at* [*www.nps.gov*](http://www.nps.gov/)

***About the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)***

*The ASLA founded in 1899, is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 15,000 members in 49 professional chapters and 72 student chapters. The Florida ASLA chapter was created in 1959 by 11 members and associates and has grown to more than 800 members in 9 sections, covering the state of Florida and Puerto Rico. The goal of ASLA is to help promote the landscape architecture profession and advance the profession through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. Learn more at* [*www.asla.org*](http://www.asla.org)