

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DIVISION OF RECREATION AND PARKS
OFFICE OF PARK PLANNING**



**ECONFINA RIVER
STATE PARK**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
AND COMMENTS**

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks**

**Econfina River State Park
Public Meeting
May 4th, 2018**

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to receive public input on proposed improvements and facilities at Econfina River State Park.

Background

Econfina River State Park is a 557-acre property located in Jefferson County near the city of Perry. The park is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP).

Improvements

The following developments/improvements are proposed for the updated Econfina River State Park plan:

Main Day Use Area

Entrance Improvements
Convert Restroom to Office/Storage
Replace Dock
Landscaping Improvements
Repair Seawall
Add Trailhead
Add Interpretive Kiosk
Add Equestrian Camping

Group Camping Area

Group Campground

Equestrian Camping Area

Primitive Equestrian Camping

Shop Area

Staff Residence
2-Bay Shop
Volunteer Host Site

Marsh Island Primitive Camping Area

Primitive Campsites (2)
Small Shelters

Parkwide

Observation Platforms (2)

Public Input

Thank you for taking the time to share your comments with us. Please provide any comments you have on the back of this page by **May 18th, 2018**. You may also provide your comments by calling (850) 245-3063, sending an email with the park name in the subject line to Mari.Schwabacher@dep.state.fl.us, or by regular mail at the address below.

Office of Park Planning
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation & Parks
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 525
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

PLEASE COMPLETE COMMENT FORM ON REVERSE

From: Tally Lass
To: [FLStateParkPlanning](#)
Subject: Econfina State Park Proposed Plan
Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 7:13:15 PM

I attended the public meeting on the proposed improvements and facilities at the Econfina River State Park.

As an equestrian and trail rider, it is essential that the existing trail retain safe footing. I believe the culvert hazards were discussed and if not being addressed, are to be cleared soon.

Additionally, regarding the proposed improvements, I am keenly interested in the following:

Link the proposed equestrian camp-head to the existing equestrian trail with something other than County Road 14. The hazard of vehicles and horses cannot be understated. Even if you have a path near the road, that would be helpful.

Additionally, if it is required to cross County Road 14, a marked crossing, with appropriate signage activated by the trail user, must be installed. People in vehicles do not always know the protocol, or more frightening, want to see a horse react, and safety is essential.

Potable water at the equestrian camp-head is essential. Ideally, a wash rack area with water for rinsing the sweat, mud and muck from the horses would be great.

Covered pens/stalls for the horses to have a reprieve from the sun and rain would be tremendous at the equestrian camp-head.

Restrooms for humans at the equestrian camp-head, and if funding doesn't cover the construction, at least an ADA-compliant Port-a-let would be useful.

Work with the Florida Wildlife Commission to connect and/or add onto trails, even service roads would provide additional riding/hiking opportunities. I heard concerns about four-wheelers being the reason gates to such roads are locked, and I suggested removable posts, with a lock, as is used often in similar public areas where service vehicles need to drive the roads but limits to other wheeled vehicles are desired. Such posts with a 3 foot clearance would be sufficient for equestrian and hikers to pass through safely.

Thank you for the opportunity to remark on the proposals. May I add that while funding seems to pose limits on your other proposals, such as two store fronts, boat ramp and entrance signage, some of these items I have listed would require little funds and volunteers have expressed a willingness to help.

Sincerely,

Janet Olin
11049 Pennewaw Trace
Tallahassee FL 32317

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Econfina River State Park

Water - Either Portable - Windmill Run
Port to tie horses -
Parking for trailers
Porta Potty - Flush toilets are Better! ☺
Run Electric to sites for 30 amp min.
Rent Stall Space - Use Money to maintain stalls
Recycle Bins for Trash -

Horse Trail Kiosk & Marked Trails
Maps to take with -

Thank you - much needed.

Please no gravel on trails for horses!
Limit multi-use please.

Thank you!



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COMMENT FORM

Econfina River State Park

Love the park!

HORSE TRAIL SIGNAGE NEEDED - TRAIL CLUBS
would help w/ this

USE LANGUAGE ON WEBPAGES, BROCHURES TO
INDICATE 'EQUESTRIAN' USAGE OF PARKS
WHICH HAVE EQUESTRIAN USAGE!!

This is currently missing from 'allowed
recreational usage'.

PROVIDE RECYCLING CONTAINER FOR CANS
PLASTIC BOTTLES



From: Ken Hodges
To: [FLStateParkPlanning](#)
Subject: Econfina River State Park
Date: Friday, May 18, 2018 4:09:29 PM

Since one of the goals of the Southern Trail Riders Association located in Tallahassee is to: "Promote and develop public equestrian trails and related facilities in the southern United States," as a member I have these comments for the proposed updated plan for the Econfina River State Park:

1. The Land Use map shows a proposed equestrian campground at the boat ramp. I understand that this is an equestrian parking area and day use trailhead not an equestrian camping area,
2. I understand that the proposed equestrian camping area is located at the northern boundary of the park,
3. This equestrian camping area should have potable water, a wash rack, and restrooms,
4. It should also have a barn or covered pens, an area to set up portable pens, and a picnic pavilion,
5. I would like for the plan to include a connective trail system uniting the existing trails as currently equestrians must cross and ride along side of County Road 14.
6. Finally, I would like to see In the plan an effort to work with FWC to develop trail systems in the surrounding wildlife management areas. These areas could be taken advantage by equestrians during large parts of the calendar year.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed plan and ask that serious consideration be given to these comments. Equestrians are huge promoters of conservation and committed caretakers of our wonderful resources.

Regards,

Ken

Ken Hodges

Educational Learning Systems, Inc.
"Inspiring Teachers and Developing Students"
2874 Remington Green Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32308
Office: 850.386.3708; 800.779.4444
Cell: 850.591.4316
Fax: 850.385.8067

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- RL vandalism an issue / Park has to hide equipment
- A.C.H Add ~~Heart~~ trail to Marsh Island site
- RL Yes, add trail
- RL ~~the~~ Trailhead could be moved to main use area
- RL ~~Before~~ should look into non competitive clause in lease before pursuing campground
- RL honor box no
- Ranger station and formalized entrance area/layout improvements
- RL confirmed need for seawall, possibly add observation platform
- Possibility that the Florida Trail will go through park from Snipe Island to Big Bend
- RL not enough demand for pudding concession but could put on map
- RL equestrian camping on site of abandoned restrooms
- RL possibly remove restroom (pit toilet) from existing site (move to St Marks River)

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COMMENT FORM

Econfina River State Park

When making the trails it is essential to clear away
Brush and ~~DEBRIS~~ along side so the understory is visible to
the horse - Billy Goodwill

Do not pursue Feral to area near boat launch for
purpose of "sand goat control" & horse fly control

Remove "NO WAKE" sign on River

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COMMENT FORM

Econfina River State Park

Please include the words 'equestrian'
in the written and online lists of recreational
usage allowed/encouraged at state
parks.

This is an egregious omission!

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COMMENT FORM

Econfina River State Park

Sixtonya@gmail.com - State FC APP - for Equestion

fori mapping question
- LAURA →

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
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COMMENT FORM

Econfina River State Park

- potential areas of cooperation between FWC and DEP - Parks
 - marsh bird survey
 - coastal springs survey
 - FL Scenic Trails development
 - habitat mgmt - ie preserved burn