

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



**HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK
STATE PARK**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
AND COMMENTS**

From: Donna Hakanson
To: [FLStateParkPlanning](#)
Subject: Highlands Hammock
Date: Friday, February 2, 2018 8:26:25 PM

Please do not take away the equestrian camping area. We love going there. Great place to ride that is safe. Clear some more land for the non riding people. Great barn. And buildings. Donna Hakanson. 321 7591605

From: Gina Perez
To: [FLStateParkPlanning](#)
Subject: Highland hammocks
Date: Saturday, February 3, 2018 11:19:51 AM

Please leave the Equestrian area for the horse riders!

Thank you,
Gina Perez

Baxley, Demi

From: Cramer, Holly
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Baxley, Demi
Subject: HH Public Comment

From: Tyrone, Victor "Morgan"
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 2:18 PM
To: Subic, Valinda <Valinda.Subic@dep.state.fl.us>; Cramer, Holly <Holly.Cramer@dep.state.fl.us>; Cutshaw, Steven <Steven.Cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us>; Givens, Ezell <Ezell.Givens@dep.state.fl.us>
Cc: Nail, Azell <Azell.Nail@dep.state.fl.us>
Subject: Fwd: Re: Removing equestrian area Highland Hammock Park

All,

See response from equestrian below.

Morgan

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From: Pamela Flint <adkbooknook@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 12:57:02 PM
To: Tyrone, Victor "Morgan"
Subject: Re: Removing equestrian area Highland Hammock Park

Mr. Tyrone,

Thank you so much for both the phone call and email. I'm very happy to know we will not be losing this great park as part of our trail system.

Pamela Gibson

Sent from my iPad

> On Feb 6, 2018, at 2:17 PM, Tyrone, Victor Morgan <Victor.Tyrone@dep.state.fl.us> wrote:

>

> Ms. Gibson,

>

> Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts. I have already called you to leave a message at the phone number you provided below, this afternoon. You have brought to our attention a mistake in our wording of the Rough Draft and we thank you for that. The intention has been for the past 6+ years to have equestrian camping at the facility off Vaughan Road on our South Property, where money was specifically spent to designing an equestrian day-use and camping area. Unfortunately this area has not been able to open, though already built, while we negotiate with Highlands County over the vacation of Vaughan Road within our borders. This process has taken a few years to get resolved but appears to be coming to a close very soon. There is not an intention to exclude equestrians from utilizing Highlands Hammock State Park.

>
> Thank you again for catching our mistaken wordage,

>
> Morgan

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Pamela Flint [<mailto:adkbooknook@hotmail.com>]

> Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:53 AM

> To: Tyrone, Victor "Morgan" <Victor.Tyrone@dep.state.fl.us>

> Cc: wittlehorse@aol.com

> Subject: Removing equestrian area Highland Hammock Park

>

> Mr. Tyrone,

>

> I am an equestrian rider and belong to a trail riders group, Marion County Horseman Association. It has come to our attention that you're considering eliminating the equestrian area from the Highland Hammock State Park.

>

> One of the things that I love about Florida and attracted me to move here is the number of diverse trails available to horse lovers like myself and our group. It is very upsetting to learn we will possibly lose another wonderful system. I hope this does not come to fruition. It seems the hikers and the cyclists are taking over more and more of our beloved riding trails. The greenway is already paving many of our equestrian trails making it more and more difficult for those of us who love to ride the dwindling wilderness of "old Florida".

>

> We, as equestrian lovers, urge you to reconsider this part of your plans for Hammock Park.

>

> Pamela Gibson

> Farm Manager

> Cheers Ranch, Amelia Island Horseback riding

> 203-921-9103

>

> Sent from my iPad

> [Dep Customer Survey]<<http://survey.dep.state.fl.us/?refemail=Victor.Tyrone@dep.state.fl.us>>

Baxley, Demi

From: Cramer, Holly
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2018 11:36 AM
To: Baxley, Demi
Subject: HH Public Comment
Attachments: 9 - HHSP_Comment Form.pdf

From: Juliet Rynear [mailto:julietrynear@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 11:06 AM
To: Cramer, Holly <Holly.Cramer@dep.state.fl.us>
Subject: Highlands Hammock State Park

Please see attached, my comments on the updated Highlands Hammock State Park management plan.

Great plans for the future, and I thank everyone who worked to put this together!

Juliet Rynear

1311 Vista Del Lago Blvd.
Dundee, FL 33838

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

COMMENT FORM

Highlands Hammock State Park

I have reviewed the updated management plan and proposed improvements and I am definitely in support of these recommendations!

On page 103 – I very much like the idea of closing the wilderness area campground and restoring the scrub habitat. We are rapidly losing scrub to development and this area of the park is very special!

On page 113 – I very much support the acquisition of properties within the “optimum park boundary”. I hope that someday soon, the park will expand to this optimum boundary.

Highlands Hammock SP is a very special place for so many reasons and I am happy that this proposal addresses necessary improvements.

I have enjoyed the park for many years, both as a hiker and a volunteer for the Ridge Rangers. I have seen the great work that park staff is doing to restore and manage the natural areas in the park and I am grateful for their dedication and expertise.

Thank you!

Juliet Rynear
Dundee, Florida

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Highlands Hammock State Park

Restoring Cultural

You mentioned cultural many times yet you do not acknowledge Ft. Bot. Gardens and all of their ~~star~~ constructions which are very valuable. Why add new facilities to a shop that should be moved and allow the cultural to expand as it is the most in the US. We need a 50x100ft metal building about \$300,000 someplace with a bath room for staff. We have non sensitive land available.

~~Star~~ Sorry about my writing but
TBI.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Highlands Hammock State Park

Horse Camp

Please Contact Me

Diane Ziesenheim - FHHSP CSO

863.443.1742

DGFR225@aol.com

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Highlands Hammock State Park

I am a frequent visitor to Highlands Hammock and enjoy the wildlife and hiking trails.

I appreciate the need for prescribed burns. ~~It~~ These will improve wildlife habitat and keep the public safe in the long run.

I am involved in Highlands Audubon and we are interested in the Bird Blind project and want to see this move forward. I noticed that Park Manager Morgan Tyrone said that we have a verbal agreement on the location for the ~~two~~ Bird Blinds. Apparently this is too recent to be reflected in any documents or plans.

A Bird Blind could be a great addition to the park and is a great way to make wildlife more visible and more accessible to the public.

- Dale Le Lillis

President, Highlands Audubon

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Highlands Hammock State Park

I think it's time to designate a portion of the park for RV's only. While I do appreciate seeing families going camping, most RV'ers as a group tend to be older and more quiet, and it's a bit of a shock to come back from sightseeing or whatever and find yourself in the middle of tent city with a large group of people. I want to make sure everyone is enjoying the park, but this can diminish my pleasure in it.