

Honeymoon Island State Park Unit Management Plan Amendment

INTRODUCTION

In support of Florida's Great Outdoors Initiative, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is working to enhance public access, recreation, and lodging at state parks—reinforcing the state's dedication to conservation, the outdoor recreation economy, and Floridians quality of life.

Land use planning and park improvement decisions are based on the dual responsibilities of DEP's Division of Recreation and Parks. These responsibilities are to preserve Florida's natural landscapes, heritage sites, and to provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities for Florida's citizens and visitors. Over time, park-specific management plan amendments are implemented to accommodate park-specific needs in real time to boundary changes and land acquisitions, impacts from natural forces like hurricanes and severe weather, and to prioritize additional opportunities for outdoor recreation and other amenities as needed.

PLAN AMENDMENT

Overview

This amendment to the current Acquisition and Restoration Council-approved unit management plan for Honeymoon Island State Park includes an additional recreation facility. These proposals are organized and presented by use area. Design details and precise location of proposed facilities will be determined and developed according to conceptual land use elements described below and are contingent on funding and concession agreements.

Best Practices

All improvements shall employ best practices utilized by park systems across the country, ensuring that all facilities, functions, and amenities are welcoming and reflective of Florida's heritage, harmonious with park-specific resources, compatible with native lands and plants, aesthetically fitting within surrounding landscapes, and are functional.

CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN

Parking/Beach Access Areas – Pickleball Courts

Objective: Introduce new recreation opportunity.

Action:

- *Design and develop pickleball courts.*

Construction of up to four pickleball courts is recommended adjacent to the upper portion of the park's South Beach Access Area where existing amenities and an abundance of parking may complement and support the proposed new recreation experience.

Utilizing an area of altered upland on the northeast side of the existing parking spaces, the proposed court will occupy approximately 7,200 square feet. This location is easily accessible for all day-use visitors and takes advantage of existing parking, restrooms, and services and merchandise provided in the nearby concession building.