

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



**Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock
Botanical State Park and
John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park**

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
AND COMMENTS**

From: nancy diersing
To: [FLStateParkPlanning](#)
Subject: Comments on management of Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammocks state park
Date: Wednesday, September 5, 2018 8:18:13 AM

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on park management. I have lived in the vicinity of the park for over 20 years. In the past few years the park has become very popular with people making day trips with their families, especially during the winter months. This increase in attendance is evident because people park at the entrance and then ride with their children on the bike lane that was created by the county. This bike lane was carved out of the existing CR 905 road, which has resulted in small children riding very close to traffic traveling 45mph or greater. Even though the road was widened slightly when they added the lane, the lane is still dangerous because it offers no separation from vehicle traffic. I have seen families riding and walking against traffic on the narrow unprotected bike lane. There are large waste management vehicles on this road all day long hauling trash to the county's dump on this road.

A separate bike path is needed to make it safe for recreational cyclists who use the park as a base of operation because they are attracted to the parks cycle activities and easy parking. A connecting pathway is needed to offer safe cycling and this path should connect to the nearby overseas heritage trail. This connection is especially needed in the vicinity of the Circle K.

Please consider the above comments to also apply to the management of the overseas heritage trail too even though the comment period seems to have recently closed.

As for the park itself, development of the park should be kept to a minimum. This land was kept undeveloped with support from the public and options to make money through concessions is not in keeping with the original intention of protecting the diverse hardwood hammock. This park should not be commercialized and no effort to increase its popularity should be made. Most people wouldn't even be on CR905 unless they are visiting the park. I see a lot of wildlife killed by vehicles each year. This area is a refuge for migrating wildlife and protected species. The park system has a responsibility to this wildlife and should be protective of it and not try to seek any gains. Of course I am not advocating reducing access but I don't want to see any planned increases and think the park should accommodate for cyclists who don't need or want a fancy bike trail through the sensitive woods. A simple safe trail to put people in touch with thread Florida is what may be needed.

The public meeting for this park was on August 17 and the comment period is closing today less than 30 days later. People have busy lives and need more time to provide input to park managers.

Again thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sent from my iPad

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

Purpose

The purpose of this meeting is to receive public input on proposed improvements and facilities at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park.

Improvements

The following developments and improvements are proposed for the updated unit management plans:

Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park

Nike Base Day Use Area

Interpretive Panels
Small Stabilized Parking Area

Parkwide

Observation Platform
Interpretive Panel
Paddle-In Campsite
Boardwalk (.2 miles)

Port B Day Use Area

Small Picnic Pavilion
Entrance Area Improvements
Boardwalk (.2 miles)
Nature Trail (.89 miles)
FKOHT Trailhead

Residence Area

Staff Residences (3)

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Grove Day Use Area

Add Medium Picnic Pavilion

Main Day Use Area

Redesign Concession Area
Redesign Parking
Remove Boathouse
Redesign Docks
Improve Pedestrian Circulation and Safety

Parkwide

Mangrove Trail Boardwalk Improvements

Residence Area

Add Staff Residences (2)

Shaw Residence Area

Add Boathouse

Family Camping Area

Improve Bathhouse

Public Input

Please provide any comments you have on the back of this page or call/email by **September 5, 2018.**

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Florida Department of Environmental Protection
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PLEASE COMPLETE COMMENT FORM ON REVERSE

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks
COMMENT FORM

John Pennekamp and Dagny Johnson Key Largo State Parks

Would like to see kayak/SPB landing site on Ocean So to make PAN B Day use able to be explored by Ocean entrance - Same entry fee setup as on Indian Key, would be a destination for PENNEKAMP Kayak + Board Rentals and ^{could} increase fees significantly.

donroot4242@gmail.com
R.S. FEE COULD BE COLLECTED AT RENTAL SITE AND ENTRANCE TICKET ISSUED.

A LONG BUT POSSIBLE TRIP FOR MANY PADDLERS

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John Pennekamp and Dagny Johnson Key Largo State Parks

more the Ranger Station back to near
the exit of Cannon Beach parking lot so
that the line of vehicles waiting are inside
the park instead of on the street

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John Pennekamp and Dagny Johnson Key Largo State Parks

Wed- advisory group mtg. - open - where?

I don't think a picnic pavilion would be healthy for the grove. And I doubt that many people will hike their picnic coolers back to the grove. There are many, many picnic areas already. I think a couple of benches would be more worthwhile and allow for contemplation and appreciation for a quiet space in nature vs. another noisy place to go.

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John Pennekamp and Dagny Johnson Key Largo State Parks

Boating speed limit throughout John Pennekamp,
Good for people safety, good for animals, and
make boating user friendly

J. Bennett

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John Pennekamp and Dagny Johnson Key Largo State Parks

at public mtg 21 Aug '18

audience comments indicate more future attention to coral part of coral reef state park. I agree. Today is our first visit to park.

Our impression at this point is that the coral is in bad condition.

Volunteer "Darryl" at visitor center told us about coral reef restoration efforts. Would be appealing to me to be able to learn more about this subject while at park,

perhaps see some demonstrations.

Get away from the ABANDON

HOPE all YE who enter here point of view which seems to prevail in media.

John G. Punta Gorda FL
also would like to see some floating docks @ marina for small boats i.e. dinghys