

**GRAYTON BEACH STATE PARK**  
**UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT**  
**JUNE 2017**

**OFFICE OF PARK PLANNING**

**Daniel Alsentzer, Park Planner**

**Eric Pate, Park Planner**

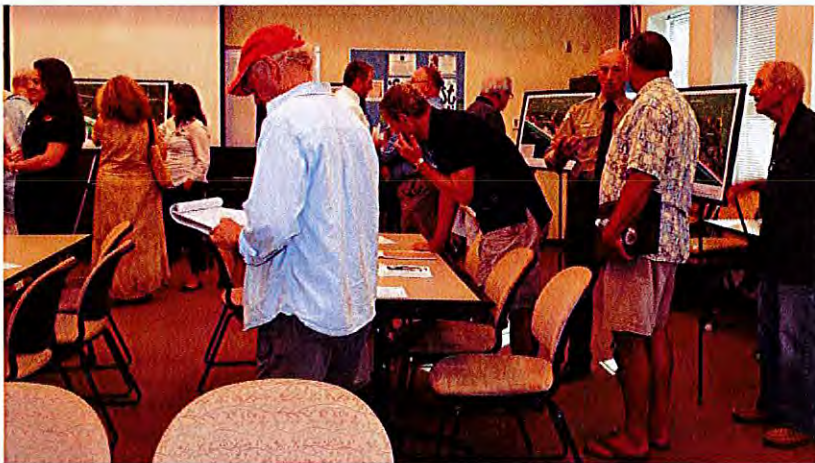
**Holly Cramer, Park Planner**

**Sine Murray, Senior Planner**

**NEWS**  
**ARTICLES**

# Citizens React To Proposed Amendment To Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan

🕒 June 23, 2017 👤 Quinton 📁 News



*ATTENDEES AT THE DEP open house meeting at Northwest Florida State College Center look at maps of Grayton Beach State Park and the proposed amendment to the park unit management plan and speak with Florida Park Service personnel. (Photo by Dotty Nist)*

*By DOTTY NIST*

Citizens recently had the opportunity to give their input on plans for the addition to Grayton Beach State Park (GBSP) of property on its west end and a proposed day use area at Little Redfish Lake, along with other proposed changes to the previously-approved unit management plan for the park. Two public meetings were held in Walton County on the proposal on June 13 and June 14, both at the Northwest Florida State College Center in Santa Rosa Beach. The first meeting was in an open-house format, the second a meeting of the

Grayton Beach State Park Advisory Group to obtain that group's comments and recommendations, along with those of other members of the public in attendance.

Grayton Beach State Park currently contains 2,187 acres and is located along the gulf and CR-30A in south Walton County. The park property is located both south and north of the county road. The park has eastern and western units connected in the center by narrower park property, with the western unit featuring rental cabins. The eastern unit features campgrounds, beach access, a boat ramp on Western Lake, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and other activities.

At the June 13 meeting, Daniel Alsentzer, a planner for the state Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Office of Park Planning, spoke in detail about the park and the proposed amendment to its unit management plan, which had been approved in 2013. Approximately 75 people were in attendance at the meeting.

Park plans are usually updated every 10 years.

Alsentzer explained that the Florida Park Service had received some National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funding in 2016 in connection with settlement of claims related to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and that, as a result, there were plans for projects at eight of the 174 state parks in Florida through this funding.

Proposed for GBSP was the acquisition of seven acres at the dune lake outfall of Little Redfish Lake at the west end of the park property, to be managed as part of GBSP. At 10 acres in size, Little Redfish Lake was described as the smallest of Walton County's globally rare coastal dune lakes.

A day use area to be located within the western unit of the current park property was proposed along with the seven-acre acquisition at the lake outfall. This would require moving planned tent sites that had been part of the previously-approved park plan to another location in order to put day use area facilities in that location.

Alsentzer indicated that there had been discussion of Walton County funding day use facilities and associated parking.

A conceptual land use plan for the proposed Little Redfish Lake Day Use Area called for "recreational and interpretive access to Little Redfish Lake and the Gulf beach." The park's only beach access is currently located two miles east of the new proposed day use area.

Featured as part of the Little Redfish Lake Day Use Area would be a proposed paddling launch on the lake and an observation deck over the lake. According to the proposed plans, a new 24-space parking area to be constructed within the current park property would provide access to the eastern shoreline of Little Redfish Lake by a new boardwalk. The parking area would include a small restroom. A path extending south from the new parking area would connect to the existing beach boardwalk, providing beach access for Little Redfish Day Use Area visitors. Cabin guests would access Little Redfish Lake and the beach boardwalks via a path extending from the cabin area.

As part of the plans, approximately 2.5 acres of current roadway and cleared area within the park would be restored to scrub. It was also noted that the majority of the day use area would use existing cleared area and roadbeds.

The relocated 12-site tent camping area plus bathhouse and associated 24-space parking area would occupy a two-acre site east of the cabins and on the east side of the cabin access road. Tent campers would have access to the Little Redfish Lake Day Use Area by path from the adjacent cabin area.

Alsentzer emphasized that the new day use area would offer new opportunities for beginning paddlers in a smaller lake. After Alsentzer's presentation at the June 13 meeting, attendees raised objections that their comments were not taken in a public format. The objections were shut down quickly, and park personnel advised that they would continue to be available to talk with attendees one-on-one. The personnel also provided information on how to proceed with making written and online comments on the proposed amendment. In addition, attendees were invited to attend the advisory group meeting the following day where they would be

able to speak.

Attendance was much reduced at the June 14 meeting, but several citizens did attend and speak to the gathering, which included park officials and other DEP personnel.

Celeste Cobena, a south Walton County resident, member of the advisory group, and representative of the local Beach to Bay Connection conservation organization, said, "I recommend denial of this proposed amendment to the unit management plan."

She explained that, although she would like to see the purchase of the seven-acre property, she did not think that benefit would outweigh the negative impact of the proposed plans on the park. Cobena urged for the proposed new recreational components to be placed in the eastern unit of the park—and for the state to focus on improvements associated with existing paddling opportunities on Western Lake in the eastern unit. In this way, she reasoned, beginner and disabled paddlers would be better served by that than they would be by the park building the proposed long boardwalk for them to access Little Redfish Lake.

Cobena also expressed concern about what she termed "absolutely no control" in connection with the proposal to open up the new day use area and additional access to the beach. "Any number of people can go in there...you'll get over capacity very soon," she warned. While there is currently a very peaceful situation for the cabin guests, this could change with the amenities associated with the new day use area and leave cabin guests "in a vulnerable condition," Cobena told the park officials.

Cobena also brought up potential impacts of putting a dock on this small coastal dune lake and the possibility of invasive plants being brought into the lake on day use guests' boats.

In summary, she advised for the addition of recreational opportunities in the eastern unit or north of CR-30A rather than in the western unit as proposed. If the property acquisition were tied to the plans for the western unit, Cobena advised for not proceeding with acquiring the property.

Diane Rickman, a member of the advisory group representing

the Florida Paddling Trails Association, said her only concern was the 500-foot-long boardwalk that paddlers would have to traverse with their boats to get to the Little Redfish Lake Day Use Area. She added that leaving the path as a trail would actually be easier for paddlers carrying their boats.

Alsentzer responded that a track system for transporting boats along the boardwalk was envisioned.

Bob Murphy, a geologist and a member of the group representing the Grayton Beach Neighborhood Association, said he was "totally for" the purchase of the outfall property and was of the opinion that the outfall should be under state management. However he was also concerned about the paddling aspect. "It's a small lake, and it's known to have alligators," Murphy said of Little Redfish Lake, warning of danger to beginning paddlers if they were to fall over in the lake.

He also wondered if the new public parking, the addition of the new tent camping, and bringing more people in for beach access could impact the quiet enjoyment of the cabins in the western unit. Murphy also brought up the issue of eagles nesting near Little Redfish Lake and warned that, with more traffic with paddlers, monitoring might not be sufficient to mitigate impacts on the birds. Like Cobena, he advised that the recreational component of the project be placed on the eastern side of the park "where the impact is already there." Tony Anderson, Walton County District 5 commissioner and a member of the advisory group, said he wanted to clear up rumors that the county and Walton County Tourist Development Council (TDC) had "pushed for" the plans. "We were asked by DEP to partner with them," he said.

Anderson said it was his understanding that addition of a recreational aspect at the park would be required in order for the funding for purchase of the seven-acre property to be available.

"We have the opportunity to save a beautiful piece of property," Anderson said, while acknowledging that there would be some impacts. He said he would "hate to see" a developer obtain the property and for it to be turned into

something "that none of us want."

"There is a buildable lot there," said Jason Cutshaw, TDC director of administration. He said he would like to see the property purchased for addition to the park. He was appreciative of the opportunity to be part of the effort to acquire the property.

"Recreation is not to degrade the conservation of the resource," said Cynthia Alexander, Grayton Beach resident and advisory board member. "This plan goes out of its way to do that."

She commented that she fully endorsed the previously-approved 2013 park plan, which does provide for additional recreational opportunities. The plan has not been fully implemented as this time.

Alexander warned that opening up the day use area with the associated additional beach access would result in people "parking everywhere" to go to the beach. She also echoed previous comments about the eagles that hunt and fish in the lake—and that the lake is home to alligators.

Alligators tend to retreat from humans when there is room to do so, Alexander told the group, but there will not be room in the small lake for them to do so. "They will have no place to go, and they will get aggressive," she warned, adding that Little Redfish Lake is not the place for disabled paddlers.

Walton County's desire to increase beach access should not be allowed to impact the park plan, Alexander concluded. She emphasized that the western unit of the park is "highly sensitive" and full of endangered plants.

Little Redfish Lake resident Bill Crane, an advisory group member said he did water sampling for the lake on behalf of the Choctawatchee Basin Alliance. He reported that of all Walton County's coastal dune lake, "it's the healthiest."

Crane said that use of the lake and outfall had increased with construction of hundreds of homes in the area, with hundreds of people accessing the outfall and parking on the beach near it. Speaking for himself and for others living on the lake, he identified as most important the preservation of the outfall and allowing it to migrate in the natural and characteristic manner for dune lake outfalls.



Crane said that he had worked toward getting people involved in the potential purchase of the outfall property with the aim of preserving the outfall and keeping Little Redfish Lake healthy.

He echoed concerns expressed by others that it should be ensured that there is not parking "everywhere." Crane said he would also be concerned if the 24-space parking area associated with the day use area doubled or quadrupled in size in the future. Among his other concerns were debris, invasive plants being brought into the lake, and the possibility of park guests going onto private residential property on the north side of the lake.

In addition to other comments by advisory board members, several citizens in attendance spoke at the meeting. The first of those, Santa Rosa Beach resident Bonnie McQuiston, called acquisition of the outfall "a wonderful idea." However, she said she wondered why the county was involved with the project. "Is this just another public access for the TDC?" she asked. McQuiston also pointed out that there are strict prohibitions in Walton County on clearing in the vicinity of the coastal dune lakes. McQuiston, who lives on Alligator Lake, reinforced the warnings of other speakers about danger from the animals and argued against encouraging use of the small lake by "the most vulnerable" of paddlers. "This new plan to me is wrong," McQuiston summarized.

Draper Lake resident Barbara Morano agreed that purchase of the outfall was a good idea but complained that bicyclists had been "left out" of the day use area plans. She was not in favor of putting canoes and kayaks in the small lake due to potential negative impacts. "I think we have a workable plan," she said of the previously-approved 2013 park plan.

South Walton County resident Carolyn Zonia displayed photographs of the eagles nesting in the Little Redfish Lake area. She spoke in favor of the property purchase but against "opening it up" with the day use area as proposed.

Sine Murray, DEP bureau chief for the Office of Park Planning, confirmed Anderson's previous observation that the NRDA funding being proposed would only be possible for a project combining a recreational component with the land acquisition.

She expressed gratitude for Walton County having expressed interest in extending funding for the recreational facilities that would allow the property purchase to move forward.

Cobena said it was her understanding that the recreational amenities could be put in another area than the western unit of the park.

Larry Morgan, a DEP representative in attendance, confirmed that nothing would require the amenities to be placed in the western unit. However, he said that there would not be sufficient NRDA funds for the recreational component plus the land acquisition. So, in order for the project to be possible, it would be necessary for the county (or another entity) to fund the recreational improvements, he explained.

Cutshaw said the amount of funding discussed for the county to provide had been \$1.3 million. He said that once the recreational component had been decided on by the state, he would research which of the TDC bed tax "pennies" would be possible sources for funding of the improvements.

Jim Reynolds, another DEP representative attending the meeting, commented that this would be the "last of the pre-settlement projects," and that this part of the funding is only for combination land acquisition and recreation improvement projects. With upcoming post-settlement funding opportunities, there will be multiple categories of projects for funding, he noted.

Alsentzer said all comments would be reviewed and taken into consideration, with revisions possible. The project would require final approval by the state Acquisition and Restoration Council in public hearing in Tallahassee.

Through June 28, the public may continue to submit written comments on the proposed park plan amendment to the Division of Recreation and Parks, Office of Park Planning, by email at [FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us), or by regular mail at the following address: Office of Park Planning, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation & Parks, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 525, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-3000.

# State looks at land next to Grayton Park

By Deborah Wheeler

315-4432 | @WaltonSunDeb  
dwheeler@waltonsun.com

The Florida Park Service has the opportunity to purchase a tract of land on the southwest side of Little Redfish Lake, but needs funds from a Natural Resource Damage Assessment grant to be able to afford to do so.

The land is adjacent to Grayton Beach State Park and valued at \$5 million. A stipulation of the NRDA grant is the public must have access to the land.

Some land owners on the other side of the lake oppose the plan that would go to public use, but if the state's plan doesn't allow access they won't qualify for the NRDA grant and if they don't qualify for the grant they can't buy the land.

If that happens, the property would likely sell to a private entity that could develop it as they wish within land-use code.

The land is partially developed with some paved roads.

The early plan, if purchased, is to put in a walking trail, a boardwalk, a kayak launch, observation deck, a 24-space parking area, and create 12 tent campsites.

According to the DEP, Walton County would fund the boardwalk access to Little Redfish Lake, a new paddling launch, observation deck, parking area, restrooms,

create tent campsites, and construct a bathroom for tent campers.

However, Tourist Development Council Director of Communication David Demerest said the only role the TDC has in this is that if all goes through, the state park system may approach the TDC for funds to support developing the necessary infrastructure of trails, parking, bathrooms, etc.

"At that point, we would consider their plan and consider what if any funding would be appropriate, which would have to be voted on and approved by the Board of County Commissioners before going forward," said Demerest. "There has been some talk that this is a TDC project but that's not the case. Whatever happens, it's a long way from us becoming involved."

Not everyone is happy about the proposed purchase and possible changes, however.

A public meeting was held last Tuesday night with a brief presentation with DEP staff on hand.

"It boils down to somebody from Walton County, maybe the Tourist Development Council or management, went to Parks and Recreation in Tallahassee and said we want to put in a 24-car parking lot and a long boardwalk down to Redfish Lake," said Santa Rosa Beach resident Celeste Cobena. "There is

an armed gate on that side and if it's opened, people can come and go as they please with no ranger to keep an eye out. That's not appropriate."

Cobena doesn't believe there should be more recreation on the west side of the park as that would be recreational sprawl and should be contained on one end.

"That area is a big coastal scrub that's not in the hands of the state park and it will be developed. We need places where the natural community can exist. We should not degrade the welfare of this. The majority of people moved here because of our natural resources," said Cobena. "The proposal should be denied. It's public lands held in trust by trustees. Some paddlers were at the meeting who said they would not use the boardwalk and launch."

Little Redfish Lake is known to be inhabited by alligators.

"There are several generations of eagles using the area to hunt and fish and every inch of the land will be used. Don't let recreation take over conservation," she said.

If the public has questions, email Matthew. Allen@dep.state.fl.us or call 267-8300.

The public is invited to submit comments to the Division of Recreation and Parks at [fl\\_statepark\\_planning@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:fl_statepark_planning@dep.state.fl.us) until June 28.

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**By Buz Livingston**

Posted Jun 21, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Updated Jun 23, 2017 at 11:25 AM

As part of the BP/Deepwater Horizon settlement, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Recreation, can use funds to restore areas affected by the oil spill. The state has shrewdly moved to buy a 7-acre tract that the outflow of Little Redfish Lake sometimes tracks. Anytime we can add land to state parks it's a good idea. For my libertarian friends who earnestly believe land set aside for parks is a poor return on investment, Florida parks generate over \$2.8 billion annually.

When BP settled with the government, in no small part due to the Clean Water Act, they agreed to a comprehensive restoration plan for the Gulf of Mexico. Similar to comprehensive financial planning, this agreement identified five goals: restore and conserve habitat, restore water quality, replenish and protect marine resources, provide and enhance recreational opportunities, and monitoring the plan.

The acquisition would conserve habitat while protecting marine resources, particularly Walton County's iconic and globally rare dune lakes. Little Redfish Lake, unlike its big brother to the west, Big Redfish, has minimal development. The land purchase makes sense and I applaud the state for going forward.

Deepwater Horizon recreational damage estimates range from \$527 million to \$858 million. To mitigate losses, language from BP's agreement calls for "creation of infrastructure, access and use opportunities." In response, the draft amendment to Grayton State Park's 10-year unit plan for calls for enhancing recreation in the western portion of the park. However, in the next paragraph, the report states recreational opportunities could be addressed by building "improved or new infrastructure." Grayton Beach State Park's eastern side has recreational and infrastructure needs. After years of underfunding, these NRDA funds would be an appropriate source. Fix what is already there. Building new infrastructure increases future maintenance responsibilities, too.

One of the restoration approaches cited in the report is to promote environmental stewardship, education and outreach. The existing network of biking and hiking trails in the park could be expanded as part of environmental training and awareness. The report also

stresses specific project design “must consider the potential impacts to natural resources.” The unit plan amendment has a proposed boardwalk and kayak landing but the construction would bisect one of the last undisturbed bits of coastal dune scrub in Walton County. Cue Joni Mitchell’s “Big Yellow Taxi” because you don’t know what you’ve got ’til it’s gone. The proposal also includes a parking lot but that one is too easy.

Since I live just around the corner, if the proposed Little Redfish project goes through, my kayak and I will be there, but that doesn’t mean it’s a good idea. Don’t forget, a society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in.

By **DEBORAH WHEELER**

@**WaltonSunDeb**

Posted Jun 22, 2017 at 7:00 AM

Updated Jun 23, 2017 at 11:24 AM

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**COMMENTS  
RECEIVED ON SITE**



Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Grayton Beach State Park

I am against the newly-proposed amendments to Grayton Beach State Park. The required improvements to recreational facilities ~~are~~ should remain consistant w/ the plan adopted in recent years (2014?). They ~~are~~ ~~are~~ are within the park as required and they improve an existing, well-used facility & do not receritate the spolling of Little Redfish Lake which is, & should remain, a unadulterated as possible.

The old plan was better, preserved Little Redfish Lake & is not necessary to qualify for the funding to purchase the outfall property for Little Redfish Lake.

Thank you. Scott Covell  
Walton County  
Resident & Property  
Owner

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

**COMMENT FORM**

**Grayton Beach State Park**

I wish to express objection to the planned unit management plan amendment for Grayton Beach State Park.

The proposed 500 ft.+ boardwalk to Little Redfish Lake is not a practical or environmentally conscience idea. It would fragment one of the last remaining natural scrub communities south of 30A and disrupt sensitive wildlife habitat. In addition, transporting a kayak, canoe, or stand up paddle board more than 500-600 ft. would be cumbersome and an undesirable endeavor for paddlers.

Grayton Beach State Park's main park's infrastructure is in dire need of upgrading and restoration. I firmly believe adhering to the 2013 Unit Management Plan is the best option for the park and use of any available funding.

- Road repair is needed in main park area along with improvements to the parking area.
- Western Lake bridge is in need of repair or replacement to improve the hydrologic flow between the two sections of Western Lake.
- Currently phragmites is choking the shorelines of Western Lake in several areas. Paddlers soon will not be able to navigate the channel/bridge area between the western and eastern portion of Western Lake.
- Improve existing camping areas and add tent campsites in western section of the park along with a laundry concession in both the main and western camping areas.
- Expansion of the shared-use trail network and adding primitive campsites on the north side of 30A, relocate trailhead, and install safer parking.
- Improve the existing boating access in the main park area.

Respectfully yours, Lori Ceier



LoriCeier@gmail.com

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Grayton Beach State Park

South Walton is over crowded with visitors as it is. Many of these visitors act more as consumers of our natural resources rather than interpreters. If this amendment is approved, which I don't think it should be, what will you do to mitigate the waste created by visitors? Potable drinking water should be accessible throughout the park (and Deer Lake while you're at it). Similar to how many parks ban outside firewood, plastic water bottle should be banned from both the Western and Eastern units.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Grayton Beach State Park

1. need a ranger, especially for the day use.
2. 8am → Sunset - I worry that we need more control
3. I like the idea of more public use for this property, especially beach use for bikers.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Grayton Beach State Park

I support Lori Ceier + Celeste Coburn's comments.  
Essentially implement the existing <sup>JMP</sup> plan.

My personal experience is of <sup>Tent</sup> camping at Topsail  
and Pine Log State parks. One night I stayed  
in a cabin at Grayton Beach SP. Waking early,  
sitting in the screen porch was the closest  
I have ever felt to original Florida.

No human or equipment noises. Just  
birds, insects, trees, wind, squirrels.

I've lived in SRB Seagrave Beach for <sup>(2002-2017)</sup>  
15 years. Please leave + preserve that  
part of GBSP as is. No roads, paths or  
parking. It is a precious remnant.

Carol Geary

Also your statement is misleading, State parks are  
① for recreation but ② also for conserving the  
resources.

~~ad~~

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Grayton Beach State Park

Currently no burning is permitted in western area. Campsites, hence campfires will place in jeopardy extremely sensitive Flora and Fauna. Like wise on the eastern shore of Little Redfish, exactly where boardwalk and kayak rental are planned.

Campsites and kayaks would be less environmentally damaging in the current eastern Grayton Beach Park where campsites and kayaking currently exist.

The eastern park has about 1900 acres as opposed to about 300 acres in the highly sensitive environment of the eastern cabin park

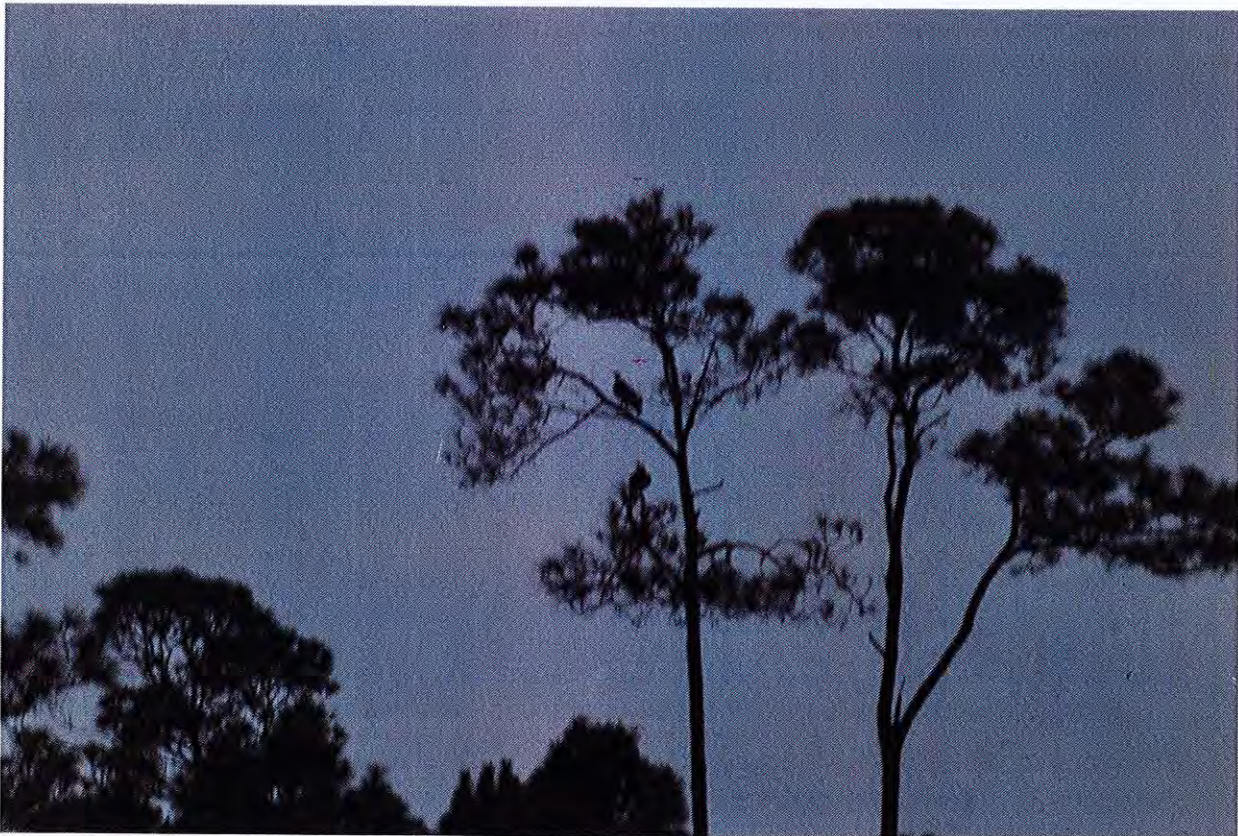
### Little Redfish Bald Eagle Nesting Pair

My name is Mike Velotas and I wish to voice major concern for both my neighbors and me on the plans to expand Grayton State Park camp sites, parking, and small craft launch into Little Redfish Lake. The smallest of all the dune lakes and the only "all fresh water" dune lake.

When we started building our house 3 years ago, several of the workers told me about a bald eagle perching in a nearby tree. They sent me pictures every time they saw the bird. Eventually they noticed that there were two of them. Obviously a nesting pair of Bald Eagles. I eventually was able to see them myself. And they are beautiful.

I started taking daily pictures of them--individually and together. Morning, midday, and early evening. And I still never tire of it. Even visitors to our house have been able to view them now. The eagles' favorite tree perch is directly across the lake from me in two thin long needle pines. And I intend to continue taking pictures every time I see them.

The big issue is this: These two trees they land in and fish from are sitting directly on the proposed small craft launch area. And according to the US Fish And Wildlife's National Bald and Golden Eagle Guidelines, areas that encompass nesting, roosting, and foraging cannot be disturbed as this can lead to the eagles abandoning their nesting area. The operative word being foraging. (Please see above mentioned Federal Guidelines on disturbing Bald Eagle zones). **ESPECIALLY PAGE 14.**



This park expansion will cause these eagles to leave. All in the name of tourism. And placing tourists on the smallest lake in the area, at that! We are blessed with these two beauties and I will do all I can to make sure that this parking and launch area never happens. And that this nesting pair can maintain their current and unhindered lifestyle and existence here on Little Redfish Lake.

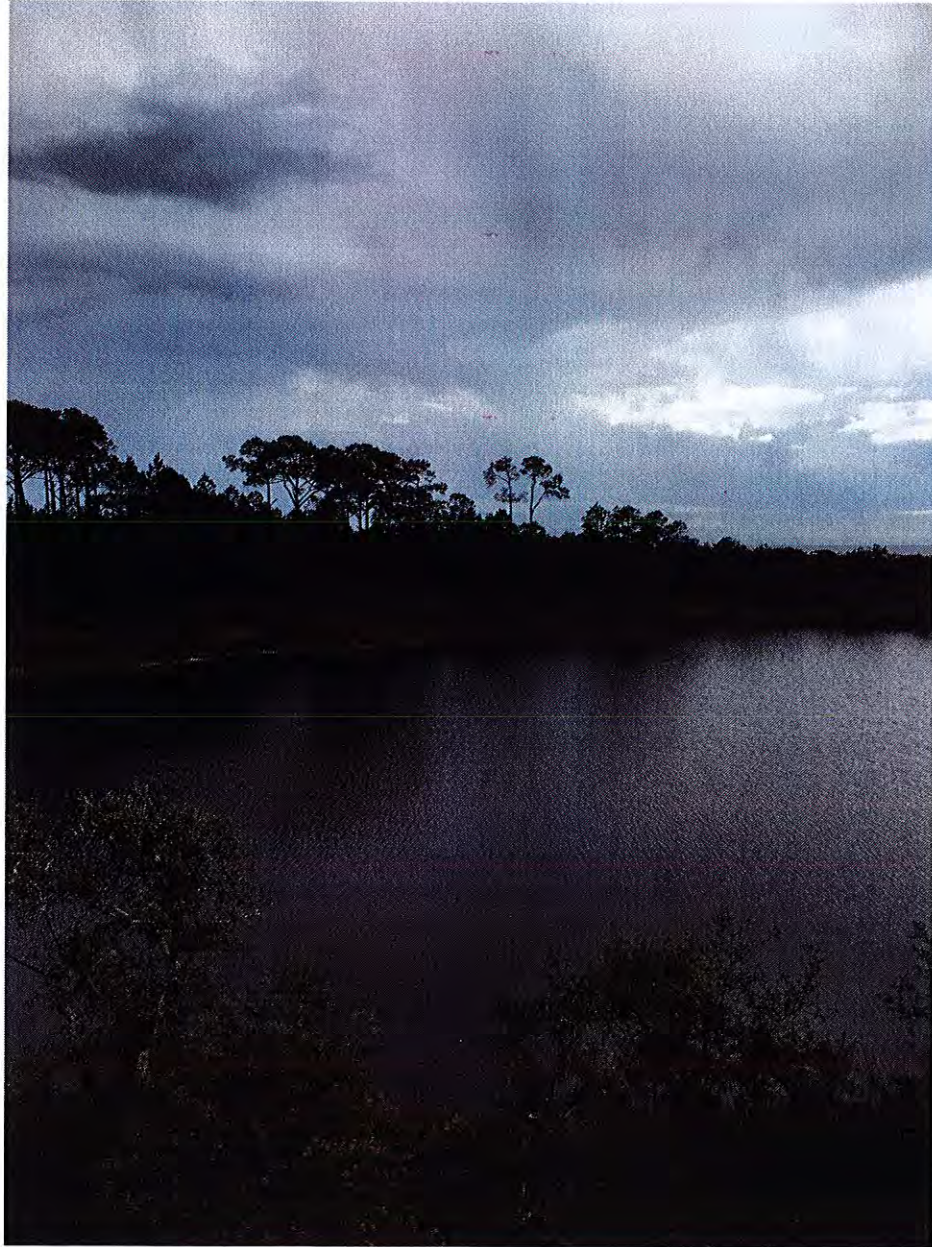
I would really like for the TDC to rethink their expansion in this area and move it to a larger lake like Western Lake which has much more room for adding these public amenities. Little Redfish is way too fragile for both fauna and flora to be disturbed by development. The propose day-use lake access on the western shore of Little Redfish Lake is in the Bald eagles' important feeding grounds and sited EXACTLY at the base of the two pine trees from which they hunt. These eagles have been observed here for 2 years, and have taught two generations of fledglings hunt on this small, secluded, protected body of water.

Walton County and the TDC need to drop this park expansion and leave this Bald Eagle zone as is!

Michael Velotas  
69 Little Redfish Lake  
SRB, FL 32459  
(850)501-8758







**EMAIL AND  
US MAIL  
PUBLIC  
COMMENTS  
RECEIVED**

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Tom Patton <tpatton@legendaryinc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 2:33 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Re: Revised Park Plan

Yes. In and out of meetings.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2017, at 12:55 PM, Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Hi, Tom

I just finished speaking with Celeste over the phone. If you have a few minutes, are you available to discuss these concerns by phone?

<image001.png>

**Daniel Alsentzer**  
Park Planner  
Office of Park Planning  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
[daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)  
[Office: 850.245.3073](tel:850.245.3073)  
Cell: 850.339.5414

**From:** Tom Patton [<mailto:tpatton@legendaryinc.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 1:39 PM  
**To:** Allen, Matthew <[Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us)>; Anne and Bill Schultz <[saait@aol.com](mailto:saait@aol.com)>; Beverly Ottzen <[beverlyottzen@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyottzen@gmail.com)>; Bonnie McQuiston <[hal7m@aol.com](mailto:hal7m@aol.com)>; Celeste Cobena ([soappedaler@mchsi.com](mailto:soappedaler@mchsi.com)) <[soappedaler@mchsi.com](mailto:soappedaler@mchsi.com)>; Cynthia Alexander <[grayton@earthlink.net](mailto:grayton@earthlink.net)>; David Moseley <[davidm1542@gmail.com](mailto:davidm1542@gmail.com)>; Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>; Hayden Rieveschl <[hKrieve@gmail.com](mailto:hKrieve@gmail.com)>; Mary Wolfe <[maryinbham@aol.com](mailto:maryinbham@aol.com)>; Rich Airis <[rich@asaproductions.com](mailto:rich@asaproductions.com)>; Tom Wolfe <[tomatseacrest@yahoo.com](mailto:tomatseacrest@yahoo.com)>  
**Cc:** Faure, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us)>; Poplin, Warren <[Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Revised Park Plan

Daniel, Celeste just forwarded the new plan. Please help me understand:

- The plan is for a public access to Little Redfish Lake. Will there be an attendant or a voluntary contribution (honor system). Will people bring their personal watercraft or will you turn this over to a concessionaire to rent?
- The plan has 24 parking spaces plus about 1,000' of road shoulder for parking. If unsupervised, that would appear to be over 100 parking spaces.
- Are you planning to have a beach on the lake?
- Have you done any impact studies on the lake? It is very small and fragile (especially compared to Western lake with existing recreation).

Thanks for your clarifications.

Tom Patton  
President of CSO

**From:** Tom Patton

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2017 12:27 PM

**To:** 'Allen, Matthew' <[Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us)>; Anne and Bill Schultz <[saait@aol.com](mailto:saait@aol.com)>; Beverly Ottzen <[beverlyottzen@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyottzen@gmail.com)>; Bonnie McQuiston <[hal7m@aol.com](mailto:hal7m@aol.com)>; Celeste Cobena ([soappedaler@mchsi.com](mailto:soappedaler@mchsi.com)) <[soappedaler@mchsi.com](mailto:soappedaler@mchsi.com)>; Cynthia Alexander <[grayton@earthlink.net](mailto:grayton@earthlink.net)>; David Moseley <[davidm1542@gmail.com](mailto:davidm1542@gmail.com)>; Hayden Rieveschl <[hKrieve@gmail.com](mailto:hKrieve@gmail.com)>; Mary Wolfe <[maryinbham@aol.com](mailto:maryinbham@aol.com)>; Rich Airis <[rich@asaproductions.com](mailto:rich@asaproductions.com)>; Tom Wolfe <[tomatseacrest@yahoo.com](mailto:tomatseacrest@yahoo.com)>

**Cc:** Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>; Faure, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us)>; Poplin, Warren <[Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** RE: CSO

Matt, the CSO members would like to play a role in this process. From this below it appears that Park Planning would like us to be included. Therefore, we would like to move forward.

Do we appoint people to the advisory group or just come to the meetings.

Please advise.

Tom Patton  
President

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**From:** Allen, Matthew [<mailto:Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us>]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 5:56 PM

**To:** Tom Patton <[tpatton@legendaryinc.com](mailto:tpatton@legendaryinc.com)>; Anne and Bill Schultz <[saait@aol.com](mailto:saait@aol.com)>; Beverly Ottzen <[beverlyottzen@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyottzen@gmail.com)>; Bonnie McQuiston <[hal7m@aol.com](mailto:hal7m@aol.com)>; Celeste Cobena ([soappedaler@mchsi.com](mailto:soappedaler@mchsi.com)) <[soappedaler@mchsi.com](mailto:soappedaler@mchsi.com)>; Cynthia Alexander <[grayton@earthlink.net](mailto:grayton@earthlink.net)>; David Moseley <[davidm1542@gmail.com](mailto:davidm1542@gmail.com)>; Hayden Rieveschl <[hKrieve@gmail.com](mailto:hKrieve@gmail.com)>; Mary Wolfe <[maryinbham@aol.com](mailto:maryinbham@aol.com)>; Rich Airis <[rich@asaproductions.com](mailto:rich@asaproductions.com)>; Tom Wolfe <[tomatseacrest@yahoo.com](mailto:tomatseacrest@yahoo.com)>

**Cc:** Alsentzer, Daniel <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>; Faure, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us)>; Poplin, Warren <[Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** FW: CSO

**Importance:** High

Friends, Public meeting on Tuesday, June 13 (5:00 to 7:00 PM) and Wednesday June 14 (9:00 Am to 12:00 PM). Two alternative meeting venues have been made available to us – either a conference room at Northwest Florida State College or the South Walton County Commission Building.

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**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel

**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 8:18 AM

**To:** Allen, Matthew <[Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** CSO

**Importance:** High

Matt,

As soon as possible, can you please let the president of Friends of Grayton Beach & Deer Lake State Parks know about the June 13 and 14 public meetings?

I have not found contact info for the CSO but need to keep them well-informed and included in the advisory group. Please copy me on any email correspondence and/or provide their email address.

Thanks for assisting!

<image001.png>

**Daniel Alsentzer**  
Park Planner  
Office of Park Planning  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
[daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)  
Office: 850.245.3073  
Cell: 850.339.5414



## Alsentzer, Daniel

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**From:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Sent:** Monday, June 05, 2017 7:45 AM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Pate, Eric; Cramer, Holly; Murray, Sine  
**Subject:** FLStateParkPlanning Email Received RE: Grayton Beach Unit Management plan upgrade, June, 2017

Good Morning – Email received in the FLStateParkPlanning public folder for your information, review and/or action. - Demi

**From:** caroling@mchsi.com [mailto:caroling@mchsi.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 3, 2017 12:18 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach Unit Management plan upgrade, June, 2017

Dear whoever is voting on this plan:

I wonder why you are violating the UMP, which is supposed to be the plan in force for 10 years from 2013?

Why are you violating the area by proposing more destruction of our greenspace? It sounds to me like ruining what people come here for. That's not the way to do it.

Three people that I highly respect in Santa Rosa Beach, south Walton County, FL have urged me to write you saying NO to the the modifications proposed in this plan. They are Jacquee Markel, Celeste Cobena, and Jeff Talbert. Consider Jeff is the son of Rick Talbert, our fire chief who just did a bicycle trip vacation of 300 miles to prove to us that he stands for fitness and love of the outdoors. He fights forest fires. That's a source of Jeff's values that have been honed by being in the park service in Grayton Beach SP as well as Topsail Hill Preserve SP and currently involved in restoring Deer Lake SP. These lands were once all connected. Help preserve them.

Thank you,

Carol Geary, 32459, resident in SRB in FL since 2002

AKA Caroling, as an artist

Good info from Cobena:

The proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan must be amended or denied. The amendment would change the optimal boundary to allow BP funds to purchase the overpriced Little Redfish Outfall. Sounds great. But there's a catch! In order to use the funds there must be a recreational component. The fund administrator says it doesn't matter where in Grayton Beach State Park the addition recreation is added. The proposed amendment would fragment a large section of coastal scrub, one of the last remaining intact coastal scrub communities south of 30A (the deer video on my page was taken there).

An alternative to the proposed recreation plan is to put additional recreation in the current day use area. A number of projects have been in the Grayton Beach Unit Management Plan for years yet have been unfulfilled. Why hasn't the TDC offered funding for any of these projects, but are willing to pay for the development that will fragment one of the few remaining conservation areas south of 30A?

What can you do? Email [FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us) Tell them the proposed amendment should be modified to include the Little Redfish OutFall parcel in the optimal boundary BUT additional recreation must be planned in the current day use area of the park. NO day use in the western cabin area.

Please also attend the Public hearing listed in Lori's notice.

Caroling [www.wholeo.net](http://www.wholeo.net)

## Alsentzer, Daniel

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**From:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 07, 2017 9:01 AM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Pate, Eric; Cramer, Holly; Murray, Sine  
**Subject:** FLStateParkPlanning Public Email Received RE: Grayton Beach State Park Proposed Management Plan

Good Morning – For your information and review. ☺

**From:** Buz Livingston [mailto:buz@livingstonfinancial.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2017 5:06 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Proposed Management Plan

Buying the Little Redfish Outfall is not a good use of money, it is overpriced, and there are other areas of the park that need improvement. Plus the recreation component can be any place in the park,

Secondly, the proposed boardwalk/boat launch/parking area will fragment one of largest parcels of coastal scrub/native forest in Walton County. I disagree strongly that the proposal will not affect natural communities. As far as the old road beds a better use of funds would be to let Mother Nature take its course. As a biker, the old road beds are essentially a bike path.

The tent camping is far enough away from the beach not to be detrimental to the environment, but I argue expanding tent camping in the eastern part of the park be a better idea. Consider using tent camping north of 30A or improving paths for mountain bikes north of 30A.

Currently, there are snorkel reefs offshore from Grayton Beach State Park, for recreation, consider additional signage.

G.M. Livingston III (Buz)  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER  
Sound Advice...Clear Direction

<http://www.LivingstonFinancial.net>  
[Buz@LivingstonFinancial.net](mailto:Buz@LivingstonFinancial.net)  
850-267-1068  
850-496-1235 CELL  
866-889-0480 E-FAX

*Confidentiality Notice: This email may contain personal data. Please respect the recipient's privacy.*

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Anita Page <anitapage@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 6, 2017 11:57 AM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Walton County/Little Redfish Lake/Proposed Management Plan Amendment to GBSP

Dear Sir,

My name is Anita Page. I am a resident of Walton County since 1982. I have lived on Big Redfish Lake since 1991 and am very familiar with Little Redfish Lake as it is in close proximity to me.

I have recently received notice of two public meetings to amend the current GBSP Unit Management Plan (UMP) which was approved in 2013. While, at the time of this email, the actual text of the proposed amendment has not, to my knowledge, been provided to the public, a map and commentary show the focus of the proposed amendment is to allow development on the small park area (approximately 100 acres) adjacent to and including the shores and waters of Little Redfish Lake. The UMP refers to this small parcel as the "Western Unit". (GB 15, 16 and 17) The described projects include:

- (1) a proposed public parking lot with 24 parking spaces and a restroom,
- (2) roadway paving of old subdivision roads,
- (3) a boardwalk from the parking lot to Little Redfish Lake with a canoe/kayak launch area at the shoreline,
- (4) an "on-grade" path to the beach from the parking lot and
- (5) moving the planned 12 tent-only campsites, originally located in the partially disturbed area now being desired as a parking lot, to a currently undisturbed portion on the east side of the Western Unit.

While I do not know the origin of this proposal, whether it is the state, Walton County/TDC or another party or entity, it is my understanding that the Walton County TDC has offered to fund the development costs of the proposal.

It is also my understanding that the state is attempting to purchase, using NRDA funds, a parcel on the east side of the Little Redfish Lake outfall which is contiguous to the lake shoreline and beach currently a part of Western Unit. The outfall parcel will be managed by GBSP.

As I may not be able to make the public hearings I want to provide my comments to you. First of all I wholeheartedly support the acquisition of the outfall parcel and thank you for pursuing the acquisition. For the reasons outlined below, however, I strongly object to the proposed developments underlying the proposed amendment. I do continue to support the future development plans for the Western Unit already incorporated into the current UMP, e.g., improve cabin beach access, 12 tent-only camp sites.

I feel that the placement of the proposed development on such a small, yet environmentally diverse area, poses significant potential for harm to the scrub community, the shoreline, waters and dunes of a coastal dune lake and will negatively impact the natural experience which is the current focus of the cabin rentals. It is my suggestion that all of the development for additional public parking for beach access and boating opportunities in the current proposal should be located in the main day use area of GBSP and not in the Western Unit. The current UMP already contains provisions which would accommodate the beach parking and boating opportunities which form the basis of the current amendment proposal.

The current UMP provides for a re-design of the large day-use parking area to provide more parking for the public and more efficient traffic flow at the beach access. This will be accomplished within the existing parking area footprint as opposed to the degradation of scrub which will be required for the 24 parking spaces and restroom facilities at the



Western Unit location. The main day use area already has restroom facilities thus eliminating the construction of restroom facilities, installation of sewer and other requirements of restroom facilities close to a coastal dune lake.

The current UMP also calls for the construction of a convenience dock to supplement the existing facilities for launching, docking and retrieving small boats such as canoes, kayaks and paddle boards.

In essence, the current UMP goals provide for all of the needs outlined in the proposal. In addition, the improvements needed to meet these goals can be met through development within areas which have already been disturbed for such uses and which are more accessible for park supervision and assistance to the public if needed.

The proposal fits within the UMP goals for increasing use and facilities within larger the day use area. It does not fit within smaller acreage, high sensitivity Western Unit ecosystem.

The Western Unit is different from the more developed area in the eastern area of GBSP. It is small in acreage and includes the eastern shoreline and waters of one of the smaller globally imperiled coastal dune lakes. Within its compact size the Western Unit contains a plethora of pristine or minimally disturbed natural resources such as a beach, beach dunes, scrub uplands, a small wetland area and a vegetated shoreline and waters of a coastal dune lake. All of these features support a host of listed and non-listed species as outlined in the UMP. As the UMP clearly states: "Western Lake provides the most potential for recreation."... "Due to their sensitivity, size and limited accessibility, the smaller coastal dune lakes, Alligator and Little Redfish Lake, are not suitable for widespread recreational use. However, both lakes provide exceptional natural scenery and provide ideal opportunities for wildlife observation and nature study. Limited access to the shores of these lakes, such as is provided at a modest scenic overlook or trailside bench, would allow visitors to enjoy these natural areas with minimal impact." The UMP further states "...allowing visitors to experience the striking visual quality of these features provides a truly unique experience that is not reproduced elsewhere in Florida. Access to the coastal dune lakes must be balanced with protection in order to preserve these resources for the future."

The shoreline of Little Redfish Lake is a designated "Protected Zone" in the UMP. The UMP states "a protected zone is an area of high sensitivity or outstanding character from which most types of development are excluded as a protective measure." There is minimal sand beach along the lake shoreline. To the contrary much of the eastern shoreline is buffered by extensive saw palmetto, spartina, sawgrass and other species. Most of the shoreline itself is vegetated including at least one state-listed threatened plant, the Droseracea. (FNAI S2 Imperiled)

The Western Unit, while a small unit within GBSP, contains one of the largest, contiguous scrub communities. Virtually the entire undeveloped upland area is scrub, a listed ecosystem. (FNAI S2 Imperiled) The ecological significance of the scrub community is well documented in the UMP.

Currently, the access has a gate which controls access and provides some privacy and security for people who rent the cabins and their guests. Development has been the minimal necessary to provide for access to the cabins, the beach, some walking trails and some small buildings for staff needs. These have predominantly been located in areas previously disturbed by a defunct subdivision effort. Parking for occupants is in their cabin areas. Having visited people there I can also attest that it is generally very quiet. It provides the current guests with more of a nature-based experience in the midst of the highly developed 30A. The development of a separate tent-only camp site, as proposed in the UMP is in keeping with the lower impact, more outdoors oriented living experience provided to visitors staying in the Western Unit.

It is my understanding the proposal includes a public entrance using an honor fee box. Whether the day visitors share the same roadway as the current cabin or future tent occupants or diverge to the public parking lot via a new road, the fact is that the number of vehicles entering the park on a given day can no longer be controlled and that all areas of the park will be accessible to increased human impact. The ramifications of the potential impacts are concerning in this particular ecosystem.

As the UMP reflects all units within the GBSP are not alike and uses must be sensitive to the area in which they are allowed. In 2013 a new UMP was adopted which continued the low impact approach for the Western Unit. As an example, it called for the removal of many of the unused remaining paved subdivision roads and restoration to scrub. The increase in recreational use was accomplished with 12 tent-only campsites. This proposed amendment seems to go in the opposite direction by increasing impacts with paving the old subdivision roads instead of removing and restoring them, putting in a parking lot and restrooms where the tent camp sites were intended to be located, moving the camp sites to an undisturbed area on the east side thereby requiring further development, opening the unit to unlimited vehicular day use, opening the coastal dune lake buffer and shoreline to unlimited day boat use in addition to foot traffic, exposing the current cabin areas to increased noise and traffic and potential safety issues as they are very close to the proposed area of increased impact and generally subjecting the waters of the lake and Gulf to additional stormwater exposure.

I support moving the additional parking and boating development activities proposed in the amendment to the main day use area of GBSP and rejection of the amendment. The staffing and infrastructure at the main day use area can better absorb this increase in human impact within an area already improved for such activities. Given there is an alternative location I feel this proposal poses an unacceptable threat to the smaller, more fragile, more isolated Western Unit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita Page

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Cynthia Turner <grayton@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 7, 2017 11:15 AM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Celeste Cobena  
**Subject:** Thank you for speaking to me

Dear Daniel,

Thank you for helping me understand the plan amendment and also the public format.

There are still many items that I didn't get a chance to review with you, but I will provide comprehensive written comments as soon as possible, and prior to the June 13th meeting.

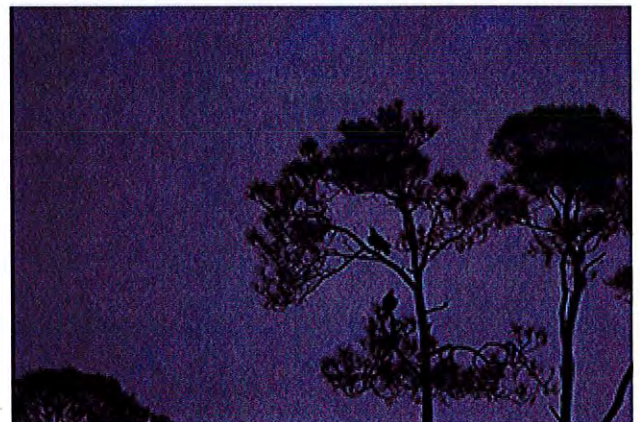
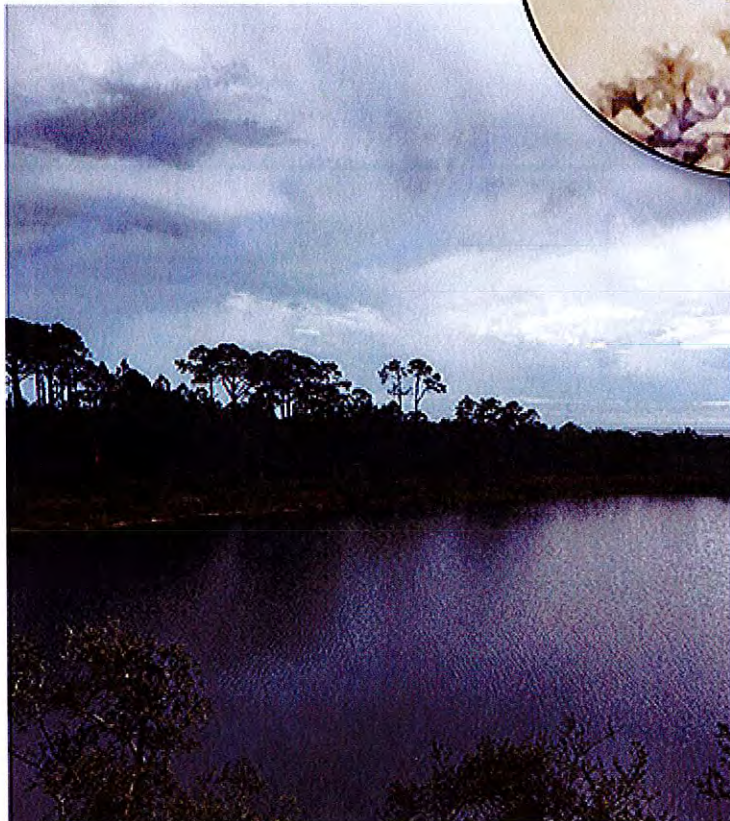
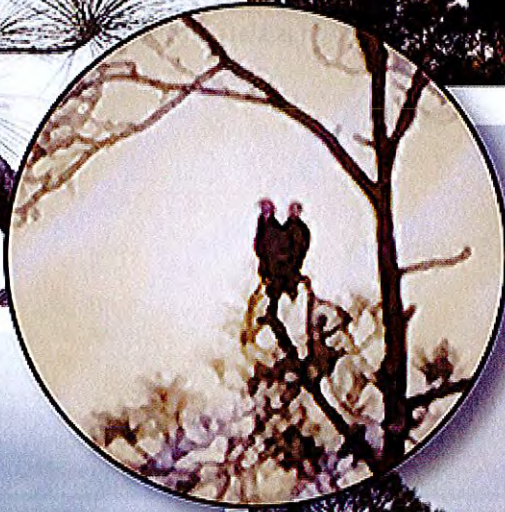
In addition to the alligators present in Little Redfish Lake, I didn't get a chance to tell you about the new presence (for at least two years) of Bald Eagles. I mentioned that we are creating some large exhibits to bring to the public meeting. Here is one that we have prepared on the Bald Eagles at Little Redfish Lake. It is an important feeding ground for them and they have been observed teaching their fledglings to fish the water. I wish we had some photos of that, but we do have photos of the eagles in the trees. The boat launch is slated to be under their trees.

I look forward to meeting you.

Kind regards,  
Cynthia Alexander  
Founding Member, Beach to Bay Conservancy

56 Old Miller Place  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
850-231-4112  
[grayton@earthlink.net](mailto:grayton@earthlink.net)

# The Bald Eagles of Little Redfish Lake



## Alsentzer, Daniel

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**From:** Lori Ceier <loriceier@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 08, 2017 5:40 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach SP

Hello Daniel,  
Sorry I missed your call today. Will you please supply me via email:  
- Details on the 7 acre acquisition of western outfall area of Little Redfish Lake  
- Length of proposed boardwalk from day use parking area to Little Redfish Lake

Thank you.

--

Regards,

Lori Ceier,  
Publisher, Walton Outdoors  
Florida Master Naturalist

.....

[www.waltonoutdoors.com](http://www.waltonoutdoors.com)  
email: [info@waltonoutdoors.com](mailto:info@waltonoutdoors.com)  
850.267.2064  
34 Pisces Drive  
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** lindaboland lindaboland <lindaboland@sympatico.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 12:20 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda and Dan Boland

Sea grove Beach residents

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** melanie gross <hmmgross@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 8:22 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** No paving please!

Dear Grayson Beach Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayson Beach State Park Management Plan. Please use the recommendations for recreation that are in the currently approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for supporting this important effort to keep our natural Florida habitats intact.

Melanie And Billy Gross

**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Jeni Bailey <jeni.m.bailey@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 8:27 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Sincerely,

Jeni Bailey



**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Kelly Klein <Kelly@KellyKleinSoldMine.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 9:01 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Save Our Parks !

Do not allow a parking lot to replace our natural resources. Please save our parks.

Thank you.

Kelly Klein



**Kelly Klein, Broker Associate**  
**Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices | Pen Fed Realty**  
**850-420-2480 (You can reach me on my "Shell Phone")**  
**Email: [Kelly@KellyKleinSoldMine.com](mailto:Kelly@KellyKleinSoldMine.com)**  
**Website: [www.KellyKleinSoldMine.com](http://www.KellyKleinSoldMine.com)**  
**Your Wealth Manager in Real Estate**

If you do not wish to receive future emails, please click the link to Unsubscribe: [Unsubscribe](#).

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** heididero@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 9:23 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Heidi DeRosa  
Sent from my iPhone

**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** candis1@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 10:18 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

There will always be pressure for more parking, but the line has to be drawn somewhere. Draw the line BEFORE the whole ecosystem is ruined! Every bit of private land is going to be developed. The state parks are supposed to be a last refuge from such destruction. Do NOT destroy the natural resources that make our parks beautiful.

Candis Harbison  
850-872-8260

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** DBrown@vinu.edu  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 10:44 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank

you for your support.

Mike & Debbie Brown

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** BAILEY, SALLY J <sb7697@att.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 10:55 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** PLEASE Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Our unique and special area is under so much risk of being dismissed and ruined. Please keep our area unique and special and not turn it into any other place but not caring for our natural resources!!!

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Full Time/Long Time/Small Business Owner,  
Sally Bailey  
188 Birmingham Street  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
850-687-9010

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Alisa Ghazvini <aghazvini@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you,  
Alisa Ghazvini  
Walton County resident

*Alisa S. Ghazvini, Ph.D., Early Childhood Consultant  
850/545-7716*

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Donna DonFrancesco <donna.donfrancesco@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 11:10 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Please Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan!

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I strongly object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support and for preserving an incredible natural resource.

Sincerely,  
Donna and Steve DonFrancesco  
74 Morgans Trail  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** RICHARD GRANT <grant893922@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 11:15 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State park

Please deny the proposed amendments to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. The natural areas created by the three state parks and the Port Washington State Forest between U S 98 and the beach are what makes the area unique. Little Red Fish is a very small dune lake that supports an abundance of wildlife from eagles to alligators and will be destroyed by a boat ramp and parking lot. The boat ramp in the park on Western Lake is under used and the lake is large enough to support recreational boaters as it now does but Little Redfish is not. I SUP on Western several times a week year round and see all manner of wildlife and plenty of room for more people on the lake. What Walton County is doing with the three parks this summer is wonderful but the smaller lakes like Little Red Fish serve a amazing purpose already as to residence and visitors. I ride a bike along the bike path every morning and rarely fail not to see people stopping and looking at some form of wildlife in Little Red Fish and Alligator Lakes. They need to be left as they are.

Thank You.  
P Richard Grant  
2421 W County Hwy 30-A D-401  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459



**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Susan Zagorski <susan.zagorski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 12:15 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support.

Susan Zagorski  
full time resident homeowner, Seagrove Beach, FL

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** MELANIE A SCHOFIELD <melsfree@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 12:18 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

Please be smart and protect the special nature that we have protected here in Walton Co., do you really want another PCB on the Emerald Coast? We have tried very hard for many years to protect the environment here, please do not allow further development in Grayton Beach State Park.

Regards,

Melanie Schofield  
215 Loon Lake Dr.  
SRB, FL 32459

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Linda Prowse <Linjpete@juno.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 1:13 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank  
you for your support

Thank you for your support ....  
Linda Peterson

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**(1) Odd Cancer Symptom [Are You At Risk?]**

obviouslybored.com

<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3142/593ad7232ee1a572106d1st03vuc>



**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Allyson Delius <adelius@cleargearspray.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 9, 2017 9:42 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Delius  
404-822-9672  
Clear Gear Spray  
[Cleargearspray.com](http://Cleargearspray.com)

**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Melony Phillips <melonyphillips@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayson Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park  
Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current  
approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support

Melony Phillips

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Melony Phillips, CPDT-KA  
Certified Professional Dog Trainer  
Licensed Presenter for Dogs & Storks & Dogs & Toddlers  
Victoria Stilwell Positively Dog Trainer, VSPDT  
Pet Professional Guild Member  
The Dog Gurus, Charter Member  
APDT Member  
770-265-0863  
[www.Delightful-Dog.com](http://www.Delightful-Dog.com)  
678-273-3700

## **Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Lynn Pitchford <lpitch@gnt.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 12:09 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Little Red Fish Lake

The Walton County plan to macadam 20 parking spaces in the area near the lake, provide a boat ramp and other amenities at this location

will negatively damage beyond the capability of the lake to survive.

If we are serious about protecting the the unique Coastal Dune Lakes you are obligated to disapprove of this reckless misguided Plan.

Lynn D. Pitchford  
33 courtyard Circle,  
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Linda Petrovich <lindajpetrovich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you,  
Linda Petrovich

Sent from Linda's iPhone

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Corrine Rettig <scooterandbogy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 8:15 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support

--

Corrine Rettig



**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Lucy Hoffer <lucythesquirrel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 9:15 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the proposed amendment to Grayton Beach State Park management plan

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park management plan.

-Lucy Hoffer  
171 Dune Drive Santa Rosa Beach Fl 32459

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Kay Harmon <harmonscrap@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 9:23 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support

Kay Harmon- Tennessee

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Beckie Perrott <beckie.perrott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 9:52 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support

Rebecca Perrott

Beckie Perrott  
Sent from my iPhone

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Lauren Dugger <laurendugger@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 10:49 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Please deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

As a resident of South Walton, I STRONGLY object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. It is an absolutely sickening prospect. PLEASE implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. We CANNOT let these precious natural resources be pillaged.

Thank you for your support,

Lauren Dugger  
Sent from my iPhone

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Jodi Priest . <jodipriest@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 10, 2017 10:49 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support!!

Jodi Priest

## **Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Shawnie Green <shawnie@briankelleherteam.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 7:40 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

My family and friends have been camping at Grayton Beach State Park multiple times a year for the past 15 years. Please help preserve the natural landscape in order to ensure the survival of plant and animal species and the conservation of finite and renewable resources.

Thank you,  
Shawnie Green  
Birmingham, Alabama

--

Shawnie Green  
Transaction Coordinator  
Brian Kelleher Real Estate Team  
Office 205.397.6500  
[shawnie@briankelleherteam.com](mailto:shawnie@briankelleherteam.com)

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Sara Bazan <sarabazan@me.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 8:59 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Please Preserve Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

My family and I are from Ohio and visit these beaches regularly. We love the natural beauty of the land and are drawn to the location to avoid the typical tourist development and the resulting impact it has had.

Furthermore, we appreciate that Florida has thus far protected the fragile ecosystem supporting its wildlife in this area, which would be severely compromised with the proposed plans.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan, and recognize the importance of limiting human activities for the survival of plants and animals alike.

Thank you for this important consideration.

Sara Bazan.  
Worthington, Ohio

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Janet Foltz <janfoltz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 9:44 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** DENY the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan!

I strongly object to the amendment (proposed by the Walton County TDC). Development of the 100 acre natural area on the eastern side of Eastern Lake is a really bad idea.

The state park is quickly becoming the last surviving natural landscape. Please protect one of the largest contiguous coastal scrub communities, breeding grounds for amphibians and marsh and wading birds, and bald eagle nesting grounds.

The shore of Little Redfish Lake can not support a dock and kayak use.

Please do NOT put a 24 car parking lot in the middle of the coastal scrub!!

In short, Deny the proposed amendment and instead implement the recommendations for recreation in the current approved 2013 park plan

Stay with the plan to create primitive campsites on north side of 30A, relocate trail entrance

Repair bridge inside the park south of main ranger station entrance

Treat exotic plant species

Preserve ancient beach dunes

Thank you for your stewardship of this precious and irreplaceable area

Sincerely

Janet Foltz

PO Box 1595

114 Ventana Blvd

Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459



## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Rachael Reichenbach <rachael@resistreimagine.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan that would put a 24-car parking lot in the middle of the coastal scrub and a boat launch on Little Redfish Lake.

I believe in more public beach access, however it should not happen at the expense of our rare and fragile ecosystems that will only survive in our conservation lands.

The Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park:

-One of the largest contiguous coastal scrub community in South Walton.

-contains several depression marshes which are important breeding grounds for amphibians, and marsh and wading birds.

-the shore of the smallest of the globally imperiled Coastal Dune Lake, Little Redfish Lake cannot support a dock and kayak use.

- bald eagles are nesting in this 100 acre woods.

Grayton Beach State Park already has a large recreation area in the eastern section with a ranger station for monitoring entrance into the park. In 2013 the Grayton Beach State Park Management plan was approved. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Rachael Reichenbach

Full-Time Walton County Resident

**From:** Jan Rieveschl <jrieve5374@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Cc:** Moe Stouse; Robert & Lisa Stovall; David Nelson; jimperrysrb@usa.net; Marianne Perry; Bonnie McQuiston; Hayden Rieveschl; nano123@embarqmail.com; mjpinmemphis@gmail.com; Chip Bustle; Wayne Lamar  
**Subject:** Comments GBSP Unit Management Plan Amendment June 2017

## Grayton Beach State Park

### Unit Management Plan Amendment

Subject: Comments Prior to Public Hearings

June 2017

1) Regarding the proposed eastern tent sites paralleling Forest Dunes:

a) This poses a major fire hazard for adjoining private property immediately to the south in Gulf Trace and immediately to the east in Alligator Cove. The woods to the west of Forest Dunes have only partially been thinned out via bush hogging but still mostly consists of dense scrub vegetation that, in dry conditions, would burn easily. If this should happen as a result of a rogue camp fire combined with a moderate to strong north or west wind, the wild fire would spread quickly and disastrously to adjacent private property. A few years ago, the Park deliberately chose partial bush hogging precisely because a controlled burn was too dangerous given the proximity of homes.

b) Tent camping does not logically constitute day use.

c) The addition of tent camping brings many more visitors into the Park and thus puts increased pressure on all Park resources and diminishes the experience of the cabin visitors.

d) Regardless of whether or not there is to be tent camping, there should be a new gate at Forest Dunes as close as possible to the 30A entrance for

the protection of Park visitors and Gulf Trace residents alike. The Park currently has gates at other access points. To leave Forest Dunes wide open is like locking the front door but leaving the back door open.

2) It should be abundantly clear to anyone who lives along 30A that the number of visitors has increased dramatically over the past few years. For example, traffic jams are a frequent problem during high season. It is a fact that people park or are dropped off on Forest Dunes and then walk into the Park or into the Gulf Trace community. It would seem wise to concentrate Park improvements on raising and protecting the quality of what we offer and not to concentrate on raising the quantity of visitors. We are reaching the limit of how many people can vacation here and still have a quality experience.

a) The incredibly short sighted proposal to add 24 parking spaces and 12 camp sites adds up to at least an additional 150 Park visitors per day – give or take. We are literally paving paradise to put up a parking lot.

b) The plan to increase access to Little Redfish Coastal Dune Lake would significantly impact what should be designated as “protected” as opposed to “recreational.” These lakes are exceedingly rare in the world. Their allure is that they are inherently natural and beautiful. Little Redfish Lake is habitat for bald eagles, alligators, water moccasins, and beaver, to name just a few. Bringing in more people with the intention of recreating on the lake is dangerous to both the lake and the people. It is a very small lake and is therefore easily impacted. There should be no question that increased day use (e.g., kayaks, canoes, boardwalks, viewing platforms, paddling launch) would lead to decreased integrity of the lake’s ecosystem and its surroundings. Nothing should be done to turn Little Redfish to recreational use. Period.

c) And furthermore, if indeed the TDC is involved, it has a reputation for pushing over-development and has no place in this discussion over preserving and protecting our Park natural resources. The TDC has a different mission which is not consistent with the purpose and mission of

the Park system. We are in favor of the Park buying Little Redfish outfall with its own funds if the goal is to protect it.

3) The proposal to restore old roadbeds is a very good idea.

We sincerely hope that these concerns and the concerns of many others like us will be taken very seriously.

Jan and April Rieveschl

70 Gulf Ridge Drive

Santa Rosa Beach, FL

32459

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Joe Burton <joeburton30a@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 1:26 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thanks,

Joe

--

*Joe Burton Realty*  
*Scenic 30A Real Estate Specialist*  
205 Campbell St.  
Seagrove Beach, FL. 32459  
850-428-0172

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Jay Siem <jaycsiem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 1:55 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Cc:** Knight David; David Werner; Kay Atwood VanSkiver; Alane Siem; roy messer  
**Subject:** Little Redfish Lake

On Jun 10, 2017, at 3:59 PM, roy messer <[royedwardmesser@gmail.com](mailto:royedwardmesser@gmail.com)> wrote:

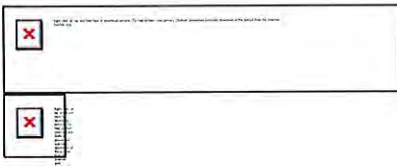
you might include this link:

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/coastaldunelakes>

i think anyone viewing this trailer and full video, has to pause about INFECTING little red fish.

2017-06-09 20:24 GMT-04:00 Jay Siem <[jaycsiem@gmail.com](mailto:jaycsiem@gmail.com)>:

--  
Roy Edward Messer  
850 597 0404  
President/CEO  
Nett Corp, Inc



[Shredder.com](http://Shredder.com)

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**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Glenda Dieterly <queenbeedieterly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 4:32 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Don't destroy what is beautiful and frail for the sake of development!

Glenda Dieterly

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~\*~\*~\*Don't be afraid to stand for what you believe in, even if that means standing alone.. - *Unknown*.~\*~\*~\*



**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Libby Fisher <libby.fisher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 4:54 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** DENY the proposed development of Grayton Beach State Park

I strongly object to the proposed GBSP Management Plan amendment to develop the western end of this park. Please only implement the improvements already approved in the 2013 plan.

Respectfully,  
A Full Time Resident and TaxPayer

--

Libby Fisher  
285 Morrison Avenue  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
513-295-8050

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Sarah Thomas <sarahkellythomas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 6:02 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

It's so very important to preserve the natural resources in our beautiful community. I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please do not allow this to move forward and instead implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support.

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Nancy <bustleiii@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 6:52 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** PLEASE Preserve Grayton State Park!

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.  
Thank you for your support,  
Chip & Nancy Bustle  
Santa Rosa Beach

Sent from my iPhone

## Baxley, Demi

---

**From:** James Arthur <jmarthur98@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 7:19 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Tent camping

Sent from my iPad. This will not enhance an already struggling area. Please read 'The Gulf', to understand how important the tidal lakes are to the Marine and costal wildlife in the area. Have you ever tent camped in Florida in July or August ? What kind of state park experience do you think this will be. Also locally we have had almost no crime. That will end. Easy access to a young vulnerable population Ted Bundy would love this plan.

**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** ts1987@windstream.net  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 8:10 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support.

Shirley Laszcz  
Seacrest, FL

## **Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Paul Glasser <pglasser@mindspring.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 8:49 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support.

Paul Glasser  
43 Gulf Shore Dr  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Ruth Adney <ruthadney@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 9:20 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support

Sincerely,

Ruth Adney

316 Hilltop Drive

SRB, FL 32459

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Amanda Green <23acgreen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 11, 2017 10:29 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the proposed amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 plan.

Thank you for your support,  
Amanda Green  
229 Amadeus Ave  
Freeport FL 32439

Sent from my iPhone



**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Carol Church <carolelaine@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 7:50 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support,

Carol Church

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** theresa barrett <affinityboutiques@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 10:02 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach state Park

Help Save Grayton Beach State Park!

The Walton County Tourist Development Council is urging The Florida Division of Recreation and Parks to develop the 100-acre natural area on the eastern side of Little Redfish Lake, this is referred to as the Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park and is where the cabins are located. <https://www.floridastateparks.org/content/public-meeting>

The proposed amendment to the current plan would put a 24-car parking lot in the middle of the coastal scrub and a boat launch on Little Redfish Lake. So why is this such a bad idea? Our State Parks are the only places where any natural landscapes will survive in South Walton. Every inch of private land will be developed. We should not allow development of our conservation lands due to lack of planning by Walton County.

Walton County is under pressure to pave over as much of the coastline as possible to allow for more and more beach parking. I have been an advocate for more public beach access, however it should not happen at the expense of our rare and fragile ecosystems that will only survive in our conservation lands.

The Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park:

- One of the largest contiguous coastal scrub community in South Walton.
- contains several depression marshes which are important breeding grounds for amphibians, and marsh and wading birds.
- the shore of the smallest of the globally imperiled Coastal Dune Lake, Little Redfish Lake cannot support a dock and kayak use.
- bald eagles are nesting in this 100 acre woods.

Grayton Beach State Park already has a large recreation area in the eastern section with a ranger station for monitoring entrance into the park. In 2013 the Grayton Beach State Park Management plan was approved. This current plan has improvements to the park that will provide enhanced recreation opportunities but not have negative impacts to the ecosystems. Some of these are:

- New shared use trail with parking on the north side of 30A

- primitive campsites north of 30A
- Floating dock near existing boat ramp in Western Lake.
- Improve existing Beach parking lot.

The public must demand that the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks manage our state parks to ensure the survival of plant and animals species and the conservation of finite and renewable resources.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP SAVE GRAYTON BEACH STATE PARK!

Attend the public hearing DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (CT). Presentation at 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Northwest Florida State College, South Walton Center, Room 120,109 Greenway Trail (Off Highway 331 South), Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459.

Email the Florida Department of Environmental Protection [FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us) You can copy and paste the following or write your own comment. Put your name after the comment.

Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support

Sent from my iPhone

**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Jean LeSturgeon <jeanlesturgeon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 11:27 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please keep our State Parks in Walton County (and else where) pristine.

Developing Grayton Beach State Park in the manner proposed undermines the projects of restoring and preserving wildlife and infringes upon one of the largest contiguous coastal scrub communities in South Walton.

I implore you, preserve our state treasures!

Thank you for your support,

Jean LeSturgeon

321-720-8878

-----  
Jean LeSturgeon  
24 Delbert Lane  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
321-720-8878

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Tiana Larsen <tianalarsen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 11:38 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

To: Grayton Beach State Park Planners

I do not support the proposed amendment to the 2013 Grayton State Park Management Plan.

As a 25-year Seagrove Beach permanent resident who has participated in many conservation efforts including serving on a few Advisory Groups for park planning for other NW FL parks, I understand the need to balance conservation of park natural resources with public use and enjoyment of recreational opportunities found in our state parks.

However, the proposed amendment would be detrimental to one of the last sizable scrub communities left in South Walton. In my time living here I have seen many, many acres of scrub community lost to development. As development and redevelopment proceed the only natural scrub areas left will be on protected publicly owned land such as this remnant in Management Zone 16 of the Western Unit.

Habitat loss is the major contributing factor in the decline of the Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse and scrub communities upland of the dunes are essential to their ability to survive tropical storms. This area of the park is also home to rare plants which are losing their habitat as the scrub is lost or fragmented.

I support the modest tent camping area proposed in the 2013 Management Plan and the restoration of the disturbed areas north of the cabins, as well as the other 2013 proposed improvements elsewhere in the park.

Regarding Little Redfish Lake, it is too small to support the uses proposed in the amendment. In addition it is dangerous due to the presence of alligators. It is a totally inappropriate place especially for children and inexperienced kayakers for that reason. I personally have kayaked in Western, Eastern and Camp Creek Lakes, but I would never kayak in Little Redfish Lake, nor would I wade or walk along the shore, and especially not with small children.

I would not object to a natural trail to a raised overlook that allows for views of the lake and birdwatching while keeping the shore undisturbed and keeping visitors safe. I believe a previous park plan included this as a proposed improvement.

I have heard that the South Walton Tourist Development Council favors the proposed parking lot and may even have plans to contribute funds and/or sublease it. I understand that all our state parks are under financial pressures and that such an arrangement is tempting for that reason. However, the objectives of the TDC are at odds with the goal of balancing resources and recreation. The park should not pay the price for the County's lack of long term planning.

Please reject this proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

Tiana Larsen

Seagrove Beach

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Richard Harrell <ninedotsfl@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 11:42 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Further Abuse of Grayton State Park  
**Attachments:** THANK YOU FOR TH OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE HOME.docx

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE HOME OWNERS AND VOTERS IN SOUTH WALTIN.

WE UNDERSTAND A PLAN IS FORMULATING TO EXTEND AND ENLARGE A BEACHHEAD CAMPSITE..BORDERING ON 30A AND ENCROACHING ON GRAYTON BEACH.

THE FRONT PAGE OF THE JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE OF THE "NORTHWEST FLORIDA NEWS" REPORTS NEW RESTRICTIONS, BY THE COMMISSION ON BEACH WEDDINGS, LIMITING THE SIZE AND FREQUENCY OF THE EV,ENTS.

ON ONE HAN,D THE COMMISSION IS REDUCING WEDDING ACTIVITY ON THE BEACH ....WHILE ON THE OTHER , HORDES OF OUT OF STATE CAMPERS ARE BECKONED TO OUR STATE PARK,

WE HAVE TO ASK; WHAT IS GOING ON?

A LAYMAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITY INDICATES THAT THE UNDERLYING ELEMENT OF THE COMMISSIONS STEWARDSHIP IS THE PROTECTION OF WALTON COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY.....BENEFITTING WALTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS AND VOTERS.

THE COMISSION IS NOT ESTABLISHED TO BE . A SALES PROMOTION DEPT. ATTRACTING, TO SECLUDED BEACHES, OUT OF TOWN CAMPERS THAT CAN'T AFFORD BEACHSIDE RENTALS.

THE INPUT STATEMENT OF THE SUGGESTED DEVELOPMENT PLAN WAS OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN BY SOME ASPIRING YOUNG LAW CLERK IN TALLAHASSEE WITH LIMITED EXPERIENCE.

IT DECLARES AND I QUOTE.."DEVELOPMENT OF CAMPING AREA IS NOT EXPECTED (HIS OR HER WORDS) TO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PARK'S NATURAL GROWTH.

CULTURAL IMPACTS ARE NOT EXPECTED (THEIR WORDS AGAIN) DUE TO MINIMAL FOOTPRINT OF DEVELOPMENT."  
EVER

BUREAUCRATIC GOOBLE-DY-GOOK, IF I HEARD IT , WRITTEN BY SOMEONE THAT'S NEVER BEEN HERE OR EXPERIENCED THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE OF A CAMPGROUND.



A TWO ACRE AREA OF CRAMPED STRANGERS IN A CAMPSITE IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER....TRAMPLED PLANTS...TREES MUTULATED FOR FIREWOOD...UNCONTROLLED FIRES....CIGARETTE AND CIGAR BUTTS....BEER CANS...BROKEN BOTTLES.....AND MOUNTING COLLECTIONS OF GARBAGE.

PREVIOUS CLEARING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SAME AREA WERE PREVENTED BECAUSE OF THE KNOWN HABITAT OF THE CHACTAWATCHEE BEACH MOUSE AND OTHER PRECIOUS PLANTS AND WILDLIFE.

WHAT HAS CHANGED...BESIDES THE COMMISSION?

GRAYTON BEACH AND AREAS OF THE BEACH AT AND SURROUNDING THE GULF TRACE DEVELOPMENT COMPRISE ONE OF THE FEW SAFE HAVENS OF SEA TURTLES SO DESIGNATED BT THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY.

EXTENSIVE FUNDS AND EFFORT HAVE BEEN EXPENDED BY GULF TRACE OWNERS INSTALLING HUNDREDS OF CONFORMING LIGHTS THAT MEET NESTING TURTLE SPECIFICATIONS.

ON-GOING EFFORTS INFORMING FIRST TIME RENTERS CONTINUES.... ENFORCING USE OF FLASHLIGHT WITH RED FILTER PTOTECTION...RESPECTING DUNE AREAS A ND PROPER BEHAVIOR NEAR NESTS.

WHO WOULD MONITOR THE PROPER BEHAVIOR OF THESE CROWDS OF OUT-OF-STATE CAMPERS.? OPENING ONE OF THE FEW TURTLE SAFE NESTING AREA TO ENVIROMENTL STRANGERS WILL BE AN OUTRAGE AND POSSIBLY GROUNDS FOR A CIVIL ACTION LAW SUIT.

PERHAPS A HIDDEN MOTIVE TO THIS UNWARRANTED INVASION IS INCREASED REVENUE ACCRUED TO SOME ENTITY. I DOUBT IF THIS GROUP OF INVADERS WILL PROVIDE MUCH OF THAT COMPARED TO THE EXPENSE OF CONSTANT REPAIR AND CLEAN UP OF THE CAMPSITE.

DOES ANYONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF GRAYTON BEACH BELIEVE THAT WALTON COUNTY WILL BENEFIT FROM DANGEROUS AUTO CONGESTION ON 30A RAUCOUS DRUNKEN PARTIES ON LITTLE RED FISH AND MISBEHAVING BEACH GOERS TRAMPLING ON TURTLE NESTS

I DON'T BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON.

YOU FOUR MUST DO SOME SOUL SEARCHING AND ASK YOURSELVES,.... IF THIS ENLAGRED CAMPSITE IS ALLOWED TO DESTROY WHAT WE HAVE COME TO

KNOW AS GRAYTON BEACH,.....WHAT OTHER SURPRISES ARE IN STORE FOR YOU  
WHEN YOU ARE NO LONGER ON THE COMMISSION,?

A CENTRAL GARBAGE DUMP ON CHAFFIN AVE IN DEFUNIAK SPRINGS.. A  
DOWNTOWN FIRING RANGE.....AND CENTRAL GARBAGE INCINERATOR .... A  
NEXT DOOR  
MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL .....OR A FIRING RANGE  
PERHAPS A STRING OF STRIP TEASE BAARS IN PONCE DE LEON.....OR A MAJOR  
DRUG RE-HAB CENTER ON LOGAN LANE IN SANTA ROSA BEACH.

THIS DESTRUCTION OF GRAYTON BEACH IS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD FOR  
THOSE THE WOULD DESTROY OR WAY OF LIFE IN WALTON COUNTY

AT EACH MOVE THEY MAKE WE ALL SHOULD ASK...."WHAT THE HELL IS GOING  
ON  
AND THEN STOP IT."

RICHARD HARRELL  
164 GULF SHORE DRIVE  
SANTA ROSA BEACH

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** David Samek <possum7444@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 12:04 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Proposed Amendment to Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park

I am thoroughly opposed to this amendment. There is no need to develop the Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park. This coastal scrub area east of Little Redfish Lake is needed by the wading and marsh birds, amphibians and other small reptiles and mammals for breeding and fishing. Implementation of the remaining uncompleted portions of the 2013 Management Plan should satisfy any current needs without negatively impacting ecosystem. Please keep the natural area east of Little Redfish Lake as is. We need as much acreage of original,untouched habitat as we can save.  
David Samek

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Ed Billeaud <edva@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 12:14 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

My wife and I are resident homeowners on 30-A. We object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you.

Best Regards,  
Ed Billeaud  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Dr. Fay A. Riddle <fayriddle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Please Deny the Proposed Amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am opposed to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Why is this such a bad idea? Our state parks are the only places where any natural landscapes will survive in South Walton. Every inch of private land will be developed. We should not allow development of our conservation lands due to lack of planning by Walton County.

Walton County is under pressure to pave over as much of the coastline as possible to allow for more and more beach parking. There is a need for more public beach access, but it should not happen at the expense of our rare and fragile ecosystems that will only survive in our conservation lands.

The Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park :

- One of the largest contiguous coastal scrub community in South Walton
- Contains several depression marshes which are important breeding grounds for amphibians, and marsh and wading birds
- The shore of the smallest of the globally imperiled coastal dune lake, Little Redfish Lake cannot support a dock and kayak use
- Bald eagles are nesting in this 100 acre woods

Grayton Beach State Park already has a large recreation area in the eastern section with a ranger station for monitoring entrance into the park. In 2013 the Grayton Beach State Park Management plan was approved. This 2013 plan has improvements to the park that will provide enhanced recreation opportunities but not have negative impacts to the ecosystems. Some of these are:

- New shared use trail with parking on the north side of 30A
- Primitive campsites north of 30A-Floating dock near existing boat ramp in Western Lake
- Improve existing beach parking lot

The public must demand that the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks manage our state parks to ensure the survival of plant and animals species and the conservation of finite and renewable resources.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,  
Drs. Dennis and Fay Riddle  
11 Harvest Moon Lane  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Cathy Jones <jones4noles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach

We do not support the plan for proposed parking lot on the Grayton Beach land.  
Please continue to protect our natural resources by limiting the amount of development on the beach.  
Thank you,  
Cathy Jones

142 Seabreeze Court  
Inlet Beach, FL 32461

Sent from my iPad

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Foley, Brandy <foleyb@nwfsc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** DENY the proposed amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support

**Brandy Foley**  
**Monitoring Coordinator**  
**109 South Greenway Trail**  
**Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459**  
870-405-9342 Cell

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Cindy Morrison <cindynmorrison@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 1:52 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Planning Board,

We are residents of Gulf Trace. Our home backs up to the State Park. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you regarding the proposed changes to Grayton Beach State Park.

It appears from your proposals that you have 2 goals in mind.

First, to protect the environment and the habitats of the animals that live there.

Second, to provide a place for more people to enjoy the park.

Both are admirable objectives, however, they cannot co-exist. Achieving one goal will diminish the other and vice-versa.

If you truly want to protect this rare and wonderful state park, then you must be willing to make the hard decision to limit the number of people in it. You must realize that people in Little Redfish Lake will disturb the nests and breeding grounds of many birds, as well as the fish, alligators and small mammals that live there.

Tent camping in the park, along with everything that comes with it, such as camp fires, public restrooms, noise and lights will diminish the habitats of our birds, deer and bears. Tent camping also brings with it the very real danger of forest fire. The thought of an out-of-control fire is frightening, to say the least. And as you know, it only takes one careless person for that to happen.

The state has done such a great job protecting the environment up to now.

Please continue to do so.

Do the right thing. Protect our State Park.

Thank you,

Tim and Cindy Morrison

10 White Sands Drive

Santa Rosa Beach, FL



**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Debbie James <debbie@debbiejames.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 2:12 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support

Debbie James  
Broker Associate  
850 Properties  
850-450-2000 Cell



## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** brenda feliciani <bnfeliciani@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 2:18 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Objections to proposed State Park changes

June 12, 2017

Dear Planning Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to express our concerns as you make plans for Grayton Beach State Park. We visit the Grayton beach area many times each year and have done so for the past 10 years. As frequent visitors, the natural beauty of the area is what appeals to us the most. We appreciate the care that is taken along 30A to preserve and protect the environment and wildlife and would like to see that priority continued. We are happy to hear that there are plans to restore some of the old road beds back to their original beauty. We appreciate your effort and believe that every attempt to maintain the natural environment of this area is vital.

We do not agree with the plans to add day parking, paddle boat launches and tent camping to the park. Any additional cars, people, noise, lights, camp fires, etc. inside the park will only diminish the natural habitat of the animals in our area. The proposed dock and boat launch area will also disrupt the lives of many birds and animals. Such amenities are not necessary for the enjoyment of the area but protecting and sustaining the wildlife and its habitat are. The proposed lake is small and rare and contributes to the unique beauty of the area. We believe it should be preserved and left alone.

Tent camping which is already available less than a mile away brings with it many undesirable consequences: people trampling through the woods, camp fires and the dangers that come along with them, public restrooms and the need to monitor them night and day, more vehicles driving in and out and parking in the area among many others. As advocates for the environment and preservation of the park's wildlife and its natural beauty, we request that tent camping not be allowed in this area.

The park land and Little Redfish Lake should be protected, not exploited. Adding more people inside the park is a mistake. The visitor population this 30-A area has grown significantly since we began visiting and we believe it is because people like ourselves appreciate the natural beauty of this area. Attempting to accommodate everyone that wants to come to this area is not the answer. If that is allowed to happen then this area will not be the desired destination for many like ourselves but rather another overused and unprotected beach area. We are asking you to protect this unique and beautiful area and to please not destroy the one thing that makes this area so special; its old Florida aspects of unspoiled forests and lakes.

Please take our perspective into consideration and take a long-term view of your proposal and avoid short-sighted consequences to cause irreparable damage to this precious resource.

Gino and Brenda Feliciani

435 SunGlow Court

Orlando, FL

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Lisa Comeau <Lisa@sowal.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Lisa & Jimmy Comeau

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Martha Canale <stcanale@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 2:42 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Fwd: Grayton Beach State Park

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Martha Canale <[stcanale@aol.com](mailto:stcanale@aol.com)>  
**Date:** June 12, 2017 at 1:40:48 PM CDT  
**To:** [Daniel.alsentzer@deo.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.alsentzer@deo.state.fl.us)  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

I am opposed to the Proposed unit management plan amendment for Grayton Beach State Park for all the reasons stated by Cynthia Turner in her letter to you.

I support the land acquisition of the Little Redfish Lake outfall known as the Kelly parcel.

I own 2 lots in the Little a Redfish development and 3 lots in the Old Miller development adjacent to the park. Please consider this email as 5 votes for the above.

Yours truly,  
Martha Canale

Sent from my iPad

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** Tom Patton  
**Cc:** Allen, Matthew  
**Subject:** RE: Comments-Grayton Beach State Park Advisory Group Meeting, 6/14

Tom -

Thank you for your notes and recommendations. We will be considering all comments received and work with stakeholders and the general public to evaluate the best planning options as we move forward.

Regards,  
Daniel

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tom Patton [mailto:tpatton@legendaryinc.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 3:56 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Allen, Matthew <Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Comments-Grayton Beach State Park Advisory Group Meeting, 6/14

Daniel, I regret that I am out of the country and cannot attend the hearing. I moved to the area in 1979 as Vice President for development at Sandestin. Meeting Bob Bannerman, I bought a lot looking at Little Redfish. I have owned property on Redfish since. Other contributions include spearheading the creation on Friends of Grayton about 18 years ago, 14+ years on the Walton County Planning Commission and starting the South Walton Fire District. My concerns are as follows:

- unsupervised public parking deep in the park is a disaster. The long entry "throat" will add 2 additional spaces every 20'. Way to many spaces! This is the perfect place for high school and fraternities to have parties.
- you have not done a bathometric survey. The west side of the lake was used for grassing cattle. The east side goes steeply into a ancient stream 4-6' deep. Fragile and not conducive to family swimming and boating.
- the lake has a bald eagle family and potential for Snowy Plover nesting and beach mice. We also have poisonous snake- 4 varieties, gators, otters, beavers. Not conducive to large numbers on a small fragile lake.
- the lake is small and boring. If you want To go kayaking or paddle board, it will be the last choice in South Walton. AND the park already has facilities 1.5 miles down the road--expand existing and Manage!

This is the perfect place for primitive camping per the current Management Plan.  
Thanks for rethinking.

Tom Patton  
31 Sienna Court  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL32459

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 9, 2017, at 6:20 PM, Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us> wrote:  
>  
> <image001.png>  
> <GBSP\_LittleRedfishLake\_DayUseArea\_PlanAmendment.pdf>

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Jeanine <jeaninewilliamss@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 4:55 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** GRAYTON BEACH STATE PARK PRESERVATION

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### Help Save Grayton Beach State Park!

The Walton County Tourist Development Council is urging The Florida Division of Recreation and Parks to develop the 100-acre natural area on the eastern side of Little Redfish Lake, this is referred to as the Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park and is where the cabins are located. <https://www.floridastateparks.org/content/public-meeting>

The proposed amendment to the current plan would put a 24-car parking lot in the middle of the coastal scrub and a boat launch on Little Redfish Lake.

Why is this such a bad idea? Our State Parks are the only places where any natural landscapes will survive in South Walton. Every inch of private land will be developed. We should not allow development of our conservation lands due to lack of planning by Walton County.

Walton County is under pressure to pave over as much of the coastline as possible to allow for more and more beach parking. I have been an advocate for more public beach access, however it should not happen at the expense of our rare and fragile ecosystems that will only survive in our conservation lands.

The Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park :

- One of the largest contiguous coastal scrub community in South Walton.
- contains several depression marshes which are important breeding grounds for amphibians, and marsh and wading birds.
- the shore of the smallest of the globally imperiled Coastal Dune Lake, Little Redfish Lake cannot support a dock and kayak use.
- bald eagles are nesting in this 100 acre woods.

Grayton Beach State Park already has a large recreation area in the eastern section with a ranger station for monitoring entrance into the park. In 2013 the Grayton Beach State Park Management plan was approved. This current plan has improvements to the park that will provide enhanced recreation opportunities but not have negative impacts to the ecosystems. Some of these are:

- New shared use trail with parking on the north side of 30A
- primitive campsites north of 30A-Floating dock near existing boat ramp in Western Lake.
- Improve existing Beach parking lot.

The public must demand that the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks manage our state parks to ensure the survival of plant and animals species and the conservation of finite and renewable resources.

### HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP SAVE GRAYTON BEACH STATE PARK!

#### Attend the public hearing

**DATE AND TIME:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (CT). **Presentation at 5:30 p.m.**

**PLACE:** Northwest Florida State College, South Walton Center, Room 120,109 Greenway Trail (Off Highway 331 South), Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459.

Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support , James and Jeanine Williams, 142 Sky High Dune Drive, Santa Rosa Beach ,FL 32459 Permanent Residents and 70 Yrs in NW Florida

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## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Cynthia Turner <grayton@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 4:04 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning; Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Plan Amendment  
**Attachments:** 6\_11\_2015\_Cynthia Alexander\_GBSP Unit Plan Amendment.docx

Dear Daniel,

Attached please find my comments on the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Unit Plan.

I will likely send additional comments after the open house and the Wednesday meeting.

Kind regards,  
Cynthia T. Alexander



# CYNTHIA T. ALEXANDER

56 Old Miller Place • Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 • 850.231.4112 • grayton@earthlink.net

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June 11, 2017

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

## **RE: Proposed unit management plan amendment for Grayton Beach State Park**

Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed unit management plan amendment for Grayton Beach State Park. There are two parts to my comments.

### **PART 1: I am opposed to the amendment for the following reasons:**

- The proposed use is not coherent with the 2013 plan for increased recreational access without degradation of the natural communities, including destructive impacts or takings on several species and protected zones.
- The use would immediately exceed the proposed capacity of 24 parking spaces, and exceed the park's recreational carrying capacity that ensures access while preserving the natural values of the site.
- The plan appears to violate two federal prohibitions of the Federal FL-95P OPA (Otherwise Protected Area) Coastal Barrier Resources Unit.
- The plan violates Walton County's Land Development Code, Coastal Dune Lake Protection Zone 4.02.06 for stormwater runoff from proposed parking lot, restroom, repaving, and shoreline destruction at boat launch.
- A sublease by Walton County or the Walton County TDC (Tourist development Council) for an uncontrolled and unlimited day use beach access is incompatible with the mission of the park.

### **PART 2: I support the land acquisition of the Little Redfish Lake outfall known as the Kelly parcel.**

- It is a critical acquisition that supports the conservation of vanishing communities in their natural state, particularly the outfall of the smallest coastal dune lake, Little Redfish Lake, and critical habitat for snowy plover, least tern and black skimmer that nest on the flat sand at lake blowouts.

# CYNTHIA T. ALEXANDER

56 Old Miller Place • Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 • 850.231.4112 • grayton@earthlink.net

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- The funding for this acquisition is the second phase of the Trustees' Phase V early restoration plan (the Florida Coastal Access project) and it requires enhanced recreational opportunities of adjacent lands. The studied, vetted and approved 2013 Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park already identifies increased recreational access coherent with with conservation and protection of natural communities, and coherent with the recreational carrying capacity of the park. Those projects should be funded and completed instead of the proposed amendment.
- I note that the acquisition is not mentioned anywhere on the proposed amendment.

I have lived next to Grayton Beach State Park for thirty years. I have served on the Advisory Council for the Grayton Beach Management Plan in 1987, 1991, 1996, 1999, 2005 and 2012.

Like many of my neighbors and the surrounding communities adjacent to Grayton Beach State Park borders, we have been the best of neighbors.

We have been neighbors in the purest sense of the personal meaning, and we have been neighbors in a deeper sense of community, cooperating in a common vision of the appropriate stewardship and land management of this unique, beloved and valuable natural resource. Because we live here we follow a continuum more discerning and forward-looking than Walton County government's approach to over-development and uncontrolled tourism.

I carefully reviewed the approved 2013 Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park for the basis of my comments. As a Walton County resident I also have some personal experience that I bring to bear.

A brief history of Grayton Beach State Park is highly relevant to comprehensively understand the proposed amendment under consideration. GBSP was 356 acres in size from 1964-1985. It was originally "Section 16 land" set aside for schools and the State Board of Education transferred it to Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks. In 1985 the park acquired 10 parcels of land with **Save Our Coasts Trust Fund** and **CARL (Conservation and Recreation Lands) bonds**, increasing the park size to 2,227.92 acres. These bonds are part of the public trust to manage these lands for the purpose for which they were acquired: conservation, restoration and recreation.

Walton County ferociously protested this acquisition after the fact. It is a very well-known part of Florida history, and well known to DEP. It was the citizens of Walton County who supported the conservation and restoration of these acquisitions. In fact, the

# CYNTHIA T. ALEXANDER

56 Old Miller Place • Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 • 850.231.4112 • grayton@earthlink.net

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impetus for Amendment 5 to the Florida Constitution was borne out of this conflict in Walton County that consumed Tallahassee's and the Florida Cabinet's time for the next 5 years. Amendment 5 extended indefinitely the state's ability to sell bonds to finance environmental land acquisition and created a more difficult test for the disposal of land purchased for conservation purposes, thereby ensuring that **what is bought for conservation, stays in conservation**. It was put to the voters in November 1998 and passed with 72 percent of Florida's electorate, a record landslide.

Walton County citizens have been compelled to continue to defend and protect our parks and forest from Walton County schemes to divest and develop these lands even unto today. Every square inch of private land in south Walton County will be developed (and over-developed) in the near future. The County does not cease to cast its eyes upon what is still green and desire to pave it over and overrun it with tourists.

I believe Grayton Beach State Park is and should remain protected. The Resource Management Programs are designed **to preserve for all time** the representative examples of natural and cultural resources of statewide significance. The Management Authority and Responsibility is vested in Chapter 258, Florida Statutes and Chapter 62D-2 Florida Administrative Code, the Division of Recreation and Parks policy:

“to acquire typical portions of the original domain of the state which will be accessible to all of the people, of such character to emblemize the state's natural values; conserve these natural values all time, use and maintain these lands in such a manner as to enable the people of Florida and visitors to enjoy these values without depleting them.”

Thus, necessary restrictions on public access is not denied access – *it is preserved access*.

The land use management of Grayton Beach State Park is governed by Sections 253.034<sup>1</sup> and 259.032<sup>2</sup>, Florida Statutes, Chapter 18-2, Florida Administrative Code.

Statute 253.034 includes, for example:

**(1)All lands acquired pursuant to chapter 259 shall be managed to serve the public interest by protecting and conserving land, air, water, and the state's natural resources**, which contribute to the public health, welfare, and economy of the state. These lands shall be managed to provide for areas of natural resource based recreation, and **to ensure the survival of plant and animal species and**

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<sup>1</sup>[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0200-0299/0253/Sections/0253.034.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0200-0299/0253/Sections/0253.034.html)

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0200-0299/0259/Sections/0259.032.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/STATUTES/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0200-0299/0259/Sections/0259.032.html)

# CYNTHIA T. ALEXANDER

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**the conservation of finite and renewable natural resources.** The state's lands and natural resources shall be managed using a stewardship ethic that assures these resources will be available **for the benefit and enjoyment of all people of the state, both present and future.**

**. . . All multiple-use land management strategies shall address public access and enjoyment, resource conservation and protection, ecosystem maintenance and protection, and protection of threatened and endangered species . . .**

Statute 259.032 includes, for example:

7(b) "All lands managed under this chapter and s. 253.034 **shall be** managed for public outdoor recreation **which is compatible with the conservation and protection of public lands.**"

and (9)(a) "The Legislature recognizes that acquiring lands pursuant to this chapter serves the public interest by protecting land, air, and water resources which contribute to the public health and welfare, providing areas for natural resource-based recreation, and ensuring the survival of unique and irreplaceable plant and animal species. The Legislature intends for these lands **to be managed and maintained in a manner that is compatible with conservation, recreation, or both, consistent with the land management plan and for the public to have access to and use of these lands if public access would not harm the resources the state is seeking to protect on the public's behalf.**"

The Proposed Unit Management Plan Amendment will degrade the natural communities, including destructive impacts or takings on several species and protected zones. The last FNAI (Florida Natural Areas Inventory) study in GBSP was in 2012, pursuant to the 2012 review of the Unit Management Plan. In the specific area of the proposed amendment, GB-15, GB-16, and GB-17, FNAI identifies both protected zones and endangered species.

GB-15 is the eastern shoreline of Little Redfish Lake, a globally-imperiled coastal dune lake and an Outstanding Florida Water. It is designated a Protected Zone: "a protected zone is an area of high sensitivity or outstanding character from which most types of development are excluded as a protective measure."

GB-16 is the Coastal Scrub area bounded on the north by Highway 30-A and the south by the beach, on the west by Little Redfish Lake and the east by Alligator Lake. It is one of the last intact stands of Coastal Scrub, a listed ecosystem, FNAI S2 Imperiled. Coastal scrub is home to listed plant species, such as gulf coast lupine (*Lupinus westianus*) and largeleaf jointweed (*Polygonella macrophylla*). Nearby Seagrove was named for this natural community of picturesque salt-pruned dwarf oaks. The Unit Management plan states, "Access to coastal scrub should be controlled through designated at grade

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footpaths. **Paths or walkways through this community should be minimized** as these paths serve as corridors that allow coastal winds and salt spray to penetrate into the scrub creating soil erosion and mortality of trees, thus further fragmenting the community. **Additional accesses or development should avoid coastal scrub** where possible to prevent impacts and keep it in good condition. **Motor vehicle use in this area should continue to be limited or eliminated.”**

However, the new amendment calls for the construction of a large and wide handicap-accessible boardwalk throughout the scrub, the re-paving of roads and the addition of new asphalt connectors, and the introduction of new and heavy automobile traffic.

In fact, the existing roadbed that is now designated for re-paving by the proposed amendment has been slated for removal and scrub restoration by the approved Unit Management Plans since it was acquired.

Further, even though the new parking area is limited to 24 spaces, every local knows the parking area, the driveway in, and the sides of 30-A will be overrun with parked cars the day this access would open, just like any other Walton County TDC beach access. The park will be overrun by beach goers seeking a new way to the beach, and they will degrade and destroy the natural communities with overuse. Very close to the new 24 parking spaces is another protected zone, a basin marsh.



Protected Zone. Basin Marsh. Near proposed parking lot, 2017.

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The lack of security and the lack of controlled access, including the ability to lock a gate when capacity is reached is no small concern for locals, adjacent homeowners or for the Cabin guests. Day use is completely incompatible with the Western Unit of the park, and should be restricted to the developed portion of the Eastern Unit where the rangers are present and where the access and capacity is monitored and controlled.

GB-17 is the Gulf of Mexico beach dunes and beach of the southern boundary of GB-16. Here is Choctawhatchee beach mice (*Peromyscus polinotus allophrys*) habitat, a federally-listed endangered species. Nesting shorebirds including two state-designated threatened species, least terns (*Sternula antillarum*) and snowy plovers (*Charadrius nivosus*), should nest along the dune front and in dune blowout areas. Shorebirds need connectivity between the beach dune community and foraging habitats such as the shoreline and/or the coastal dune lakes. In particular, corridors should be free from human disturbance during the breeding season to allow shorebirds and their flightless young to make the journey from the nest to available foraging habitats. In addition, this is one of few dark areas left for nesting sea turtles. Federally-listed loggerhead (*Carretta caretta*) and green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) nest on the beach and in the dunes here.

Boardwalkers and kayakers will quickly tire of paddling in tiny Little Redfish Lake and soon make their way to the outfall and the beach, increasing foot traffic along the coastal dune lake shoreline and outfall and damaging this extremely fragile area.

It is important to note that Little Redfish Lake was uniquely closed to the Gulf in its natural condition, with a stable sand berm covered with vegetation.



GB-15, outfall, Little Redfish Lake, 1997

However, several county manipulations of the outfall have artificially opened it. It was opened to rapidly clear septic field debris from an adjacent beach community brought by

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Hurricanes Dennis and Ivan storm surges. It was again disturbed when Walton County filled the natural sugar sand berm with a larger berm of trucked-in, non-native sand for protection against the BP oil spill. The sand was to be removed when the danger passed. However, it was merely pushed aside, re-opening the lake, and that gray and rocky sand remains today, 7 years later.



GB-15, shoreline and outfall, littered with non-native sand, Little Redfish Lake, 2017

The natural berm keeps trying to heal itself, which would restore habitat for the Snowy plover and the Least tern. However, heavy beach usage from increased tourism means many curious visitors trampling the lake's outfall, ruining the vegetation and disrupting the attempt of the natural berm to reform. The uncontrolled access of proposed boardwalk visitors and kayakers will increase this damage as they will inevitably make their way to the outfall.

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GB-15, damaged shoreline outfall, walked down by foot traffic from beachgoers, Little Redfish Lake, 2017

On a non-scientific survey this past weekend, the state listed-threatened Spoonleaf sundew (*Drosera intermedia*) was easily observed at the shoreline at the proposed boardwalk dock overlook and kayak launch site. It is the first known occurrence of Spoonleaf sundew in Grayton Beach State Park. It has been observed in Topsail and Deer Lake. It was not present on the 2012 FNAI survey.



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GB-15, Spoonleaf sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), shoreline, proposed kayak launch site, 2017

When the FNAI study was completed in 2012 there were no Bald Eagles at Little Redfish Lake. However, for the last two years the eagles have made their home nearby and fish on the lake, and have raised and taught two generations of fledglings to fish there. The two trees from which the eagles surveil and hunt are in the exact location of the proposed boardwalk and kayak launch.

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GB-15, Bald Eagles, shoreline, Little Redfish Lake, proposed kayak launch site, 2017

As South Walton development rages on wildlife will seek its last refuge in the conservation areas. Wildlife will begin to concentrate there, as we have seen with the Bald Eagles. Endangered plants cannot pick themselves up and move. These are their last stands of natural communities in their original domains. **If the protected species cannot be protected on land set aside for their conversation where, then, are they to be protected?**

## **Protected Zones**

The 2013 approved Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan also identifies several protected zones within the area now slated for development on the proposed amendment.

Little Redfish Lake, is a globally-imperiled coastal dune lake, an Outstanding Florida Water and it is a designated Protected Zone.

The 2000 Unit Management Plan specifically stated, “ Due to the rarity and fragile nature of the two other coastal dune lakes, Little Redfish Lake and Alligator Lake, and the pressure they are under from developed homesites and the country road, **public access for canoeing, kayaking and power to the lakes from the park is not recommended.**” The 2013 Plan states “**the native shoreline vegetation should remain intact and buffers should be set to prevent development along the shoreline.**”

Why would an amendment now promote a dock and kayak launch and the certain encouragement of the impact of uncontrolled access to the shoreline and outfall of Little Redfish Lake?

The American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) is a federally-designated threatened species and Little Redfish Lake is home to a few. They are opportunistic feeders and generally incompatible with humans. When I queried park and planning about Little Redfish Lake being too small and fragile to accommodate public kayaking and canoeing I was informed that was *why* it has been chosen: for the disabled, new kayakers and

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children to have a safe place to learn.

However, alligators inhabit all the coastal dune lakes. I would not swim, or even stand in water along the shoreline of Little Redfish. And, because it is such a small lake, (unlike Western Lake, which is approximately 20x larger, for example) the alligators have nowhere to retreat from splashing and disturbances. They may become aggressive and defend the intrusion into their habitat. Alligators on Alligator Lake will follow boats and bump them. Alligator Lake is only slightly larger than Little Redfish Lake. And, as we all know, you can remove dangerously large alligators, but their places are quickly re-filled by newcomers.



Little Redfish Lake, Protected Zone.

A 7-foot alligator was photographed at the proposed kayak launch on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## **FL-95P, Otherwise Protected Area**

In 1990, GBSP received a special federal protection when Congress designated it an OPA, an Otherwise Protected Area, and placed it in OPA Unit FL 95-P.

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In 1992, Congress assimilated all OPA units into the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS).

In 2006, a technical correction of the FL 95-P OPA unit map was passed by Congress. The correction placed an additional 1,582 acres, including 1/2 mile of pristine sugar sand shoreline, dune fields, and coastal dune lake shoreline into federal conservation that had been erroneously excluded in 1992. This was 901 fastland acres and 681 associated aquatic habitat acres of State Park land.<sup>3</sup> Congress replaced its incorrect Department of Interior map with the certified State of Florida Map, prepared by Brady Harrison, GIS Coordinator, Office of Park & Planning, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and submitted it to DOI, USFWS for redesignation of OPA Units. This made the GBSP OPA unit coterminus with the GBSP boundary.<sup>4</sup>

It appears to me that the plan amendment may also be in conflict with the Federal protection of GBSP. One of the three important goals of placing land in a Coastal Barrier Resource Unit is **to protect the natural resources associated with coastal barriers**. One of the ways this is accomplished is by prohibiting most new federal expenditures that tend to encourage development or modification of coastal barriers including, **assistance for environmental studies, planning, and assessments that are required incident to the issuance of permits or other authorizations under federal law**. (CBRA (16 U.S.C. §3502(3)).

Limitations on and exceptions to Federal expenditures includes “maintenance, replacement, reconstruction, or repair, **but not the expansion** of publicly owned or publicly operated roads, structures, and facilities.”<sup>5</sup> The plan amendment requires the repaving **and expansion** of the existing road in the Western Unit for the purpose of day-use by the public, even though the roadbeds are slated for removal and restoration under the approved 2013 plan.

## Summary

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<sup>3</sup> Federal Register Vol. 72 No 184, September 24, 2007. The technical correction also excluded 22 acres of privately owned land: the entire subdivision of Old Miller Place, 7 acres/10 entire lots/4 homes; in the town of Grayton Beach, 11.3 acres/affecting 33 lots/12 homes; in Gulf Trace, 1.8 acres/ affecting 7 lots/4 homes.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2007/09/24/E7-18795/coastal-barrier-improvement-act-of-1990-amendments-to-the-john-h-chafee-coastal-barrier-resources>

<sup>4</sup> House bill HR 479 was considered and passed the House on September 12, 2006, and was then considered and passed the Senate September 29, 2006 and enacted into Public Law 109-355, 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, October 16, 2006. (16 USC 3503).

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-109publ355/html/PLAW-109publ355.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/ecological-services/habitat-conservation/cbra/Consultations/Limitations-and-Exceptions.html>

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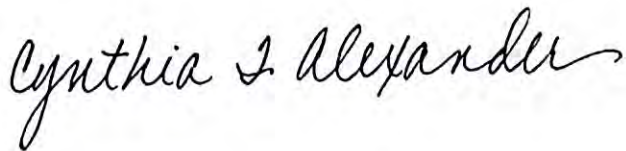
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GBSP is extremely popular with both locals and visitors who cherish it for its wide, expansive views of nature and a glimpse of Old Florida. It already frequently reaches capacity throughout the year. The 2013 Unit Management Plan defined increased recreational expansion after careful surveys of the natural areas. I support the implementation and funding of the 2013 Approved Unit Management Plan for increased recreational capacity. (See Appendix 1.)

I also support Walton County funds or Walton County TDC funds *being donated* to the park for *park-designated* restoration, conservation and improvements, **but I do not support the TDC subleasing or managing any portion of GBSP**. Their mission is different, and indeed *in conflict*, with the mission and management of public lands.

**For all the reasons stated above, I oppose the proposed unit management plan amendment for Grayton Beach State Park.**

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia T. Alexander

# CYNTHIA T. ALEXANDER

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## Appendix 1

### **Improvements & Carrying Capacity** **2013 Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan**

Maintain the park's current recreational carrying capacity of 2,028 users per day.  
Expand the park's recreational carrying capacity by 288 users per day:

- New shared use trails and a trailhead will expand opportunities for hiking and bicycling. **4 miles of new trails** north of 30A in Eastern Unit will accommodate an additional 160 people daily. Future plans will allow the trails in the Eastern Unit and Western Unit to network. [Partial work begun by Americorps volunteers, but no current work underway]
- An additional eight spaces of parking to accommodate current visitor capacity at cabins and two universally-accessible parking spaces. Also, reorganization of the current cabin parking lot to increase capacity.
- Addition of 10-12 tent-only campsites in the Western Unit in the disturbed area, next to cabins. Several small areas of stabilized parking spaces would be located a short walk from the campsites. Up to two sites would be designed to meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 4 Primitive campsites north of 30A, 2 in Eastern Unit and 2 in Western Unit. Each primitive campsite has room for 2 tents. Carrying capacity can increase up to an additional 32 people daily.
- 2 pedestrian crosswalks on 30A to allow park visitors to safely access trails north of 30A: one at cabin entrance and one at the new (relocated) trailhead west of the Western Lake bike bridge.
- New Trailhead parking lot just west of Western lake bridge: approximately 15-20 spaces. [Under construction, currently needs funding from CSO to continue]
- Floating convenience dock near the existing boat ramp on Western Lake to provide space for mooring small boats and allow visitors to arrive at the park by boat.
- Reorganization of existing beach access parking pad at Western Lake to move traffic more efficiently and accommodate additional parking spaces, to increase efficiency and capacity while limiting the need for additional paved surfaces.

Additional suggestions not in plan:

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- add a bikepath on each side of Main Park Entrance road all the way to the beach.

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** tim leihgeber <timleihgeber@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park management plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner, I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. We passed protect our fragile coastal dune lake areas and their rare ecosystems. Thank you for your support, Tim Leihgeber

Sent from my iPad



## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** William Crane <wcranesroost@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 4:57 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Little Redfish Lake/grayton Beach State Park

My name is Lois Crane. I have lived on Little Redfish Lake for 19 years.

Please note that I have great passion to preserve this precious Coastal Dune Lake .

Residential lot owners are required to "leave 300' in its natural state." The park should not be allowed to put any public access to this lake. Even those meaning no harm will do harm to this fragile eco system. If a boardwalk is allowed, then you know people will walk the perimeter causing damage. We have gators, turtles, otters, beaver,deer,coyotes,fox,boar.

We have mating Bald Eagles, osprey, and other birds of prey calling this their home.

This lake is too tiny to be considered for any type of recreation.

Grayton Beach State Park would be better served to enhance the gulf experience for our visitors and be a better steward in preserving our rare coastal lakes. Thank You

Sent from my iPad Loi & Billy

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Laura Talbert <1lauratalbert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management plan. This amendment serves no purpose that will benefit the park or the people of Florida who are the shareholders of our state parks.

Please reject this amendment and implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park management plan.

Even though you have a funding source for this amendment it is not in the best interest of the integrity and protection of this valuable resource.

Thank you for your continued support of this unique state park.

--

Laura Talbert  
PH [321-223-6599](tel:321-223-6599)  
EM [1lauratalbert@gmail.com](mailto:1lauratalbert@gmail.com)

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** cbz3@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 6:26 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you,  
Connie Bordelon

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Amanda <amandaschuette@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 6:59 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

As a frequent user of Grayton State Park, I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. The Grayton State Park Boat Launch is my preferred launching location for my paddleboard, as it is an uncrowded launch in a gorgeous setting. Adding another launch to the park when the existing one is rarely used to capacity makes no sense.

I do see the need to increase beach access and parking in the park, as that is often beyond full, but see no reason to disrupt special environmental areas and habitats for this proposed launch. The 2013 Management Plan is doing a good job of addressing improvements and needs in the park, this amendment does not.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan and do not approve this amendment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Amanda Schuette

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** shawnakay77@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support,  
Shawna Reed

Sent from my iPhone

## **Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** David & Terri Nelson <tbnden@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 10:59 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Plan Amendment  
**Attachments:** Grayton.Park.Public.Hearing.docx

Ladies and Gentlemen-

Attached please find my comments regarding the possible amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond by e-mail.

I have also sent my response to a person planning to attend the public meeting on June 13 to print it and present the comments in writing for that meeting.

Respectfully,

David Nelson, P.E.  
14 Gulf Shore Drive  
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

David E. Nelson, P.E.

14 Gulf Shore Drive  
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

June 5, 2017

Division of Recreation and Parks  
Office of Park Planning

RE: Grayton Beach State Park

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Unit Plan Amendment, June 2017, for Grayton Beach State Park. I am a fairly recent homeowner in Gulf Trace, the neighborhood within the State Park boundaries. In preparation for commenting on the proposed amendment, I read the original 200 page Unit plan recently approved for the park to familiarize myself with aspects of the park.

First, I was surprised that the original 10-year plan was already proposed for amendment. I suspect, in reading the amendment, that the urgency was brought on by plans to increase public beach access in the County and the western unit of Grayton Beach State Park seemed a place where this could happen. However, to me, the western portion of the park is a special place where the cabin rentals exist and those guests can enjoy the coastal area – unencumbered by large numbers of day guests. It is unique in this aspect and different from the eastern portion with its day use areas and RV sites. It is also different from the other parks along the Walton County coastline – each having their own unique attributes. There does not seem to be any need to hastily amend the current plan for Grayton Beach State Park.

I was surprised by the original plan's access to Little Redfish Lake, as it appeared to be too small to support much more use. The amended plan retains that access but it would be even more heavily used with day use guests and additional tent campers in the park. To me, this does not seem like a good thing for the well being of the lake and its environment.

The amended plan has two other aspects that are worrisome. First, the expansion of the parking area would lead to more day use but if shuttles were used to bring in many more guests than the parking lot accommodates, that would appear to overwhelm the park's carrying capacity to the detriment of the paying cabin guests. It might deteriorate their experience to the point that the cabin rentals might have their revenue reduced. Add to this increased use of Little Redfish Lake and the park may simply be too busy for its own long-term well being. It should not become simply another public beach access.

Second, the proposed camping sites located on the eastern side along Forest Dunes Drive seem better served in the western side of the park as in the original plan. I believe that campers on the east side will use a "short-cut" down Forest Dunes into the privately owned roads of Gulf Trace or cross the road and traverse south through the dunes along Alligator Lake to access the beach and Alligator Lake. While the beach has customary use, the roads and beach walkovers in the neighborhood do not. They are owned and maintained by the residents of the neighborhood. While it may seem that the correct way to access the beach would be west to the park dune walkover, a shortcut seems inevitable under the amended plan. It is also not unlikely that if day use guests crowd the park, they may also choose to take the shortcut to the beach, ride their bikes to the neighborhood beach walkovers, etc. While welcome to walk down the beach from the park to Alligator Lake or on to Grayton Beach, park guests trespassing through Gulf Trace would not be a good thing.

It is my conviction that the current unit plan remains in effect for the remainder of its 10-year term without amendment.

Yours very truly,

David E. Nelson, P.E.

DEN/

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** squid1922@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 12, 2017 11:02 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. This park contains several depression marshes which are important breeding grounds for amphibians, and marsh and wading birds and we are paving and developing areas like this all over our state. We need to think of future generations and put aside selfish actions just for profit. Stop this development-it is the wrong thing to do.

Thank you  
Sharon Elazar



## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Hughes, Mellody - NRCS-CD, Defuniak Springs, FL <Mellody.Hughes@fl.nacdnet.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 4:43 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** RE: Reminder - Grayton Beach State Park Advisory Group Meeting, 6/14

Daniel,

I regret to inform you that I will miss tomorrow's meeting due to insufficient staff in my office. We were assigned 2 projects that split the staff and put them in the field this week on short notice and everyone is out of the office but me. I apologize for the late notice but I did not find out I was the only person that could be here tomorrow until now.

I reviewed the management plan for Grayton Beach State Park and agree with all portions of the Conceptual Land Use Plan. As always, you have done an excellent job managing and planning for improvements to our Florida State Park resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved and I hope to be available for any future meetings.

Sincerely,

*Mellody L. Hughes*

Office Manager  
Choctawhatchee River SWCD  
239 John Baldwin Road, Suite B  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433  
(850)892-3712 ext. 3

**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel [mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 09, 2017 11:21 AM  
**Subject:** Reminder - Grayton Beach State Park Advisory Group Meeting, 6/14  
**Importance:** High

Dear Advisory Group Member/Representative –

This is just a reminder that our advisory group meeting for the proposed unit management plan amendment for Grayton Beach State Park will take place this upcoming **Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 9:00 a.m. (CT) at the South Walton Center of Northwest Florida State College, 109 Greenway Trail (located off Highway 331 South), Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459**. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am and adjourn by 12:00 pm.

For additional opportunity to learn about the proposed amendment or provide comments on the draft plan, the open-house format public meeting will be held next Tuesday evening, June 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the same location. We certainly encourage you and any members of the community to attend.

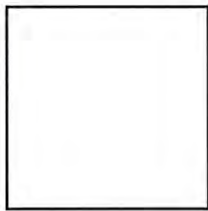
Thanks again for your review of the amendment proposal. Please let me know if you have any questions in the meantime.

A copy of the draft proposal is again attached for your convenience, with higher-resolution maps for reference. The proposal and noticing documents are also available on the DEP Public Notices & Outreach Calendar: <https://www.fldepnet.org/public-notice-access-view/12038>



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Park Planner  
Office of Park Planning  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
[daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)  
Office: 850.245.3073  
Cell: 850.339.5414



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**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Penny Parker <pennyparker0523@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:35 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton State Park

Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support.

Penny Parker  
275 Flatwoods Forest Loop  
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Jay Siem <jaycsiem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 10:12 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan Amendment, June 2017  
**Attachments:** THANK YOU FOR TH OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE HOME.docx

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE HOME OWNERS AND VOTERS IN SOUTH WALTIN.

WE UNDERSTAND A PLAN IS FORMULATING TO EXTEND AND ENLARGE A BEACHHEAD CAMPSITE..BORDERING ON 30A AND ENCROACHING ON GRAYTON BEACH.

THE FRONT PAGE OF THE JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE OF THE "NORTHWEST FLORIDA NEWS" REPORTS NEW RESTRICTIONS, BY THE COMMISSION ON BEACH WEDDINGS, LIMITING THE SIZE AND FREQUENCY OF THE EV,ENTS.

ON ONE HAN,D THE COMMISSION IS REDUCING WEDDING ACTIVITY ON THE BEACH ....WHILE ON THE OTHER , HORDES OF OUT OF STATE CAMPERS ARE BECKONED TO OUR STATE PARK,

WE HAVE TO ASK; WHAT IS GOING ON?

A LAYMAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF COMMISSION RESPONSIBILITY INDICATES THAT THE UNDERLYING ELEMENT OF THE COMMISSIONS STEWARDSHIP IS THE PROTECTION OF WALTON COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY.....BENEFITTING WALTON COUNTY TAXPAYERS AND VOTERS.

THE COMISSION IS NOT ESTABLISHED TO BE . A SALES PROMOTION DEPT. ATTRACTING, TO SECLUDED BEACHES, OUT OF TOWN CAMPERS THAT CAN'T AFFORD BEACHSIDE RENTALS.

THE INPUT STATEMENT OF THE SUGGESTED DEVELOPMENT PLAN WAS OBVIOUSLY WRITTEN BY SOME ASPIRING YOUNG LAW CLERK IN TALLAHASSEE WITH LIMITED EXPERIENCE.

IT DECLARES AND I QUOTE.."DEVELOPMENT OF CAMPING AREA IS NOT EXPECTED (HIS OR HER WORDS) TO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PARK'S NATURAL GROWTH.

CULTURAL IMPACTS ARE NOT EXPECTED (THEIR WORDS AGAIN) DUE TO MINIMAL FOOTPRINT OF DEVELOPMENT."

EVER

BUREAUCRATIC GOOBLE-DY-GOOK, IF I HEARD IT , WRITTEN BY SOMEONE THAT'S NEVER BEEN HERE OR EXPERIENCED THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE OF A CAMPGROUND.

A TWO ACRE AREA OF CRAMPED STRANGERS IN A CAMPSITE IS A RECIPE FOR DISASTER....TRAMPLED PLANTS...TREES MUTULATED FOR FIREWOOD...UNCONTROLLED FIRES....CIGARETTE AND CIGAR BUTTS....BEER CANS...BROKEN BOTTLES.....AND MOUNTING COLLECTIONS OF GARBAGE.

PREVIOUS CLEARING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SAME AREA WERE PREVENTED BECAUSE OF THE KNOWN HABITAT OF THE CHACTAWATCHEE BEACH MOUSE AND OTHER PRECIOUS PLANTS AND WILDLIFE.

WHAT HAS CHANGED...BESIDES THE COMMISSION?

GRAYTON BEACH AND AREAS OF THE BEACH AT AND SURROUNDING THE GULF TRACE DEVELOPMENT COMPRISE ONE OF THE FEW SAFE HAVENS OF SEA TURTLES SO DESIGNATED BT THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY.

EXTENSIVE FUNDS AND EFFORT HAVE BEEN EXPENDED BY GULF TRACE OWNERS INSTALLING HUNDREDS OF CONFORMING LIGHTS THAT MEET NESTING TURTLE SPECIFICATIONS.

ON-GOING EFFORTS INFORMING FIRST TIME RENTERS CONTINUES.... ENFORCING USE OF FLASHLIGHT WITH RED FILTER PTOTECTION...RESPECTING DUNE AREAS A ND PROPER BEHAVIOR NEAR NESTS.

WHO WOULD MONITOR THE PROPER BEHAVIOR OF THESE CROWDS OF OUT-OF-STATE CAMPERS.? OPENING ONE OF THE FEW TURTLE SAFE NESTING AREA TO ENVIROMENTL STRANGERS WILL BE AN OUTRAGE AND POSSIBLY GROUNDS FOR A CIVIL ACTION LAW SUIT.

PERHAPS A HIDDEN MOTIVE TO THIS UNWARRANTED INVASION IS INCREASED REVENUE ACCRUED TO SOME ENTITY. I DOUBT IF THIS GROUP OF INVADERS WILL PROVIDE MUCH OF THAT COMPARED TO THE EXPENSE OF CONSTANT REPAIR AND CLEAN UP OF THE CAMPSITE.

DOES ANYONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF GRAYTON BEACH BELIEVE THAT WALTON COUNTY WILL BENEFIT FROM DANGEROUS AUTO CONGESTION ON 30A RAUCOUS DRUNKEN PARTIES ON LITTLE RED FISH AND MISBEHAVING BEACH GOERS TRAMPLING ON TURTLE NESTS

I DON'T BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON.

YOU FOUR MUST DO SOME SOUL SEARCHING AND ASK YOURSELVES,.... IF THIS ENLAGRED CAMPSITE IS ALLOWED TO DESTROY WHAT WE HAVE COME TO

KNOW AS GRAYTON BEACH,.....WHAT OTHER SURPRISES ARE IN STORE FOR YOU  
WHEN YOU ARE NO LONGER ON THE COMMISSION,?

A CENTRAL GARBAGE DUMP ON CHAFFIN AVE IN DEFUNIAK SPRINGS.. A  
DOWNTOWN FIRING RANGE.....AND CENTRAL GARBAGE INCINERATOR .... A  
NEXT DOOR  
MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL .....OR A FIRING RANGE  
PERHAPS A STRING OF STRIP TEASE BAARS IN PONCE DE LEON.....OR A MAJOR  
DRUG RE-HAB CENTER ON LOGAN LANE IN SANTA ROSA BEACH.

THIS DESTRUCTION OF GRAYTON BEACH IS ANOTHER STEP FORWARD FOR  
THOSE THE WOULD DESTROY OR WAY OF LIFE IN WALTON COUNTY

AT EACH MOVE THEY MAKE WE ALL SHOULD ASK...."WHAT THE HELL IS GOING  
ON  
AND THEN STOP IT."

RICHARD HARRELL  
164 GULF SHORE DRIVE  
SANTA ROSA BEACH

Date: June 13, 2017

To: Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

From: The Homeowners Association of Bannerman Beach Estates  
President, David Knight: [dknight@WaltonCommunities.com](mailto:dknight@WaltonCommunities.com)  
Mobile: (678) 595-4300

Re: Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan Amendment, June 2017

The Bannerman community has great respect for the work your department does in protecting the coastal dune lakes and providing first class public access to those lakes that are spacious enough to accommodate the citizens and visitors to Walton County, however we strongly oppose the introduction of a paddle board launch and boardwalk to Little Redfish Lake, part of which adjoins our community. This unique and rare ecosystem, developed over thousands of years, is simply too small to handle the introduction of what could be many paddle boarders, paddle board festivals etc. Assuming 2 paddle boards per vehicle, the proposed 22 space parking area with two additional ADA spaces could introduce over 40 people into this tiny lake at any one time.

Many of us are avid paddle boarders. There are many larger lakes in the area that we enjoy using, particularly Western Lake, Lake Powell and Choctawhatchee Bay. These larger ecosystems are better able to handle the human element, picnic lunches, trash collection, restrooms, etc.

Little Redfish Lake contains many fresh and salt-water fish, including bream, bass, pan fish, catfish, redfish, flounder, speckled trout and mullet. An eagle nests near the western shoreline and a mature alligator also lives in the lake. Little Redfish Lake and its serenity is the jewel of our community and we have always been good stewards and guardians over it.



Your own literature aptly describes the unique landscape surrounding the lake:

*“Embedded within the scrub several small natural communities occur, including depression marshes, mesic and wet flat woods, estuarine unconsolidated substrate and estuarine tidal marsh... [the] scrub community occurring adjacent to beach dunes is significant habitat for Choctawhatchee beach mouse.*

As you know, the beach mouse is endangered. Many rare plant varieties also grow in the park. It took a long time for Little Redfish Lake to become the treasure we see today. We feel strongly that it should be left alone.

Respectfully,

Bannerman Beach Estates

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** S Brannon <sandy.brannon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 10:16 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Our family owns property at Grayton and it is distressing to think that any part of the State Park would be developed. If you allow this, the next thing you know it our parks and the natural beauty of the area will be gone.

Please don't develop, leave natural.

Sandy and Mitchell Brannon

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** David Lowery <dlow30a@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:22 AM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Susan  
**Subject:** Not in Favor of Grayton Beach State Park Proposed Unit Management Plan Amendment

We are residents of Little Redfish Lake subdivision which will be adversely impacted by the proposed Unit Management Plan Amendment. We have been a property owner in that subdivision for more than 5 years. We are against the proposed Amendment, especially the portions allowing public boat access to Little Redfish Lake and the size of the proposed new parking area.

We believe the proposed amendment is not consistent with the Park's primary purposes, and materially deviates from the existing Plan in several important ways.

The Park's stated purpose is to provide for resource based public outdoor recreational activities, especially saltwater **beach** activities and hiking. Public boating access to the lake does not further those purposes. Of 6 items listed in the Plan outlining the Park's significance, 5 of them are to "protect" things such as the three coastal dune lakes; only 1 of the 6 listed items is to provide residents and visitors with participation opportunities - clearly your primary mission is to protect the Park property.

Given the large overdevelopment along 30A, the Park is one of the few natural areas left along 30A. Your primary mission is to preserve that, and not allow it to be used by the TDC and Walton County to promote more visitors and beach access at no cost to them. I view this Park like the thousands of acres of national park land held in preservation where the goal is to allow that to remain in its current state without visitor traffic, not a Yellowstone park whose primary purpose is to promote visitor access.

The Plan states that the condition of Little Redfish Lake in 2013 when the Plan was adopted was only "fair". I believe it has declined since then. Its condition likely will only worsen if your Amendment is implemented.

With respect to the Water Area, the current Plan provides that "due to the sensitivity of these rare resources, widespread or high intensity recreational access is not recommended".... "Due to their sensitivity, size and limited accessibility, the smaller coastal dune lakes, Alligator and Little Redfish, **are not suitable** for widespread recreational use".. "**Limited access** to the shores of these lakes, **such as is provided at a modest scenic overlook or trailside bench**, would allow visitors to enjoy these natural areas with minimal impact".

Parking for 24 cars that would allow anywhere from 50-100 people at a single time from this lot with the potential for 2-4 times turnover of that amount per day, plus further additional visitors from the cabin area of the Park, is the type of high intensity access the Plan sought to limit, yet would be allowed under the proposed Amendment. There are no limits on the number of visitors per day to the parking lot. The Amendment allows for boating access to the lake, which conflicts with the Plan's provisions that there should be limited access to the shoreline. Western Lake already has boat access and is a larger lake better able to handle boat traffic.

Increased access to Little Redfish Lake will lead to increased trash and debris on the lake which will invariably adversely impact both the Park itself and the adjacent Little Redfish Lake subdivision and its property owners. Look at any public beach in the area and you see litter everywhere including cans, bottles and suntan products. All this will be dumped into this small lake when you allow boaters and paddlers onto it. Presence of more humans on and near the lake will adversely impact the natural habitat of wildlife in the area, including nesting bald eagles and the occasional alligator that is seen in the lake. This lake is just too small and fragile to allow significant human access onto the shoreline or public boat access. The beauty of Little Redfish Lake is the fact it is small, natural and pristine, and it should be kept that way. The beauty of the Lake can be observed from 30A itself without allowing more access directly onto the lake from the Park.

We are in favor of leaving the Plan as is. If change is needed, at most this amendment should allow for the walk path and a small observation area deck near the lake shore consistent with the current Plan - with no public boat, kayak or paddle

boarding access. No swimming should be allowed. Since visitors invariably like to break the rules and roam off permitted areas (as has happened with the dunes) the path and observation area should be clearly marked with signs restricting visitors to the path and deck. No hiking should be permitted on or around the shoreline. The parking area should be scaled back to 10-15 spaces to further limit use at any point in time, and there should be a total daily visitor limit on access to the parking lot

David and Susan Lowery  
DLow30a@gmail.com

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This e-mail (including any attachments) may contain information that is private, confidential, or protected by attorney-client or other privilege. If you received this e-mail in error, please delete it from your system without copying it and notify sender by reply e-mail, so that our records can be corrected.

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**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Steven Chino <chickenpuppet@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:39 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support. Please protect our park and forest lands and the fragile ecosystems within them instead of paving them for parking lots.

Sincerely,  
Steve Chino  
Seagrove/Naturewalk resident

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Penny Northcutt <penny@pennynorthcutt.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:42 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State

Park Planner, I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support

Regards,

Penny Northcutt  
417 Clareon Drive  
Seacrest, FL 32461  
678-428-6978

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Christina Stone <christinafioristone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support

~christina stone

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Love, Jason <Jason.Love@freshfromflorida.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:58 AM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Knapp, Todd; Ellis, Brad; Mathis, Mike  
**Subject:** Florida Forest Service Comments - Grayton Beach Plan Amendment  
**Attachments:** Grayton Beach State Park - FFS comments.pdf

Daniel –

I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow. I have attached the Florida Forest Service official comments to the plan amendment. We will be having someone attend the meeting to report back to us on how thing went. If you have any questions about the comments that we made please feel free to give me a call.

Jason Love  
State Lands Management Coordinator  
Florida Forest Service  
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer and Services

(850)-681-5891 - Office  
(850)-681-5809 - Fax  
[Jason.Love@freshfromflorida.com](mailto:Jason.Love@freshfromflorida.com)

The Conner Building  
3125 Conner Boulevard Room I-257  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

[www.FreshFromFlorida.com](http://www.FreshFromFlorida.com)

Please note that Florida has a broad public records law (Chapter 119, Florida Statutes). Most written communications to or from state employees are public records obtainable by the public upon request. Emails sent to me at this email address may be considered public and will only be withheld from disclosure if deemed confidential pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida.



Grayton Beach State Park - Management Plan Amendment  
Florida Forest Service Comments 6/14/2017

The proposed amendment to the Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park seems to disagree with the approved plan in the following ways:

- Management measures set forth in the plan pertaining to the coastal dune lakes are, “to improve and maintain good water quality, and restore and maintain historic hydrology.”
- The current plan contains an objective to, “improve the hydrological conditions and functions of the coastal dune lake community.”
- The Land Use Component of the management plan states, “due to the sensitivity of these rare resources, widespread or high-intensity recreational access is not recommended”. (FNAI considers coastal dune lakes to be globally rare and imperiled [G2/S1].)
  - However: Re-paving roads and establishing a new parking area do not seem conducive to restoring and maintaining hydrology of the area. Furthermore, minor changes to surrounding uplands may have significant negative impacts on the hydrology.
- An objective of the plan is to “prevent disturbance to nesting and wintering shorebirds”.
  - However: Increased beach use on the western unit may negatively impact nesting shore birds. Several of these species use this area for nesting, as well as the outflow area of Little Redfish Lake.
- The lesser used beach area on the western unit serves as nesting habitat for sea turtles.
  - However: Increased use of this area may have adverse impacts to the nesting sea turtles.
- The beach dunes serve as habitat for the Choctawhatchee beach mouse, a federally endangered species.
  - However: Human disturbance at the dunes may significantly alter the dunes and associated plant communities, thereby potentially disturbing the mice.
- The beach habitat within the park is protected under the federal Coastal Barrier Resources Act.
  - An assessment should be conducted to see if new development is permitted under this act.

The current plan contains proposed recreational projects other than what is being proposed now. Those proposed projects already within the approved plan (such as new shared-use trails, primitive campsites north of County Road 30A, a tent only camping area on a previously disturbed footprint where the proposed parking area related to this new proposal would be, and a redesign of the existing day use parking area that could increase capacity while limiting the need for additional paving) have not yet been implemented on the ground, but are slated to increase the park’s carrying capacity *without* impacting undisturbed natural areas. This newly proposed amendment, while also increasing recreational carrying capacity, would impact areas that have previously been relatively undisturbed.

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Ann <seanote100@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

It is critical that we preserve as much of our State Parks as possible not only to maintain the character of our area, but to preserve the habitat of the diverse wildlife. Development is in full swing here and the natural landscape is rapidly disappearing.

Thank you for your support.

Ann Clifford  
Seagrove Beach, Fl

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** bibby curry <bibbycurry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 1:19 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayson Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

If you vote in favor, you will be complicit in short sighted management and bring our community one step closer to all of the other over developed concrete wastelands along the north gulf coast.

Please open your eyes and recognize what truly differentiates your community from so many others, and fulfill your responsibility to protect it.

Sincerely,

Cindy and Jim Hultine

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Lynn Nesmith <lynnnesmith@mchsi.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 2:17 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach changes

Dear Park administrators:

The proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan must be amended or denied.

Please consider An alternative to the proposed recreation plan to put additional recreation in the current day use area.

Use BP funds to purchase the overpriced Little Redfish Outfall. Sounds but incorporate Additional recreation in the current day use area of the park. NO day use in the western cabin area.

We must protect the a large section of coastal scrub adjacent the cabins. This is one of the last remaining intact coastal scrub communities south of 30A.

Thank you!

Lynn Nesmith  
30A Style  
850.814.0210

From: **Bob Dickhaus** bdickhaus@dunerec.com  
Subject: Draft UMP Amendment Proposal  
Date: June 13, 2017 at 2:50 PM  
To: daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us  
Bcc: Cynthia Turner grayton@earthlink.net, David Knight dknight@waltoncommunities.com



Hi Daniel,

I am the President of the Homeowners Association of Little Redfish Lake and represent the 15 owners of our sub-division.

I plan to attend and provide these comments tonight during the public meeting to discuss the Draft UMP Amendment but wanted to provide a written copy of our comments for you and others that will be considering this matter.

We oppose the planned amendment as currently drafted for the following reasons:

1) Little Redfish Lake is the smallest and arguably the most ecologically fragile of the Dune Lakes along 30A. We believe the planned development which provides unlimited public access, launch facilities and a parking facility for 24+ cars to be an inappropriate use of parkland that has been set aside for conservation.

2) We believe the development will be harmful to the ecology of the lake and its endangered and protected species which include resting areas for bald eagles and nesting grounds for the snowy plover; and recommend at the very least an environmental study be commissioned with State biologists to fully understand the environmental risks of the proposed amendment.

3) We believe the kayak planned recreation use to not be in the public interest. The lake is very shallow and varies in depth significantly when it breaks out since the BP alteration of its outflow. The lake includes public health hazards including large alligators (6 plus feet) and barb wired fencing from earlier times which we believe is dangerous to kayakers. Given the recent tragedy at Disney World we believe at the very least the alligator activity would need to be publicly disclosed and posted, as it was at one time at the lake outflow, which would deter usage particularly with families with children. We would note there are far better kayaking options on bodies of water such as Western Lake that has both the size and protected borders to accommodate unlimited public usage.

4) We believe the public dock / launch facility which would be less than 50 yards across the lake to our neighborhood, and its' closest home, to be a security risk and fear kayakers would ground their boats on private property and wander our shorelines and result in a significant increase in trash and debris along the lakeshore.

In summary we believe the current planned usage as documented in 2013 Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park, which sets this land aside for conservation, to be in the best interest of the public and the greater Grayton Beach community; and that you not overturn or change that usage as proposed in the Draft UMP Amendment. In a related matter we also would like you to know we support the planned acquisition of the lake outflow (also known as the Kelly parcel) believing it to be a critical piece of furthering the recovery of the Little Redfish Lake from BP oil spill and its effect on the health of this unique and endangered ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to publicly comment on this planned development.

Sincerely,

Bob Dickhaus

BOB DICKHAUS

President of Little Redfish Homeowners Association

102 Sienna Ct,  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

[bobdickhaus@gmail.com](mailto:bobdickhaus@gmail.com)

(850) 737-1839

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Sue Joffe <sue\_joffe@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:25 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. I was fortunate to move to this area in 1985, when it was truly a "Fishing Village". Now it seems the county does not care one bit about the local people, just the tourists. If I were a tourist, this would be the last place I would visit. Traffic is horrendous on 30A.

Now the County wants to destroy Grayton Beach State Park with a "parking lot". Brings to mind lyrics from a song "THEY PAVED PARADISE TO PUT UP A PARKING LOT".

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support

Susan D. Joffe  
153 West Georgie Street  
Point Washington, FL

## Baxley, Demi

---

**From:** Mary Jane Parrish <mjpinmemphis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:29 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Proposes all for Redfish Lake

To Whom It May Concern,

As homeowners on Little Redfish Lane, we are strongly opposed to destroying the natural beauty of Little Redfish Lake as per your proposal. Grayton Beach was just named the fourth best beach in the world by a highly respected travel magazine. This award was granted based on the tranquil environment created by the untouched natural resources in the area. Why would we want to destroy this when we are already feeling the adverse effects of overpopulated pedestrian/bike paths and standstill traffic jams on 30-A? Your proposal would increase these existing problems and actually result in a loss of tourism. There are plenty of overcrowded beaches and lakes.....Why would we sacrifice our unique status as one of the few natural dune lakes in the world? The obvious inevitable fatalities of the wildlife in the area are unthinkable.

The frequent sighting of alligators in Little Redfish Lake should be reason enough to deny the plan. None of the residents in our neighborhood would consider swimming in the lake. It is not safe.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane and Jimmy Parrish  
95 Little Redfish Lane

Sent from my iPad



**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** gary eklund <garyweklund@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:35 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank  
you for your support

Sincerely,

Gary Eklund  
316 Hilltop Drive  
SRB,FL 32459

**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Linda Cox <lccgone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:38 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Den the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. This is one of the most beautiful, remote and pristine areas along 30A. Please do not let this happen we need to keep some of our beaches with natural settings for our wildlife. Please consider other options and do not take this away from our children's future.

Thank you for your support.

Linda Cox  
Property Owner on 30A

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Heidi King <heidi@heiditking.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:43 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner, I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support.  
Heidi King

heidi tyline king  
BIO | Authors Guild  
p 850.668.5525  
[heidi@heiditking.com](mailto:heidi@heiditking.com) | [www.heiditking.com](http://www.heiditking.com)  
\*\*check out my new website\*\*

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Bob Dickhaus <bdickhaus@dunerec.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:50 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Draft UMP Amendment Proposal

Hi Daniel,

I am the President of the Homeowners Association of Little Redfish Lake and represent the 15 owners of our sub-division.

I plan to attend and provide these comments tonight during the public meeting to discuss the Draft UMP Amendment but wanted to provide a written copy of our comments for you and others that will be considering this matter.

We oppose the planned amendment as currently drafted for the following reasons:

- 1) Little Redfish Lake is the smallest and arguably the most ecologically fragile of the Dune Lakes along 30A. We believe the planned development which provides unlimited public access, launch facilities and a parking facility for 24+ cars to be an inappropriate use of parkland that has been set aside for conservation.
- 2) We believe the development will be harmful to the ecology of the lake and its endangered and protected species which include resting areas for bald eagles and nesting grounds for the snowy plover; and recommend at the very least an environmental study be commissioned with State biologists to fully understand the environmental risks of the proposed amendment.
- 3) We believe the kayak planned recreation use to not be in the public interest. The lake is very shallow and varies in depth significantly when it breaks out since the BP alteration of its outflow. The lake includes public health hazards including large alligators (6 plus feet) and barb wired fencing from earlier times which we believe is dangerous to kayakers. Given the recent tragedy at Disney World we believe at the very least the alligator activity would need to be publicly disclosed and posted, as it was at one time at the lake outflow, which would deter usage particularly with families with children. We would note there are far better kayaking options on bodies of water such as Western Lake that has both the size and protected borders to accommodate unlimited public usage.
- 4) We believe the public dock / launch facility which would be less than 50 yards across the lake to our neighborhood, and its' closest home, to be a security risk and fear kayakers would ground their boats on private property and wander our shorelines and result in a significant increase in trash and debris along the lakeshore.

In summary we believe the current planned usage as documented in 2013 Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park, which sets this land aside for conservation, to be in the best interest of the public and the greater Grayton Beach community; and that you not overturn or change that usage as proposed in the Draft UMP Amendment. In a related matter we also would like you to know we support the planned acquisition of the lake outflow (also known as the Kelly parcel) believing it to be a critical piece of furthering the recovery of the Little Redfish Lake from BP oil spill and its effect on the health on this unique and endangered ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to publicly comment on this planned development.

Sincerely,

Bob Dickhaus

President of Little Redfish Homeowners Association

102 Sienna Ct,  
Santa Rosa Bech, FL 32459

[bobdickhaus@gmail.com](mailto:bobdickhaus@gmail.com)  
(850) 737-1839

## **Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** msbandit12 <msbandit12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 4:01 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Proposed amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park plan. Please keep the approved 2013 park plan.

Don't "pave paradise and put up a parking lot!"

Thank you,  
Judy Lenoir  
Master Naturalist  
[msbandit12@gmail.com](mailto:msbandit12@gmail.com)

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** soappedaler <soappedaler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 4:41 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Proposed Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan Amendment 2017-  
comments  
**Attachments:** I am Celeste Cobena.pdf

## Comments on Grayton Beach State Park Proposed Unit Management Plan Amendment, June 2017

I am Celeste Cobena, resident of Walton County since 1991, and have served on numerous advisory groups for State Parks in Walton County and Point State Forest.

### **I object to and recommend denial of the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach Unit Management Plan(GBUMP) June 2017.**

Issues and concerns with the Amendment: There are a number of problems with an unsecure entrance, the iron ranger will allow no limit to the number of users to the area. Landscaping and curbs will not stop people from parking over them, or in the road, it happens all the time in beach neighborhoods. Beach users will drop off a carload of people and beach equipment then go park on 30A or the driver goes somewhere else until called to retrieve the beachgoers, I see it all the time at the Stallworth walkover. Another recent phenomenon is a shuttle service that operates along 30A that brings tourist from nonbeachfront communities to neighborhood beach accesses, this leaves unlimited numbers of users at location. The unofficial expansion of the parking and beach use will ultimately lead to an official expansion of the parking further reducing and negatively impacting this coastal scrub area.

Additionally, the remote location and unmanned entrance will be a magnet for illicit activity including the dumping of unwanted pets. Grayton Beach State Park already has a feral cat problem; this will expand it to the western unit that has not previously had this problem.

An iron ranger will leave cabin visitors vulnerable to all sorts of intrusions from “can I use your bathroom” to physical assault and theft. Yes, this happens along 30A. The secluded location makes for easy targets. Currently the cabin visitors enjoy a peaceful nature experience secure behind a gate, much like the gated communities along 30A. Both Florida residents and visitors come to the Grayton Beach State Park Cabins for the quiet nature experience, in what they believe is a secure area. Opening up the western unit to uncontrolled day use will change that experience and open the cabin visitors up to burglary, vandalism and other crimes that are on the rise in South Walton since the population of residents and visitors has expanded.

#### **Quotes from 2013 GBUMP:**

*“The Park protects a representative sample of Florida’s native gulf coast beach dune and Scrub communities”*

A parking lot should not be located in the middle of one of the largest scrub communities south of Highway 30A causing direct impacts as well as fragmentation. Restoration should occur in this area of the park. Our State Parks are the only places where any natural communities will survive in South Walton. Every inch of private land will be developed.

*“The Park protects portions of three coastal Dune Lakes that support diversity of rare and endemic plant and wildlife species”*



*"In the management of a state recreation area, major emphasis is placed on maximizing the recreational potential of the unit. However, preservation of the park's natural and cultural resources remains important. Depletion of a resource by any recreational activity is not permitted. In order to realize the park's recreational potential, the development of appropriate park facilities is undertaken with the goal to provide facilities that are accessible, convenient and safe, to support public recreation use or appreciation of the park's natural, aesthetic and educational attributes"*

Little Redfish Lake is the smallest of the globally imperiled Coastal Dune lakes. Once boaters have launched from the proposed dock there's not a whole lot of places to paddle. Small circles aren't much fun. Only options will be landing on private property on the west side of the lake or trample the outfall area and shore. People want a destination. Looking at the map provided it appears that the trek to the dock be will just about as long as any paddling experience.

Along the shore of the lake at the proposed dock site lives the listed plant spoonleaf sundew. To my knowledge this has not been noted in Grayton Beach State Park. Makes you wonder what else has been missed! In fact, I understand that there has been an observance of eagles feeding in Little Redfish Lake and perching in trees in the Western Unit. I believe this has gone unnoticed by the Division of Recreation and Parks.

Will boaters be allowed to bring in their own watercraft? If so, Little Redfish Lake would be vulnerable to any number of invasive species. If like at Topsail Preserve watercraft are provided the boating facility will take up an inordinate amount of the shoreline of this small lake.

I do not see how the long handicap accessible boardwalk with no restroom facilities on the lake is truly accessible or convenient, or how the alligator inhabited lake is safe for small boats. Western Lake and Campbell Lake are larger allowing alligators to move into remote areas of the lakes away from human activity.

I am not opposed to more beach access in South Walton. In fact, for over a year and a half I have advocated for more public beach access in Walton County. I have attended and spoke at a number of Walton County meetings or public hearings on this issue and served on the Walton County Customary Use Committee. However, Our State Parks are the only places where any natural communities will survive in South Walton.

This proposal is recreational sprawl. Focusing human activity and development in specific areas of the park is the way to achieve both of the goals and mission of the Division of Recreation and Parks. Conservation Goals can be met by leaving large tracts open to only non-motorized access so that people seeking an ecotourism adventure will have the opportunity to experience nature in all its glory. Focusing beach and boating recreation in the Eastern Unit allows for a safe nature based experience with added conveniences and accessibility that many people have come to expect.

**Summary of problems with the Proposed amendment:**

- a parking lot should not be located in the middle of one of the largest scrub communities south of Highway 30A.
- A parking lot with uncontrolled access will soon be over capacity with spillover parking into habitat and roadways
- will become a dumping ground for unwanted animals
- The "honor" system will allow for access for any number of illicit activities.
- The safe and quiet environment enjoyed by cabin guest will disappear.
- The remoteness of the cabin area will allow for ransacking of the cabins with no one noticing.
- Little Redfish Lake too small for proposed uses.
- The boat launch on Little Redfish Lake is not suited to the environment.
- Ridiculously long boardwalk, particularly for a handicap accessible dock.
- Environmental impact studies inadequate or incomplete.

**To improve and expand Recreation at Grayton Beach State Park the recommendations in 2013 GBUMP should be implemented. Among those are as follows:**

- new shared use trail with parking on the north side of 30A. Hiking and biking by both residents and visitors is exploding, this is evident in the number of bicycle shops that have opened in the last year or two along 30A and feeder roads. This recreational use is very popular year around particularly non-summer months and red flag days on the beach
- primitive campsites with trails on north side of 30A. Some people want the quieter natural experience that Grayton Beach can uniquely offer on the north side of 30A.
- universal access dock or convenience dock and near existing boat ramp in Western Lake. Western Lake provides more shoreline to implement some of the solutions for universal access such as soft launch with outdoor carpet or floating dock with rail and launch chute. Vehicles could be driven right up to the launch facilities. Check FLDEP Canoe/kayak launch site and Accessibility Document by Doug Alderson, Paddling Trails Coordinator. Division of Recreation and Parks Office of Greenways and trails.
- improve existing beach parking lot. The antiquated design and wasted space with medians could likely provide 20 or so extra parking spaces at the Eastern Unit Beach access.

It appears that some sort of deal has been brokered with Walton County Tourist Development Council (TDC) to purchase a 7-acre parcel at the outfall of Little Redfish Lake using Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) funds. The Walton County TDC has offered to fund the Proposed unit Management Plan Amendment because NRDA requires a recreational component but does not supply funding for it. Phil Coram with DEP Division of Water Restoration Assistance said in a phone conversation that the only recreation component presented to The Florida Trustee Implementation Group was the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach Unit Management Plan located in the Western Unit of the Park. The Florida

Trustee Implementation Group has *not* been presented an alternative recreation plan located in the Eastern Unit.

**I recommend denial of the proposed management plan amendment.**

**I Further recommend that The Florida Division of Recreation and Parks present to the Florida Trustees Implementation Group the recreation components in the Eastern Unit of Grayton Beach State Park in the current approved 2013 plan to fulfill the NRDA Grant to acquire the Little Redfish Outfall parcel.**

Celeste Cobena  
412 Hilltop Dr.  
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

850-267-2227

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Jacque Fudge <fudge.fjacque@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 4:56 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** DENY the proposed plan for GRAYTON BEACH STATE PARK

To whom it may concern:

I am completely opposed to amending the Grayton Beach State Park management plan. As a resident and taxpayer of south Walton County, I am keenly aware of the unique nature of our coastal lakes and adjacent forest. My professional background includes work with coastal restoration and to modify the plan to provide beach access and parking would be allowing denigration of this fragile habitat. I also appreciate the desire to share this extraordinary place with the public, but maintaining our natural spaces is paramount. Please implement the 2013 plan as written and deny any changes to this plan.

Sincerely,  
Jacquelyn F. Fudge  
89 Baird Road  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Wraithmell, Julie <jwraithmell@audubon.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 5:25 PM  
**To:** Clark, Gary  
**Cc:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Emailing - Audubon to DEP re Little Redfish 13Jun2017.pdf  
**Attachments:** Audubon to DEP re Little Redfish 13Jun2017.pdf

Hi, Gary.

Please find attached a comment letter for park planning's UMP process with Audubon's concerns regarding the proposed recreation infrastructure at Grayton Beach State Park's western unit.

Thanks for your call this evening!

Julie

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Patsy Vargo <goodmd4u2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 5:46 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Greyton state park

Dear State park officials,

I hate to see more development of our state parks! The area surrounding these coastal parks are being hit hard with development I hope you let private land owners do the development and leave the state parks intact!

Thank you

Patsy Joyner

South Walton resident

Sent from my iPhone

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Valerie Lofton <crow2headstand@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 6:51 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the proposed amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support

Valerie Lofton

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Every day at the beach is a good day!

Valerie

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Mary Oneill <maryoneill231@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 8:11 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

I abject to the amendment of developing Grayton Beach State Park. Into a boat launch and parking spaces.

Sent from my iPhone



## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Bill Crane <crane.srb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 9:07 PM  
**To:** Bill Williams; Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Park plan

Hi Billy this is Bill Crane how are you? I'd like to put down some ideas that I think Daniel might use in the presentation that would be helpful in answering some of the questions and concerns that I have heard from people. First let them realize that any expansion in this parking in the future will take a revision to the park plan not a simple just go ahead and do it. Some people are worried that people will be parking on 30 A and walking down this new beach access let them know that walking through the park is not a possibility. Let them know that the new acquisition area will not be off-limits to people using the area close to the shoreline for sitting on the beach. Let them know that there will be significant areas of asphalt removed and returned into vegetation. Let them know that there will be people responsible for cleanup and enforcement of parking. Let people know that neither the county or the TDC will not have leverage in future expansion in the park. And importantly let everyone know that the acquisition will save forever the outfall area of little redfish Lake as part of the park and thus preserving the water quality of LRF.

Sent from my iPhone forget the spelling&consider auto correction

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Mike Seal <sealmike@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 12:43 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** PLEASE: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan  
**Importance:** High

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I am a resident of Walton County, Florida. Grayton Beach State Park is true treasure of Walton County and Florida. It is becoming one of the last unspoiled beach front tracts along the Emerald Coast.

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support.

**Mike Seal**  
**Email: [sealmike@gmail.com](mailto:sealmike@gmail.com)**  
**850 361 8711**

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Hilary Nikodem <hilarynikodem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** DENY the proposed amedment to Grayton State Park management plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. I am a home owner in Gulf Trace. Do not allow this to happen.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2017 park plan. Thank you for your support.  
Hilary Nikodem

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Stephen Nikodem <docnikodem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 8:32 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** DENY the Amendment to GRAYTON

**Importance:** High

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. I am a home owner in Gulf Trace. Do not allow this to happen.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2017 park plan. Thank you for your support.

Steve Nikodem

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Jay Siem <jayciem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 9:10 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Emailing - Grayton Beach Comments\_20170613\_0002.pdf  
**Attachments:** Grayton Beach Comments\_20170613\_0002.pdf

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

COMMENT FORM

Grayton Beach State Park

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My wife and I attended the public meeting on June 13. We left angry and disappointed at the way the meeting was constructed. No opportunity for open public comment was permitted, only written comments or one-on-one conversations with State officials in the back of the room. In a true Democracy open debate is essential and this was missing at your meeting as the audience clearly articulated to you. You said that the meeting of June 14 from 9am to noon would accept open public comments, but **we are at work then**. It seemed that the format was designed to quell comment, regrettably.

We have homes in both Gulf Trace and Bannerman Beach. The proposed alterations to the cabin entrance clearly have a negative impact on the Gulf Trace Community, it's ecosystem and with camping, it's security. The impact on tiny Little Redfish Lake could be an immeasurable loss to the Bannerman community and it's fragile ecosystem. We have spent years guarding the sanctity of the lake and it's ecosystem. It is the jewel of the community and should not be touched.

We are truly surprised that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection would be the sponsor for such an invasive plan into a small ancient ecosystem that took thousands of years to create. By your our slide show at the meeting, there are seven endangered animals in the Western Unit of the park as well as many rare, some carnivorous plant species, notwithstanding the ancient high dunes found almost nowhere else in the world. Salt and freshwater fish along with eagles and at least one mature alligator make their home in Little Redfish Lake.

We are avid paddle boarders too, but would never disturb the peace and serenity of this tiny lake when many other opportunities exist nearby. Paddle boarders exist as a community and enjoy gathering many others together on every outing, along with picnic lunches, music etc. We enjoy this as well, but on the much larger bodies of water that surround us that can accommodate the human element. Go online and search for paddle board festivals to see what we mean.

New 24 space parking areas, restrooms, camping facilities and bathhouses are not compatible with conservation and preservation in this tiny space and tiny lake. We urge you to reconsider and abandon any plans you have to introduce anything new into this rare ecosystem. Before going any further you might view the recent PBS documentary "Florida's Coastal Dune Lakes," to see how special and rare they are in the world. Paddle boarders really?

Respectfully,

Jay and Alane Siem  
163 Gulf Shore Drive  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

and

55 Whispering Wind Way  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
215-266-7384  
[alanesiem@gmail.com](mailto:alanesiem@gmail.com)

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Liz <greg@hangmaninc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 10:08 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Vote to deny proposed amendment

Hello,  
I am a homeowner on 30A for almost 30 years. I rent this home to tourists who come to enjoy the area. I am writing to let you know that I am against putting any additional recreational apparatus in the Grayton park area on the western side and support putting any additional recreation in the Eastern unit of the park instead where it will be useful and we can still save and preserve the precious Lakes and animals of this special area. Human encroachment will destroy the very environment that you are wanting to build on to enjoy. It soon won't exist if you do so. So please, be responsible. There are ways to preserve the natural environment and bring humans close enough to it without destroying it. We only have one chance to save it before it is gone. Please vote against developing the western side of the lake at Grayton Beach . It will not be able to sustain it.  
Thank you for  
Your consideration. Save our beautiful lakes.  
Liz Good  
Greg@hangmaninc.com  
(678)360-4549  
Santa Rosa Beach, Fl

Sent from my iPhone

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Andrea Normand <andracnormand@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 11:30 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support,

Andrea C Normand



**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Elise Ackerman <elise.ackerman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 11:58 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Proposed Amendment to Current Plan - Western Unit of Grayton Beach

Dear Planning Officials,

I am very concerned about the proposed amendment to the current plan that is being urged by the Walton County Tourist Development Council to develop the 100-acre natural area on the eastern side of Little Redfish Lake. My family has owned property in Grayton Beach for more than half a century, and I was recently married there. The proposed amendment is extremely shortsighted. The future prosperity of Walton County depends on the preservation of its natural beauty. We should not allow the development of our conservation lands due to the lack of planning by Walton County.

Best regards,

Elise Ackerman

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** LaRonda Kallmeyer <larondasellsseagrove@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 12:19 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to GRAYTON Beach State Park management plan. Our rare coastal environment is under attack and we have little natural area's left here. This is only a money agenda for the tourist, and the tourist come because of our natural coastal Dune lakes and beauty. I urge you to please not allow this and to implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the 2013 park plan.

There is plenty of parking elsewhere, and what little natural area left here needs to be protected.

Thank you,  
LaRonda Kallmeyer  
Local resident and tax payor

Warmest Regards,  
LaRonda Kallmeyer  
30A Realty, Inc  
LaRondaSellsSeagrove@gmail.com  
Serving Scenic 30A, Miramar Beach, and West Panama City Beach

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Laurie Reichenbach <lauriereichenbach@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 12:43 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Cc:** Rachael Reichenbach  
**Subject:** Grayton State Park

To Whom it May Concern,

The following is my personal public comment regarding plans for Grayton State Park as proposed at the open house held Tuesday evening, June 13th at NW FL State College South Walton campus.

Thank you for a well planned, efficient program presented and hosted by a variety of professionals. The displays used to outline the proposed changes were also very helpful. Your program and format was very well done.

I support your plan for improved roads to and around the cabins and the addition of tent camping space and the requisite bath house.

I support your improved paths/deck access to the beach.

I support increased parking as presented for access to all noted above.

I STRONGLY OBJECT to the addition of access to Little Redfish Lake for the purpose of paddle craft in the lake with access to the gulf.

Mr Michael Velotas makes a very good case, which I agree with, for the preservation of that environment for the nesting eagles at that lake. He has fully documented their perch trees and longevity with which they have occupied this area and lake for their feeding and, I assume, nesting habitat. He provided two detailed documents from the US Fish and Wildlife Service that would support the removal of the path to the boat ramp and the proposed deck from the Grayton State Park plan.

I would suggest that the lake is better served for the eagles and humanity if a low profile, natural path for hiking be the only access to that lake. In addition, you are aware of the excellent boat ramp on the Eastern section of Grayton State Park that allows full access to the Gulf if one chooses to utilize it. Not to mention, that any SUP or kayak enthusiast can easily walk their boats/boards down the eastern section boardwalk to the Gulf or the newly proposed updated path from the tent/cabin section in the western sector. Individuals who are truly interested in nature will support and understand the removal of this portion of the plan. The typical family who comes to this area and spends time along our coastline, is not interested in walking more than a few blocks to reach the water. They rent toys/boards/kayaks with little interest in the beauty beyond the immediate gratification of the Gulf at their doorstep. Most will not have any interest in going off the beaten path to kayak on a small coastal dune lake. And if they do, there is entry from the Gulf through the outflow. Do not make it easy for humanity to disrupt our eagles.

**I respectfully request that the observation deck, path to that deck, and the boat/paddle board ramp be removed from the plan.**

Thank you for taking time to consider my personal comments on your plan for Grayton State Park.

Respectfully,  
Laurie Reichenbach, full time resident of Santa Rosa Beach at  
128 Eastern Lake Court  
SRB, FL 32459  
214-505-6273

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Barbara Valentino <barbval@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 1:14 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** FW: Grayton Beach State Park Expansion Project

**From:** Barbara Valentino [mailto:barbval@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** 'moe.stouse@gmail.com' ; 'rwlamar@bellsouth.net' ; 'flstateparkplanning@dp.state.fl.us'  
**Cc:** 'tony anderson' ; 'Bill Chapman' ; 'Cecelia Jones' ; 'melanie nippernip' ; 'Sara Commander'  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Expansion Project

Carl & Barbara Valentino

RE: Grayton Beach State Park Expansion Project

We are owners of a home in the Gulf Trace Subdivision which is surrounded on the North, West and East by State Owned Property, known as "Grayton State Park". We have shared this beautiful and rare delicate eco- sensitive setting with the State for many years and thought that the State shared our hopes and dreams to preserve this jewel for future generations. We purchased our property before the State acquired this property and were very happy when the State declared such 800 acres for the purpose of being a "Wildlife Preserve". Several years ago Gulf Trace spent much time and money to become a world recognized turtle friendly community. We now understand the State of Florida, flush with money from the BP disaster, is planning to expand the State Park and put commercial businesses on the very fragile Little Redfish Lake. In the past few years we have been to several County meetings that were specific to preserving these rare Coastal Lakes and think this is very counter-productive to that end.

We are very much opposed to this project and hope the State of Florida will focus their attention and money to protecting the many rare species and wildlife that are supported by this beautiful precious land which is their natural habitat. This preserve is already inhabited by deer, fox and many other species of wildlife.

Is the State really wanting to contribute to the congestion on 30A and will the State really generate that much income to justify the expense? I'm sure, if you give this more thought, the State can find a more appropriate use of their money.

We sincerely hope the State of Florida re-thinks this project in favor of preserving our precious natural resources. You need to do the right thing. Starting a commercial business on Little Redfish Lake sets a dangerous precedence and undermines the need to "PROTECT" our precious Natural Resources for future generations. Please think about putting the considerations mentioned above before monetary gain .... DO THE RIGHT THING!

Sincerely,

Carl & Barbara Valentino  
71 Gulf Shore Drive  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
[carlvalentino@comcast.net](mailto:carlvalentino@comcast.net) / 832-723-7545  
[barbval@comcast.net](mailto:barbval@comcast.net) / 832-723-7544

Barbara Valentino  
Owner/Manager  
[www.barbbeach.com](http://www.barbbeach.com)  
[barbval@comcast.net](mailto:barbval@comcast.net)  
281-559-2995 (Residence)  
832-723-7544 (Cell)

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Saait@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 1:49 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Comments on June 13 Public Meeting/Gratyon Beach State Park

My husband and I moved here twenty years ago for the old Florida I experienced at Anna Maria Island as a child over fifty years ago. We found it in this fairly undiscovered Panhandle region loaded with state parks and public land. We thought surely in an age when people understand sustainable development and environmental ethics they would not turn this place into another Panama City exploited so long ago. But in ignoring the land development codes and comprehensive plans and not enforcing many restrictions or covenants they are again creating another touristy overdeveloped Panama City or Destin . And it seems to me because of their poor planning they are desperate for beach access and parking. The state parks, public lands and Florida Trails are our only hope to keep us on the right track. I think the anger and frustration was evident in a public meeting where people were not allowed to speak.

For to many, nature is far more than recreation. It is a refuge, a resting place where we come to be refreshed and replenished. Where the beauty and sanctuary of God's creation quiets us enough to hear His still small voice. Where unhooked from today's technical devices we become present and aware of the many wonders and mysteries of dunes and twisted oaks around us, we notice small things like the striking whiteness of a tiny stinging nettle flower and a yellow cactus bloom. We can hear an eagle's shrill cry and watch it land on the top of a weathered tree branch. We can see wildflowers blooming and know monarch butterflies will be fed along with birds and bees. Nature inspires the creativity we need to enrich and expand our lives and restores the childlike wonder we often misplace in the rush and clamor of day to day. For God's creation is a gift to mankind and one we are entrusted to care for.

One that the wonderful park rangers and staff I know take to heart. Who believe in the importance of restoring and conserving the land to before European habitation as the park's motto used to be along with proudly proclaiming this is the "real" Florida. I spoke with a ranger at the meeting who spoke about the park looking for balance. The park does not need to be balanced as it balances the commercialized landscape surrounding it.

Not only are the parks entrusted with this responsibility for the citizens of Florida but with its rare dune lakes it preserves a world treasure. Building roads adding hordes of people intruding in the natural habitat always scares creatures away and that includes imperiled species. We trust you to do the right thing and truly protect the unique habitats of this fragile area.  
Best from Anne and Bill Schultz

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Bob Murphy <terrascan.inc@mchsi.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 4:15 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach Amendment

Daniel:

It was a pleasure meeting with you and your team over the last few days. The experience has served to increase my appreciation for the work you all put in to the planning and implementation of our State Parks.

I will be submitting some written comments and be encouraging our members to do the same within the next two weeks.

As promised here are our contacts for the Grayton Beach Neighborhood Association:

Mailings:

GBNA

P.O. Box 2162

Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

Bob Murphy

42 Lydia Avenue

Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

[murphrg@gmail.com](mailto:murphrg@gmail.com)

850-231-1238

Should there be a need for our input again, or any changes in the draft amendment, please let me know.

Thanks for your efforts,

Bob Murphy

Treasurer, Grayton Beach Neighborhood Association

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Amy Davis <amydothan@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 4:26 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton BEach State Park

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

I have been visiting Grayton beach for over a decade and the only reason I keep coming back is the beautiful sand dunes, the open spaces and nature. If I wanted to be around pavement and destroyed beach front I would visit Panama City Beach.

We have enough over developed land in South Walton and obviously Bay County. Please leave areas for the wildlife or we will be just another ugly, over developed vacation beach spot. We have plenty of those around the US. Let South Walton be unique! I am a property owner and tax payer in south Walton so I will pack up and leave if it becomes like PC Beach. It is why I chose to buy property in this area, because it was different. I spend an enormous amount of time riding bikes and walking the park trails north of 30a. With development comes excess trash (littering) and disrespect for nature. Since Prominence & Watersound have overdeveloped this past year I have seen a huge rise in trash on the bike trail, cars speeding and no deer sightings which were out almost every evening before the Triplexes got built. It is already lost some of it's beauty. Let's not ruin what's left.



## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Charles Fisher <sonelvis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 5:21 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

This is to comment on information shared June 13, 2017 in a Public Meeting.

- I note that the proposal to acquire 7 acres at the outfall of Little Redfish Lake is not in the draft document shared for proposed changes to the plan.  
- I note the link given to find the "entire management plan amendment document" only leads to a general page, and I had to search around to figure out where the final document sits, which will be confusing to the public in general. You should make a greater effort to insure the proposal reviewed in the meeting is consistent with the draft document, and that the document under review, along with the base Unit Management Plan are easily accessible via a direct link. Anything less than this causes speculation and mistrust about what else is not included or being hidden.

- 1) I am concerned with the plan to encourage public use of the Western Unit via this plan. The loading on the resources there would be acceptable with cabin renters and tent campers, and would provide a much more pleasurable experience for those guests, who are paying a premium for this access. I would not open this to the public. Local County and TDC people are all about shoveling more people into the area, and seem at times to have no appreciation for the quality of the experience, which is the only reason people keep coming back. We deeply need some low use areas both for the quality of Recreation usage, and for preservation of the resource.
- 2) Little Redfish is too small and shallow to provide a reliable kayaking experience, and the rationale that it is more "novice friendly" than Western Lake is flawed. There is very little use of Western Lake now, and it is sufficient to handle the demand for kayaking, and there are parts which should be intimidating to no one who is safe in a boat.
- 3) Novice kayakers will likely not haul their kayaks 300-600 feet down the boardwalk to the proposed lake access. Little Redfish is mostly undisturbed now, with only a few residents on the others side using it for anything. I don't believe the added benefit to a very few novice kayakers justify building access or taking the risk of the trash left behind by those novices and day users.
- 4) A boardwalk will detract from the natural feel of the walk down to Little Redfish Lake, while not providing much in the way of ADA access, and if you keep the Western Unit reserved to overnight residents, the traffic should not be an erosion issue. if there is an erosion issue, I would prefer that you provide bark or chip coverage for the trail instead of building a structure.
- 5) Moving the tent camping facility to the East where you have placed it is better than having it over next to Little Redfish Lake. This tent facility will increase usage to the point where my concern about opening this unit to the public is more important. The cabins and tent sites are plenty of people served, and Day Use is inappropriate.

Regards, Charles Fisher

285 Morrison Avenue, Santa Rosa Beach, FL, full time resident

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** William Crane <crane.srb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 5:26 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Little Redfish Lake Proposal

After attending the open house meeting about Grayton Beach State Park and it's potential impact on Little Redfish lake I would like to find a compromise. I live on Little Redfish and would hate for the fragile eco system to be disturbed too greatly.

I am totally in favor of the acquisition of the Kelley property, and understand there is a trade of some kind to make it all happen.

Wouldn't it be a good compromise for the park to simply put up an observation platform. Then visitors and school children etc can see wild life close up with minimal disturbance.

I'm pretty sure homeowners and conservationists would be able to live with that.

Lois Crane

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Libby Fisher <libby.fisher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 5:35 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

I attended the June 13th public meeting regarding the expanded UMP for the above park. Following are my thoughts and comments:

- I support state acquisition of the 7 acres near the outfall of Little Redfish Lake.
- I support the rehabilitation of the current path/road areas to return as much as possible to natural habitat.
- I support the tent camping sites on the eastern side of the Western Unit, vs the area next to Little Redfish Lake as found in the current UMP
- ***I strongly object to day use additions to the Western Unit of the park.***

We are annual family pass holders, and normally go to GBSP to the beach and to kayak in Western Lake. The damage that the ever larger crowds do to the beach, dunes and lake are unmistakable. Just last week, during a sunset visit to the park, we saw at least three large craters or sand castles that had been left for the night during sea turtle nesting season. We saw numerous cigarette butts, peanut shells and fruit rinds in the sand. We saw family portraits being taken near the toe of the dunes, with children encroaching on to the dunes.

Extending this damage and disrespect to the other end of the park via a day use beach access point is absurd.

One of the arguments given for a kayak launch onto Little Redfish Lake is that it allows novice/beginner paddlers a less intimidating environment. The current boat launch on Western Lake is on a calm and sheltered

portion of the lake, and quickly turns left into the channel area that is very calm and beginner kayak friendly. There is no need for additional kayak access to another coastal lake when the current one meets the need described. I never see more than 4 or 5 kayaks, SUPs or canoes in the area of the existing boat launch, so clearly it is not over capacity.

There is a point at which our beaches can hold no more people. We are reaching that point. The Walton Co. TDC has acquired at least 4 beach front parcels in the last year to provide additional public beach access points and parking along 30A. That is enough. Don't start messing up the relative pristine examples of nature we still enjoy along the coast.

Our roads, bike path and restaurants are getting more and more crowded which detracts from the visitor experience. If we try to bring yet more people here, those crowds are only going to be more frustrated. Before long, they are choosing other spots for a more relaxed family vacation. When are we going to recognize enough is enough?

In short, the outfall purchase, relocation of tent campsites and restoration of paths and roadways will enhance the cabin and camping visitors' experience.

However, there is NO need to put day use access in this part of the park, and NO need to add hundreds of people a year onto one of the few coastal dune lakes with very little development.

I would prefer to see this money spent on the areas of the park north of 30A where there is one pit toilet and very little interpretive infrastructure currently. Let's enhance THAT side of the park and draw more visitors there. Quit overloading an already fragile and strained part of our environment.

Sincerely,

Libby Fisher - full time resident

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Libby Fisher  
285 Morrison Avenue  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
513-295-8050

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Chalon Moore <cmoore30a@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 5:37 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Save Grayton Beach

As a full time resident of South Walton, I am sending this email to express my support to maintain and keep Grayton Beach State Park's western unit as is, in opposition to the TDC's proposed development of the 100-acre parcel on the eastern side of Little Redfish Lake.

The proposed amendment to the current plan would put a 24-car parking lot in the middle of the coastal scrub and a boat launch on Little Redfish Lake.

Why is this such a bad idea? Our State Parks are the only places where any natural landscapes will survive in South Walton. Every inch of private land will be developed. We should not allow development of our conservation lands due to lack of planning by Walton County.

Walton County is under pressure to pave over as much of the coastline as possible to allow for more and more beach parking. I have been an advocate for more public beach access, however it should not happen at the expense of our rare and fragile ecosystems that will only survive in our conservation lands.

The Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park :

- One of the largest contiguous coastal scrub community in South Walton.
- contains several depression marshes which are important breeding grounds for amphibians, and marsh and wading birds.
- the shore of the smallest of the globally imperiled Coastal Dune Lake, Little Redfish Lake cannot support a dock and kayak use.
- bald eagles are nesting in this 100 acre woods.

Grayton Beach State Park already has a large recreation area in the eastern section with a ranger station for monitoring entrance into the park. In 2013 the Grayton Beach State Park Management plan was approved. This current plan has improvements to the park that will provide enhanced recreation opportunities but not have negative impacts to the ecosystems. Some of these are:

- New shared use trail with parking on the north side of 30A • primitive campsites north of 30A-Floating dock near existing boat ramp in Western Lake.
- Improve existing Beach parking lot.

The public must demand that the Florida Division of Recreation and Parks manage our state parks to ensure the survival of plant and animals species and the conservation of finite and renewable resources.

Chalon Moore  
309 Cassine Garden Circle  
Santa Rosa Beach, Fl. 32459

Sent from my iPad

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Allen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 6:09 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Faure, Benjamin; Poplin, Warren  
**Subject:** FW: Public Meeting

**From:** Tami Mims [mailto:tmims440@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 13, 2017 11:52 AM  
**To:** Allen, Matthew <Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Public Meeting

Mr.Allen

Please do not tamper with redfish lake. think of our ecosystems how fragile. let what's left alone.

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Craig Matison <builderbiz@embarqmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 14, 2017 8:58 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

. I object, first, on the grounds that this is a very rare ecosystem throughout the world, that should be protected on that merit alone.

Secondly, I would stress the fact that people visit this area for it's unique blend of accommodations and natural wonders. Any traveller could choose Panama City, Destin, Fort Walton or many other tourist destinations in our area, if all that they wanted was a room, some attractions and a beach.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support,

Craig Matison



**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Forest Michael <michaelplanning@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 5:52 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** SAVE GRAYTON BEACH STATE PARK!

**PUBLIC COMMENT** FOR YOUR MEETING: Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (CT). Presentation at 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Northwest Florida State College, South Walton Center, Room 120,109 Greenway Trail (Off Highway 331 South), Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459.

TO: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**SUBJECT: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan**

**Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,** FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Please protect the indigenous habitat present on those natural lands even if that denies your proposed paved parking areas that will impact that indigenous habitat.

Thank you for your support of Florida's important ecosystems,

Forest Michael, Landscape Architect and Parks Master Planner

Forest Michael 407 340-5051  
Michael Planning of Florida  
Est. 1983, FLLA#0000751

**From:** Jan Rieveschl <jrieve5374@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 7:24 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park West Impressions of June 13, 2017 Meeting

## Grayton Beach State Park

### Unit Management Plan Amendments

### Impressions of June 13, 2017 Meeting

Approximately 40 to 50 people attended the two hour meeting at Northwest Florida State College. Although I did not speak with everyone present, I did speak with most. I heard no one express support for the proposed changes planned for Grayton Beach State Park West – other than the State employees who were there to promote it. I was most struck by the following contradictions and ironies:

- 1) The meeting was advertised as an “open house” gathering. It was decidedly closed. Direct questions and opinions from the audience were actively discouraged. Such Questions and opinions could be submitted in writing with the promise that someone would read them eventually. It was clear the audience was not at all happy with these restrictions. This kind of infringement on free speech is repugnant and more befitting a tyranny than a democracy.
- 2) With 12 tent campsites planned just to the west of Forest Dunes, the entry road for the Alligator Cove and Gulf Trace communities, fire is a major concern. Approximately two years ago, the Park cleared a portion of that same area via bush hogging rather than using a controlled burn because such a burn was deemed way too dangerous given the proximity of homes. And yet the idea of campfires getting out of control does not appear similarly too dangerous. Not logical and not credible. Campers will have

campfires and, sooner or later, one of them will get out of control. Period. God forbid it does not happen under very dry conditions and when a north wind is blowing. When I asked one of the State promoters if they had a major league liability insurance policy, he just smiled.

- 3) If one Googles “Disney World” and “Alligator,” one can quickly reach the logical conclusion that inviting human paddlers, swimmers, or even waders into the waters of Little Redfish coastal dune lake where alligators swim is a bad idea. Though the Park inexplicably deems Little Redfish safe, it has put up warning signs regarding the danger of alligators on, get this, Alligator Lake – also a coastal dune lake and located only about a half mile to the east. Both lakes have alligators but apparently only the ones in Alligator Lake are dangerous.
- 4) Which brings us to the Park’s pledge, rooted in their fundamental mission, to balance human recreational needs with the protection and preservation of the natural habitat. Does anyone want to hazard a guess as to how the State will handle the inevitable collision of swimmers and alligators. Is there any doubt that the reptile will lose and be banished from its natural environment. Not that they are dangerous, but the same will happen to the Eagles that periodically nest at Little Redfish. These shy, reclusive and magnificent birds will simply leave as the press of more and more people materializes. So will the beaver, the osprey and the occasional Florida black bear.
- 5) Which brings us to the significantly increased number of visitors encouraged by the proposed management plan. Given the proximity of the proposed tent village to Forest Dunes Drive, does anyone want to guess which path Park campers will use to access the beach? Will they walk all the way across the Park to the Park’s beach walkover or will they take the much shorter route down Forest Dunes, through Gulf Trace and over that community’s beach

walkovers. Ten points if you picked the latter. It is only logical and, unfortunately, unpreventable.

6) Which brings us to the close and positive relationship that Gulf Trace has had with the Park in the past. In the same spirit of preservation and protection that informs the Park in its mission, Gulf Trace worked to become the first sea turtle friendly community in Walton County. In combination with the Park's efforts on behalf of nesting and hatching the sea turtles, Gulf Trace and the Park co-created one of the longest stretches of dark beach in the State. Another collaboration between both communities has been the Friends of Grayton Beach and Deer Lake State Parks. This CSO, founded by Gulf Trace residents, has raised tens of thousands of dollars – all dedicated to the needs of these parks. And, finally, many have forgotten that in the mid 1990's the State of Florida was ready to swap Grayton Beach State Park West for the land now known as Topsail Hill State Park which at that time was privately owned and slated for development. The State badly wanted to acquire and preserve the Topsail Hill land but could not afford buying at the time. But it was willing to give Grayton Beach State Park West over to the would-be Topsail developers in a land swap. A group of Gulf Trace residents successfully sued the State of Florida and stopped the swap from happening. Long story. A few years later, the State raised the money via bond issue and was able to purchase Topsail Hill. The State ended up owning both State Parks. How ironic given that they definitely could have ended up owning neither. If the lawsuit had failed, the deep irony is that the meeting yesterday regarding the unit management proposal for Grayton Beach State Park West never would have happened and Topsail Hill State Park would likely not exist.

Jan and April Rieveschl

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** bob cox <bc317@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 8:03 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Comments of Grayton Beach State West proposed changes  
**Attachments:** Grayton Beach Park comments.docx

Pls see attached word document. If possible can you send back an email stating you rec'd it?

Thanks,  
Bob Cox

FL DEP

Grayton Beach State Park-West Comments

Dear Park Associates—I am a property owner in the Gulf Trace subdivision along with Therese. We are “opposed” to most of the changes you are planning on this park for the following reasons:

-the 12 tent camping area is too close to Alligator Cove. Having walked this area you can easily see the homes if you were camping on the West end sites Plus how do keep people and children from wandering on the roads and thru the neighborhoods? Both Topsail and Grayton East parks already have tent camping. Wouldn't it be more cost effective to add to either of those parks...or both?

-Little Redfish boat launch-it's called Little Redfish for a reason....it's small. Too small in our opinion to support the possible traffic it may see. There are currently bald eagles that nest along this area but they won't be there for long if this takes place. The parking is just as close to the Gulf as Little Redfish. If it's important to paddle Little Redfish why can't they walk to the Gulf and paddle to the lake? Why tear-up and destroy more habitat?

-22 to 24 day parking spots. We understand the reason for more beach parking but how do you police only 22-24 cars. What happens if 40 or 50 cars show up?

The 2 aspects we like and are in favor of is the purchase of the 7 acres off Bannerman Lane. The more preservation the better. We are also in favor of restoring old roadbeds to natural habitat.

In closing the West park is a real jewel. It's a wonderful get away for the 15 families who are lucky enough to get to the stay there at any one time. In a word, it's idyllic. By trying to add to this you/we will definitely lose something that makes it such a special place. For those that have been around here for a while they will tell you the park was purchased for preservation.....not development.

Thanks for reviewing our concerns

Bob Cox and Therese Groomes

850-278-6612

Bc317@hotmail.com

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Susie Whitfield <sjjwhitfield@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayson Beach State Park

Dear Sir or Madam:

We live in Seagrove at 273 Cassine Garden Circle. We object to the proposed changes to the park in the strongest possible terms. The lure of this part of the Emerald Coast is its unspoiled nature, and the changes would destroy a priceless natural resource. As the managers of the state parks, your responsibilities are heavy but must be most concerned with protecting that which can never be replaced. Please preserve this unique environment for all future generations and leave a legacy of excellent stewardship.

Sincerely,

Dr. & Mrs. Steven S. Whitfield

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Kim McKenzie <kimmiemc@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 11:29 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Subject: Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support.



## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Terri Purcell <terripurcell37@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 12:39 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Cc:** Tim purcell  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Proposed Unit Management Plan Amendment, June 2017

My husband and I own a home in Gulf Trace, near Grayton Beach State Park.

The proposed Tent Campsite location is currently used by a number of deer, that cross that location often twice daily to get access to water at alligator lake. Campsites and cars would be highly disruptive to their daily routine.

Surely, there is a better location in all of the land owned by the state in this area, especially given the acreage on the other side of 30A, for a campsite then the home to the deer.

Tim and Terri Purcell  
770-688-5403  
[terripurcell37@gmail.com](mailto:terripurcell37@gmail.com)

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Parker Mattingly <plmattingly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 2:40 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Re: Grayton Beach State Park - Little Redfish Lake Access Proposal

Daniel,

Thanks for the info on the park expansion and your time explaining the development. I'm excited to utilize the primitive camping sites and lake access!

If you've any interest or need for aerial video, photography or surveying for the project I'd be happy to assist.

I'm an FAA Certified UAS operator with over 4 years of experience.

Thanks and good to meet you.

Parker

Parker Lewis Mattingly  
(606) 584-1290

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On Jun 15, 2017, at 11:39 AM, Parker Mattingly <[parker@fullsailmediaco.com](mailto:parker@fullsailmediaco.com)> wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

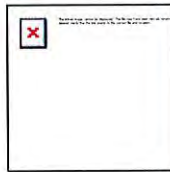
From: **Alsentzer, Daniel** <[Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)>  
Date: Thu, Jun 15, 2017 at 11:15 AM  
Subject: Grayton Beach State Park - Little Redfish Lake Access Proposal  
To: "[parker@fullsailmediaco.com](mailto:parker@fullsailmediaco.com)" <[parker@fullsailmediaco.com](mailto:parker@fullsailmediaco.com)>

Parker -

Thank you for stopping by our map exhibits Tuesday afternoon for the proposed access improvements in Grayton Beach State Park. We were glad to be able to share the information. Please see the attached plan document including maps and descriptive details of the concept.

Regards,

Daniel



**Daniel Alsentzer**

Park Planner

Office of Park Planning

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Division of Recreation and Parks

[daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:daniel.alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us)

Office: [850.245.3073](tel:850.245.3073)

Cell: [850.339.5414](tel:850.339.5414)



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Parker

[\(606\) 584-1290](tel:606.584.1290)

[parker@fullsailmediaco.com](mailto:parker@fullsailmediaco.com)

[www.fullsailmediaco.com](http://www.fullsailmediaco.com)

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## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Jack Slattery <jdslat1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 7:31 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

I wish to express my opposition to the proposed "improvements" to the west section of the park. First of all, this is a bird nesting area that was severely damaged by the BP oil disaster. The condo's around big redfish have affected the recovery of birds to the area. Further disruption of this habitat is unwarranted! Additionally, little redfish hold creatures large and small who do not want this intrusion. From a paddle standpoint, little Redfish isn't large enough to be a destination.

This is one of the few undeveloped areas in all of Florida! You must leave some place for nature. Jack Slattery, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Ann M Debolt <annmdebolt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 11:00 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park - Comments on proposed improvements

Dear State Parks Planners:

I am opposed to the planned development of new camping areas and the development of trails within the scrub habitat at Grayton Beach State Park. The Florida State Parks are turning into over-utilized playgrounds, with a focus on people's comfort and activities rather than on protection of the natural resources for which many of these parks were established/designated. This state park is quite small, and the proposed habitat fragmentation and development is not reversible, and is far from beneficial for the wildlife it supports.

I grew up in Florida, and the state parks my family visited from the 1960s through the 1990s have changed greatly. This current push to "develop" the parks, especially those designated for their natural features (unique habitats), is not in the best interest of these parks, their wildlife, nor the rapidly disappearing habitat which you are planning to destroy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.  
Sincerely, Ann DeBolt

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Emily Medina <emily@emilykmedina.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2017 12:55 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Objection to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan. Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.

Thank you for your support  
Emily Medina  
Santa Rosa Beach Resident

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Kristin Olson <juggling@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2017 11:08 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan.  
Thank you for your support - Kristin Olson

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Bonnie <hal7m@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach Amended Plan  
**Attachments:** GraytonBeachParkLettertoDEP2017.docx



June 12, 2017

Bonnie McQuiston  
14 Alligator Cove  
Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

Daniel Alsentzer, Office of Park Planning  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation & Parks  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 525

RE: Proposed unit management plan amendment for Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Mr. Alsentzer,

BP settlement money is intended to remedy the negative environmental impact from the 2010 oil spill. This proposed park plan amendment will be more harmful to the environment than the oil spill.

I oppose development of Grayton Beach State Park Western Unit which will negatively impact the natural experience. A boat launch on Little Redfish Lake will pose significant potential harm to scrub community, shoreline, waters and dunes of a coastal dune lake.

The current park management plan of 2013 clearly states, "Western Lake provides the most potential for recreation. Due to their sensitivity, size and limited accessibility, the smaller coastal dune lakes, Alligator and Little Redfish, are not suitable for widespread recreational use".

What has changed in 5 years?

An honor fee box cannot control the number of vehicles or pedestrians entering the park. All Areas of the Western Unit will be accessible to increased human impact. Parking spaces and restroom facilities on or near Little Redfish Lake will unquestionably degrade the lake.

If acquisition of Little Redfish Lake outfall known as the Kelly parcel requires more public access to Grayton Beach State Park, additional parking for beach access and boating can be located in the main day use areas, not in the Western Unit. Goals of the management plan can be met within these already disturbed areas which are more accessible, manageable and secured by park supervision.

I oppose the proposed placement of 14 tent camp sites near unsecured private roads in the Western Unit. Security of private residences, both east and south of the proposed camp areas, will be threatened. Tent sites with campfires will pose an inherent danger of fire to nearby residential private properties. It is this threat that prevents controlled burning in this same area by park personnel.

The intent of BP settlement money is not to inflict environmental damage. It is not to decrease private property values nor to create a negative environment in residential communities. The proposed park plan amendment does exactly that, and more. Additional public access to the park with more tent camp spaces, a handicap boat launch for kayaks and canoes, and additional parking at the beach can be accomplished in the already disturbed main park area. Control of vehicles and human traffic, as well as security for the park, is maintained by the ranger station with gated ingress and egress.

The proposed unit management plan amendment for Grayton Beach State Park should not be approved.

Thank you,

*Bonnie McQuiston*

Bonnie McQuiston

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Marianne Croze-Perry <mperry@usa.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Unit Plan Amendment

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Atten: Mr Alsentzer  
e

Dear Mr, Alsentzer,

I am opposed to the amendment for the following reasons:

- \* The proposed use is not in keeping with the 2013 plan for increased access without degradation of the park including destructive impacts on wildlife and takings of several species
- \* The use would immediately exceed the proposed capacity of 24 parking spaces.
- \* The plan violates the Walton county Land development code, Coastal Dune Lake Protection Zone for storm runoff from the proposed parking lot, repaving and shoreline destruction at the boat launch.
- \* Having Walton county or the walton County TDC subleasing the land for day use is not compatible with the mission of the park.

I am for the acquisition of the of the Little Redfish Outfall.

Protecting land in a county with plans to develop every single piece of available property is an outstanding contribution to the critically endangered, shoreline and coastal lakes and the animals that reside there. The snowy plover, least tern and the black skimmer nest in lake outfalls and need protection.

Additional concerns about this amendment:

There will be no ranger present at the western part of the park. Who will monitor this day use to be certain that all admitted are following the rules? The park staff is overworked and underpaid now.

After the parking spaces are filled, people will start parking on 30A, further degrading the shoulder and blocking the bike path.

I have lived in the Gulf Trace community for over 20 years and started the Friends of Grayton Beach State Park in 1999 with other like minded individuals. So my love of the park and those that care for it runs deep.

I hope that your planning group will go back to the drawing board and come back to the community with a revised plan that we can all live with.

Respectfully,  
Marianne Perry  
Gulf Trace  
33 Gulf Breeze Dr.  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Barbara Valentino <barbval@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2017 9:16 PM  
**To:** moe.stouse@gmail.com; rwlamar@bellsouth.net; FLStateParkPlanning  
**Cc:** 'tony anderson'; 'Bill Chapman'; 'Cecelia Jones'; 'melanie nippernip'; 'Sara Commander'; Dick & Jo Harrell  
**Subject:** RE: Grayton Beach State Park Expansion Project

CARL VALENTINO  
carlvalentino@comcast.net • 832-723-7545

June 16, 2017

RE: Proposed Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident of Santa Rosa Beach in the Gulf Trace subdivision that borders the Grayton State Park. It is my understanding that the State of Florida is proposing an expansion of the Western part of this State Park to include more parking, tent campsites and renting kayaks and canoes or paddle boards on Little Redfish Lake.

This is very fragile Park which is home to many protected species of plants and animals and it should be protected and preserved for future generations to enjoy. These rare dune lakes along this stretch of 30A and home to many animals, some of which are not compatible with humans. For the State to promote such activity is just asking for trouble. Visiting tourists from other parts of our Country are not aware of such dangers as was the case at Disney World when an alligator killed a young child from Nebraska. This would be a huge liability for the State to promote and in fact encourage such interaction with such animals in a small lake.

We purchased our property before the State of Florida acquired this land and our community has taken many measures to blend in and try to preserve this precious "preserve". In fact several years ago we spent much time and money to modify every property's lighting in our community to encourage turtle nesting to occur. Our community has been designated a "Turtle Friendly Community".

I sincerely hope the State of Florida will do some serious soul-searching and do the right thing and preserve this Natural Resource for future generations to enjoy.

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Laura Calhoun <lauracalhoun1@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 19, 2017 6:17 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Deny the Proposed Amendment to Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support.

Laura Calhoun  
530 Seabreeze Circle  
Seacrest, FL 32461

Laura Sent from my iPhone

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Janet Foltz <janfoltz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 10:26 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach

I attended the Open House on 6/13 regarding the Unit Management Plan Amendment for Grayton Beach State Park. The presenter stated that one of the missions of the state parks is to balance recreation and preservation of natural resources (or forgive me-it was something on that order). Balance in this area has been lost!

Please do not endanger a coastal dune lake that has escaped much development.

The area in question is rapidly becoming one of the very few places that native plants and creatures may survive. The south Walton area will soon be completely built, paved, planted with turf, exotic species and in a few cases cultivated native plants. Many of the native plants such as the lupine, *Ceratiola ericoides*, gopher apple, woody goldenrod, etc that exist on this tract can not be replaced.

You need to understand what happens on these beaches. I walk the nearby Blue Mountain beach every morning. I pick up, for example, plastic toys, water bottles, torn foam balls, Styrofoam cups, plastic spoons, beer cans, straws, birthday balloons tied with ribbon. I do not pick up the cigarette butts but there are plenty.. I walk around holes, many that are big and deep.

In short, I strongly object to day use additions to the western unit of the park. Please do not add a parking lot! Please do not disturb fragile and endangered area

I do support acquiring the 7 acres near Little Redfish Lake outfall for protection, the rehab of the current path to return it to natural habitat, and addition of interpretive signage and improved infrastructure on the North side of 30a.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

Janet Foltz  
114 Ventana Blvd  
PO Box 1595  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

CARL VALENTINO  
carlvalentino@comcast.net • 832-723-7545

June 16, 2017

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

RE: Proposed Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Mr. Alsentzer:

I am a resident of Santa Rosa Beach in the Gulf Trace subdivision that borders the Grayton State Park. It is my understanding that the State of Florida is proposing an expansion of the Western part of this State Park to include more parking, tent campsites and renting kayaks and canoes or paddle boards on Little Redfish Lake.

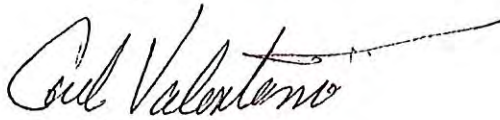
This is very fragile Park which is home to many protected species of plants and animals and it should be protected and preserved for future generations to enjoy. These rare dune lakes along this stretch of 30A are home to many animals, some of which are not compatible with humans. For the State to promote such activity is just asking for trouble. Visiting tourists from other parts of our Country are not aware of such dangers as was the case at Disney World when an alligator killed a young child from Nebraska. This would be a huge liability for the State to promote and in fact encourage such interaction with such animals in a small lake.

We purchased our property before the State of Florida acquired this land and our community has taken many measures to blend in and try to preserve this precious "preserve". In fact several years ago we spent much time and money to modify every property's lighting in our community to encourage turtle nesting to occur. Our community has been designated a "Turtle Friendly Community".

RECEIVED  
JUN 20 2017  
BY: OPP/dupb

I sincerely hope the State of Florida will do some serious soul-searching and do the right thing and preserve this Natural Resource for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl Valentino". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Carl Valentino

[carlvalentino@comcast.net](mailto:carlvalentino@comcast.net)

832-723-7545



# Barbara J. Valentino

[barbval@comcast.net](mailto:barbval@comcast.net) • 832-723-7544

June 16, 2017

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

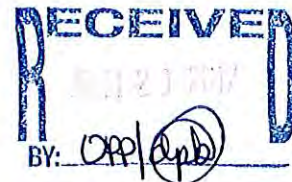
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RE: Proposed Unit Management Plan for Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Mr. Alsentzer:

We are owners of a home in the Gulf Trace Subdivision which is surrounded on the North, West and East by State Owned Property, known as "Grayton State Park". We have shared this beautiful and rare delicate eco- sensitive setting with the State for many years and thought that the State shared our hopes and dreams to preserve this jewel for future generations. We purchased our property before the State acquired this property and were very happy when the State declared such 800 acres for the purpose of being a "Wildlife Preserve". Several years ago Gulf Trace spent much time and money to become a world recognized turtle friendly community. We now understand the State of Florida, flush with money from the BP disaster, is planning to expand the State Park and put commercial businesses on the very fragile Little Redfish Lake. In the past few years we have been to several County meetings that were specific to preserving these rare Coastal Lakes and think this is very counter-productive to that end.

We are very much opposed to this project and hope the State of Florida will focus their attention and money to protecting the many rare species and wildlife that are supported by this beautiful precious land which is their natural habitat. This preserve is already inhabited by deer, fox and many other species of wildlife.



For the State of Florida to promote young children to actually go into Little Redfish Lake is unconscionable. Are you aware there are wild Alligators in these Lakes? Our home is on Alligator Lake and we see them from our deck all the time and we continually warn tourists to avoid going into these lakes and now you are actually **promoting** such activity. You had better have lots of liability insurance.

Is the State really wanting to contribute to the congestion on 30A and will the State really generate that much income to justify the expense? I'm sure, if you give this more thought, the State can find a more appropriate use of their money.

We sincerely hope the State of Florida re-thinks this project in favor of preserving our precious natural resources. You need to do the right thing. Starting a commercial business on Little Redfish Lake sets a dangerous precedence and undermines the need to "PROTECT" our precious Natural Resources for future generations. Please think about putting the considerations mentioned above before monetary gain .... DO THE RIGHT THING!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Valentino".

Barbara Valentino

71 Gulf Shore Drive

Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

[carlvalentino@comcast.net](mailto:carlvalentino@comcast.net) / 832-723-7545

[barbval@comcast.net](mailto:barbval@comcast.net) / 832-723-7544

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Deborah Hall <debo.d.hall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 7:35 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Request Update Little Redfish Development

Missed the Public Meeting Re: Little Redfish Development and wanted to know any updates. Very much in favor of the project to protect what little is left untouched by commercial development on 30A . Is it possible to tour the site?

Deborah Hall  
Montgomery Alabama resident  
Residential Property Owner on 30A  
[hallbaxley@charter.net](mailto:hallbaxley@charter.net)  
w 334-242-3599  
cell 334-652-2868

**ROBERT G MURPHY, P.G.  
42 LYDIA AVENUE  
SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL 32459**

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 525  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: Grayton Beach State Park, Proposed Unit Management Plan Amendment, June 2017

June 17, 2017

Comments:

Having been in attendance to both the Public Meeting on the night of June 13<sup>th</sup>, and the Advisory Group Meeting on the morning of June 14<sup>th</sup>, and been a member of the Advisory Group representing the community of Grayton Beach, I wish to have the following put on record.

The amendment draft did not include in its text any reference to the purchase of +/- 7 acres of land at the outfall of Little Redfish Lake. It dealt with only the changes proposed to the recreational component which seeks to redirect the development of the western unit of Grayton Beach State Park. This makes the evaluation of the value of the proposed amendments to the management plan confusing.

While we are united in the desire to see the outfall of the very pristine Costal Dune Lake managed by the DEP, most of the changes to the development of the parks Western Unit seem to do more to endanger the special resources of that unit than is warranted.

As to the acquisition:

The area of Grayton Beach State Park encompasses the water shed, the headwaters, and the majority of three of the very valuable and globally significant coastal dune lakes. The outflow of Western Lake and Alligator Lake are already managed by the Park. It should be a priority for the outflow of the adjacent Little Redfish Lake to be similarly managed for the health of the Lake. You will have received many other comments about Little Redfish Lake and its unique character, my comments regarding the lake are concerned with the entirety of the watershed that includes these three lakes that are a part of GBSP. There has been an explosion of development surrounding the park in the last two decades. In many ways, the drainage patterns and hydrological functions of the area have changed and are changing. These lakes will be under pressure and the stewardship of the DEP and the State Park System is the only way to protect and preserve them. The inclusion of the outflow of Little Redfish Lake is essential to the Lake, the nesting birds, as well as the preservation of this magnificent site for future generations of Florida residents and guests. I want our grandchildren's children to see This special Florida that we protected and preserved for them.

RECEIVED  
JUN 21 2017  
BY: OPP/ (upb)

As managers of the vast drainage and outflow system, in conjunction with the State Forest Management, we suggest coordinating with the Forest to study the drainage of the basins, and repair the drainage impediments created by firebreaks as soon as possible after burning. In the 39 years I have lived here I have witnessed the changes in water flow into these Coastal Dune Lakes. We must do whatever we can to correct the impediments to the hydrologic flow from north to south into these special places.

As to the Amended Plan:

Develop a day use area in the western unit of the park.

While it sounds good, the inclusion of day use into this area will, in my opinion, exceed the carrying capacity of this unit of the Park. The reality of influx and multiple use between the cabin renters, tent campers, and day use would overwhelm the fragile nature of the trails and the beach access. The very special character that the cabins have would not be effected by the addition of tent campers, who are usually frugal in accoutrements they carry to the beach. However, as a resident of Grayton Beach I will say that day use brings with it a different character. This would adversely impact the value of the experience the cabin renters currently enjoy. Control of ingress would be difficult to control as multiple hikers going off paths and disturbing the fragile shrub understory.

Provide access to the west of end of the park beach by an existing boardwalk.

There already exists a boardwalk access, if this means the construction of additional boardwalk structure over the dune it would destroy vegetation, scrub, and essential habitat of the protected Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse. This was not part of the presentation I saw.

Construct a 24-space parking area with one small restroom building.

I would recommend against this as per our argument against increased day use in general. The area proposed for this parking was originally indicated for the tent camping area. This is a very good site for the tent camping location. In addition, the area the tent camping was moved as proposed in the amendment, it would be too close to 30A and residential development. The tent camping experience is adversely impacted by the noise of a highway, and the close proximity to a residential development, not to mention the need to carry your equipment up to 300 feet to get to your site. Although this proposed parking site seems on its face to be centrally located, it is in fact close to nothing. It requires a significant walk for access to the beach or the Lake.

Provide boardwalk access to Little Redfish Lake with a paddling launch and observation deck.

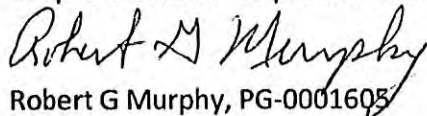
I recommend against the installation of boardwalk construction, the reality of utility of this boardwalk and launch is questionable. It would mean carrying a paddle board, canoe, or kayak

about 500 feet along a boardwalk to reach the lake. That would dissuade most paddlers from using it when there is a much better launch at the eastern unit. Additionally, the small size of the lake, 10 +/- acres, and the population of alligators that reside in it as well as its shallow depth with no ready retreat for the wildlife to utilize, make this a dangerous location to encourage paddlers in general. Monies earmarked for this development would be better spent in the enhancements to the launch in the eastern unit as outlined in the 2013 management plan, where park personnel could assess and mitigate impact of the use.

The rest of the amendment is basically what was proposed in the 2013 Management Plan. The return of abandoned roads to a scrub natural community, and the inclusion of the tent site where the amendment puts the parking lot. We support these projects.

As a summation of my comments I totally support the addition of the outflow of Little Redfish Lake into Grayton Beach State Park. This would add value to the entire ecosystem of the park. The recreational component of the use of this NRDA money should be used to perform the development of the western unit as outlined in the 2013 management plan, as well as enhancing the eastern unit by refurbishing the parking, launching, and educational opportunities there. As well as increasing access to the portion of the park north of Highway 30A throughout the park. I understand that Walton County and the Walton County Tourist Development Council has offered to help fund the recreational component required for the purchase funds to be utilized. I will be lobbying our elected officials to see that these proposed changes to the amended management plan are in the best interest of Grayton Beach State Park, and the people of Walton County as well as our visitors.

As hard as the decision would be to make, I recommend that the purchase of the outfall be set aside should the Walton County Tourist Development Council insist on the amended management plan. Saving the outfall of Little Redfish Lake would not be worth compromising the protection of the pristine nature of the western unit of Grayton Beach State Park.

  
Robert G Murphy, PG-0001605

## Baxley, Demi

---

**From:** Rutland, Rosemary <RRutland@rbi.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,

I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.

Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support!!

We live in Seagrove part time and enjoy the parks along 30A. Please help to maintain the wildlife and quality of parks!

Thank you,

**Rosemary Rutland**

Sr. Manager Global QA, Non Poultry

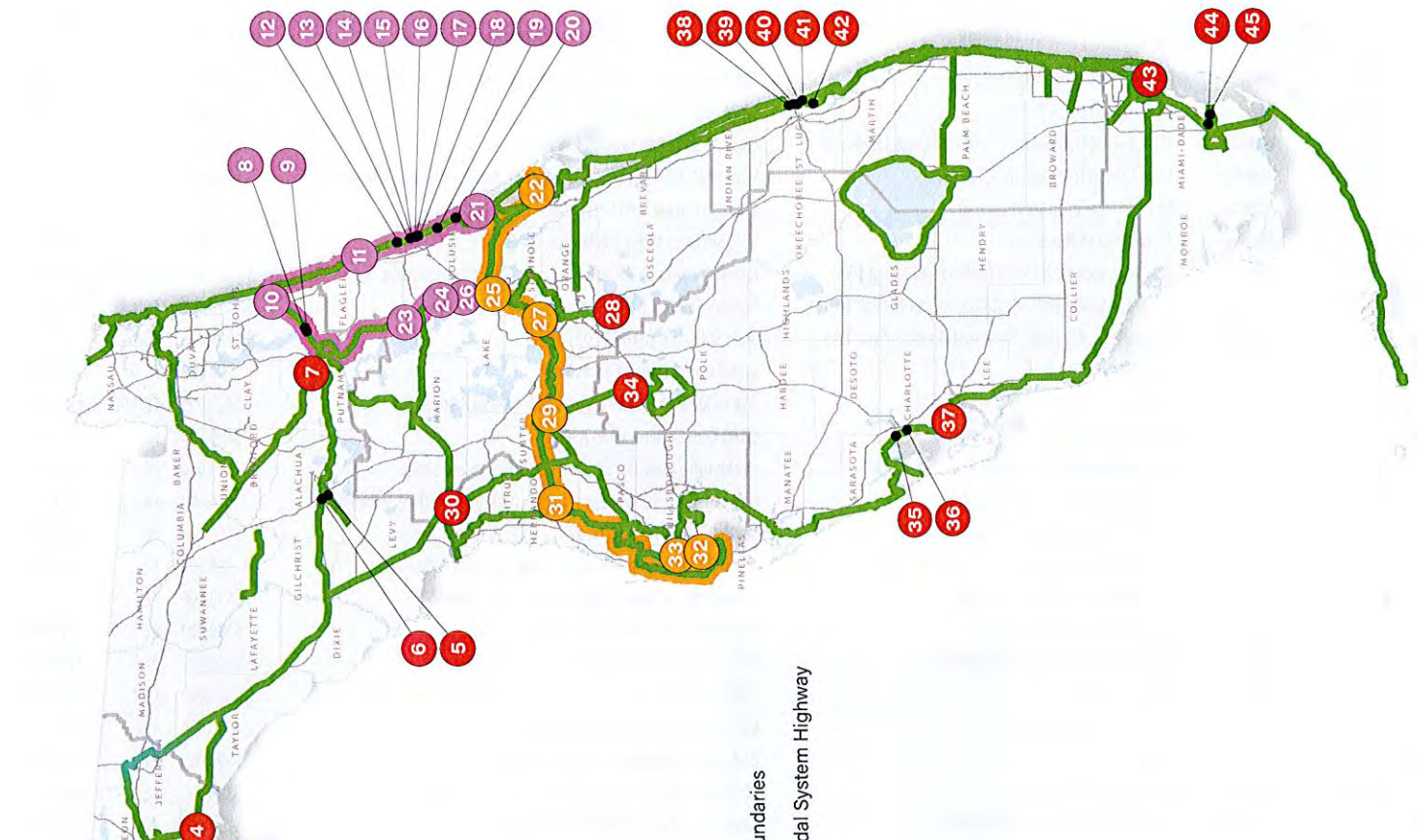
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[rrutland@rbi.com](mailto:rrutland@rbi.com)

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# Shared Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program

Florida Department of Transportation Systems Planning Office

## Regional Trail Systems and Individual Trail Projects Fiscal Year 2016/2017

- SUN Trail Network
- Coast to Coast Trail
- St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Trail
- Coast to Coast Project
- St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Project
- Individual Trail Project
- FDOT District Boundaries
- Strategic Intermodal System Highway
- County
- Water

For more information, please visit [www.FloridaSunTrail.com](http://www.FloridaSunTrail.com)







# Shared Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program

Florida Department of Transportation  
Systems Planning Office



## Regional Trail Systems and Individual Trail Projects - Fiscal Year 2016/2017

ID	Tier	FDOT Dist.	Counties	Trail Name	Segment	Cost	Phase	FM Number
1	IND	3	Escambia	Perdido Key Multiuse Trail (SR 292)	Alabama State Line to State Park Entrance / Gongora Drive	\$1,123,144	PE	4389082
2	IND	3	Bay	Lynn Haven Rails to Trails	SR 75 (US 231) to East 10th Street	\$268,000	PE	4399281
3	IND	3	Wakulla	CC2S: Coastal Trail West: SR 30 (US 98) Coastal Highway	CR 372 / Surf Road to SR 61 (US 98)	\$800,000	PE	4399261
4	IND	3	Wakulla	CC2S: Coastal Trail East: SR 30 (US 98)	West of SR 363 Woodville Highway / St. Marks Trail to Lighthouse Road	\$200,000	PE	4399262
5	IND	2	Alachua	SR 24 / Archer Road Multiuse Trail	SW 76th Terrace to SW 41st Boulevard, Gainesville	\$450,000	PE	4399341
6	IND	2	Alachua	Tower Road Multiuse Trail	SW 26th Place to SW 8th Avenue, Gainesville	\$950,000	CON	4399331
7	IND	2	Putnam	Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail aka SR 100 Rail Trail	Roberts Lane to St. Johns River Water Management District	\$6,261,419	CON	4282023
8	SJR2C	2	St. Johns	Palatka to St. Augustine State Trail aka SR 207 Rail Trail	Putnam County Line to Hastings	\$2,217,575	CON	4357961
9	SJR2C	2	St. Johns	Palatka to St. Augustine State Trail aka SR 207 Rail Trail	Main St (Hastings) to SR 207 / Spuds	\$3,288,834	CON	2102868
10	SJR2C	2	St. Johns	SR 207 / A1A	End of trail to Flagler County Line	\$750,000	FS	4399321
11	SJR2C	5	Flagler	SR A1A	A1A or Alternate Route from S 26th Street to N 9th Street	\$600,000	FS, PDE	4398731
12	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Ormond Beach Gap	SR 40 from Cassen Park to A1A	\$300,000	FS	4398721
13	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 1: N Beach St	Sickler Drive from 350' south of 2nd Street to 2nd Street	\$20,000	PE	4398711
14	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 2: Ballough Bridge	Ballough Road Bridge approximately 0.01 miles north of Anita Avenue	\$20,000	PE	4398701
15	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 3: S Beach St	South Beach St from Marina Point Drive to Orange Avenue	\$100,000	PE	4398691
16	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 4: S Beach St	South Beach St from Bellevue Avenue to Marina Point Drive	\$65,000	PE	4398681
17	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 5: Donnelly Pl	Donnelly Place from Shady Place to Bellevue Ave	\$510,000	CON	4398671
18	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 6: S Beach St	South Beach St from Wilder Blvd to Shady Pl	\$100,000	PE	4398661
19	SJR2C	5	Volusia	New Smyrna to Port Orange Gap: US 1	US 1 from Canal St to Beville Rd	\$1,500,000	PDE	4398651
20	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Edgewater Gap	Dale Ave to 10th St	\$1,100,000	CON	4398631
21	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Oak Hill to Edgewater: US 1	US 1 at Kennedy Parkway to Dale Ave	\$800,000	PDE	4398621
22	C2C	5	Brevard	Space Coast Trail: Titusville	East end of Max Brewer Bridge to Merritt Island Refuge	\$300,000	PE	4361873
23	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Pierson Gap: SR 15 (US 17)	SR 15 (US 17) from Washington Ave to Palmetto Ave	\$300,000	PE	4398771
24	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Spring to Spring Gap: Deleon Springs	Grand Ave / Baxter St to SR 15 (US 17)	\$750,000	PE	4398751
25	C2C	5	Seminole/Volusia	Spring to Spring Trail: US 17 / 92 Bridge	Wayside Park to Lake Monroe Park	\$1,800,000	CON	4364341
26	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Spring to Spring Gap: Deland	Lake Beresford Park to Grand Ave	\$750,000	PDE	4398741
27	C2C	5	Orange	Orange Co Gap Segment 2	N Hiwassee Rd to N of SR 414 on SR 441 / Clarcona	\$2,000,000	PE	4364331
28	IND	5	Osceola	Shingle Creek Trail South Phase 1B	Palmetto Ave to southern limit of future Shingle Creek Phase 2B	\$2,230,000	CON	4398781
29	C2C	5	Lake	South Lake Trail Phase 4	Van Fleet State Trail to Villa City Rd (CR 565)	\$700,000	PE	4358931
30	IND	7	Citrus	HOFI: Withlacoochee-Dunnellon Trail Connector	North end of Withlacoochee State Trail to south end of Dunnellon Trail	\$280,000	PE	4373491
31	C2C	7	Hernando	Good Neighbor Trail Connector: Alternate Alignment	West Suncoast Parkway to SR 50 / Cortez Blvd, Brooksville	\$475,358	PE	4357201
32	IND	7	Pinellas	SWCC: Pinellas Trail Loop Phase 2	John Chestnut Park to Enterprise Rd, Palm Harbor	\$5,700,000	PE, CON	4400931
33	IND	7	Pinellas	SWCC: SR 60 / Courtney Campbell Cswy Ped Overpass	Courtney Campbell to Bayshore Trl Seg Ream Wilson Clearwater Trl	\$1,362,488	PE	4374981
34	IND	1	Polk	Van Fleet State Trail: Pedestrian Bridge Replacement	Polk City	\$251,000	PE, CON	4402351
35	IND	1	Charlotte	SWCC: Harborwalk Phase 1B Southern Boardwalk	SR 45 Gap, Charlotte Harbor	\$1,114,800	CON	4298202
36	IND	1	Charlotte	SWCC: North Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge	US 41 and North Fork Alligator Creek, Punta Gorda	\$215,000	PE	4402341
37	IND	1	Lee	SWCC: Van Buren/El Dorado/Kismet Trail	Cape Coral Gap: Del Prado Blvd to Burnt Store Rd at Van Buren Pkwy	\$1,778,100	PE	4402361
38	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: Historic Downtown Ft. Pierce Retrofit	Georgia Avenue to A1A / N Causeway Dr	\$275,000	PDE	4400321
39	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: Historic Highwayman Trail Gap	Indian Hills Dr to Georgia Ave, Fort Pierce	\$100,000	PDE	4400341
40	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: FEC Overpass	Savannas Rec Area to S of Savannah Rd / Heathcote Gardens	\$275,000	PDE	4400331
41	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: Indian Hills Rec Area Trail Retrofit	South of Savannah Rd to Indian Hills Dr, Fort Pierce	\$80,000	PE	4399971
42	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: Savannas Preserve State Park Gap	Walton Rd to Savannas Rec Area, Port St. Lucie	\$500,000	PDE	4399991
43	IND	6	Miami-Dade	ECG-SE: The Underline Segment A	SW 13th St to SW 19th Ave, Miami	\$1,445,000	PE	4355012
44	IND	6	Miami-Dade	Biscayne Trail Segment D, Phase 2	SW 117th Ave to SW 137th Ave, Homestead	\$122,825	PE	4398981
45	IND	6	Miami-Dade	Biscayne Everglades Greenway	East Mowry Dr to SW 137th Ave, Homestead	\$206,000	PE	4398991

Total Cost: \$44,434,543

<b>Tier</b>	<b>C2C:</b> Coast to Coast	<b>SJR2C:</b> St. Johns River to Sea Loop	<b>IND:</b> Individual Project
<b>Phase</b>	<b>FS:</b> Feasibility Study	<b>PDE:</b> Project Development and Environmental Study	<b>PE:</b> Preliminary Engineering <b>CON:</b> Construction

Disclaimer: An allocation to one project phase is not a guarantee of commitment to allocations for future phases.  
For more information, please visit [www.FloridaSunTrail.com](http://www.FloridaSunTrail.com)

## Alsentzer, Daniel

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**From:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 7:45 AM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Murray, Sine  
**Subject:** PUBLIC EMAIL RECEIVED FW: Grayton Beach State Park

**From:** Rutland, Rosemary [mailto:RRutland@rbi.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Grayton Beach State Park Planner,  
I object to the proposed amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Management Plan.  
Please implement the recommendations for recreation that are in the current approved 2013 park plan. Thank you for your support!!

We live in Seagrove part time and enjoy the parks along 30A. Please help to maintain the wildlife and quality of parks!

Thank you,

**Rosemary Rutland**  
Sr. Manager Global QA, Non Poultry  
*Popeyes® Brand*  
[rrutland@rbi.com](mailto:rrutland@rbi.com)  
404.459.4527

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## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 1:57 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Murray, Sine  
**Subject:** PUBLIC EMAIL RECEIVED FW: Grayton State Park Comments

**Importance:** High

**From:** Buz Livingston [mailto:buz@livingstonfinancial.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 11:59 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning <FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** Grayton State Park Comments  
**Importance:** High

<http://www.waltonsun.com/news/20170621/possible-changes-coming-to-grayton-beach-state-park>

It is a good idea to buy the outflow but expanding day use in the western section of Grayton State Park should be denied.

G.M. Livingston III (Buz)  
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER  
Sound Advice...Clear Direction

<http://www.LivingstonFinancial.net>  
[Buz@LivingstonFinancial.net](mailto:Buz@LivingstonFinancial.net)  
850-267-1068  
850-496-1235 CELL  
866-889-0480 E-FAX

*Confidentiality Notice: This email may contain personal data. Please respect the recipient's privacy.*

## Baxley, Demi

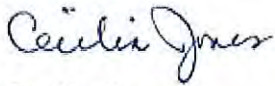
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**From:** Cecilia Jones <JonCecilia@co.walton.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan

Dear Daniel,

I strongly support a revision of the proposed Amendment to the Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan. It is very important when we do projects of this kind, to garner community input first. We support this important issue and want to be a part of the Red Fish project however, we would like to see it redesigned. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Kindest Regards,



Cecilia Jones  
District 2 Commissioner-**Chairwoman**  
552 Walton Rd  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433  
Telephone (850) 892-4020

CJ/ecs

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. You should note that most written communications to or from County officials regarding County business are public records that are available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communications may therefore be subject to public disclosure.

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2017 11:10 AM  
**To:** Faure, Benjamin; French, Jerri H.; Hatcher, Chuck; Mitchell, Matthew M.; Cutshaw, Steven  
**Cc:** Poplin, Warren; May, Linda; Murray, Sine  
**Subject:** RE: Call- Grayton Beach  
**Attachments:** Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan

**Importance:** High

Ben,

Thank you for sharing the update.

I received the email from Commissioner Jones yesterday evening. Please see the attached.

Regards,  
Daniel

---

**From:** Faure, Benjamin  
**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2017 10:41 AM  
**To:** French, Jerri H. <Jerri.H.French@dep.state.fl.us>; Hatcher, Chuck <Chuck.Hatcher@dep.state.fl.us>; Mitchell, Matthew M. <Matthew.M.Mitchell@dep.state.fl.us>; Murray, Sine <Sine.Murray@dep.state.fl.us>; Cutshaw, Steven <Steven.Cutshaw@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** Poplin, Warren <Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us>; May, Linda <Linda.May@dep.state.fl.us>; Alsentzer, Daniel <Daniel.Alsentzer@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** FW: Call- Grayton Beach

Good Morning Chuck:

I returned a call to Ms. Cobena, a resident of the Grayton Beach community. She requested contact information on behalf of Walton County Chairwoman Cecilia Jones, to send an email in opposition to the UMP amendment at Grayton Beach.

She (Ms. Cobena) was able to get in touch with Planner Daniel Alsentzer yesterday and she was informed that any comments could be directed to Park Planning. I also informed her that the Chairwoman is welcome to contact us directly either through Park Planning or at the District Office and we would be glad to forward her information through the proper channels.

Sincerely,

*Benjamin Faure*

Benjamin Faure, Assistant Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Parks District 1  
4620 State Park Lane  
Panama City, Florida 32408  
(850) 233-5110 Office

(850) 233-5147 Fax

**From:** May, Linda

**Sent:** Thursday, June 22, 2017 1:32 PM

**To:** Poplin, Warren <[Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Warren.Poplin@dep.state.fl.us)>; Faure, Benjamin <[Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Benjamin.Faure@dep.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** Call

Warren and Ben - Celeste Cobena called to talk to either one of you regarding the proposed changes to the UMP for Grayton. I told her you both might be out until Monday. She wanted Park Planning's number so I gave her Steve Cutshaw's number. Just a heads up. Linda

*Linda May*

OMC II

Florida Division of Recreation & Parks  
Department of Environmental Protection  
4620 State Park Lane  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408

Phone: (850) 233-5110

Visit The *Real Florida*<sup>sm</sup> at <http://www.floridastateparks.org>



## Baxley, Demi

---

**From:** Pat OBrien-Murphy <pobrienmurphy@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 23, 2017 12:49 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park

### **Re: Proposed amendment park management change Grayton State Park Meeting, June 13th 2017**

I would like to offer a qualified Thank you for the "public" meeting about the proposed changes to the Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan. Thank you for providing the personnel, time and expertise to explain to residents what the proposed changes may entail. I'm sad to say, however, that no thanks are in order for the inability of the attendees to voice questions and concerns to the audience at large.

We South Waltonians, as a community, rely on one another to discuss and articulate the questions and concerns about issues that affect us directly. We consistently find ourselves between a rock and a hard place when it comes to balancing jobs, the economy, conveniences and amenities, and the one thing that brought us here in the first place - the relatively unspoiled environment. So it was with great sadness that we learned that we could not share our collective thoughts at the meeting.

We love our community, and we love our beachy, forested, scrub and dune areas. So do the threatened and imperiled plants and animals that live in and/or visit our relatively unspoiled areas. This is why family and tourists continue to come to live and visit our area - not to see Disney's version of Florida but Florida the way it was when our parents and grandparents came. This is why we consistently have record-breaking visits to the state park and adjacent areas. We are the real Florida, and so we must ask - are we so short-sighted as to kill the Goose that laid the Golden Eggs?

If amending the UMP is the only way to get NRDA funds to purchase the Little Redfish Lake outfall, vote no. It's foolish to think that saving the outfall justifies compromising this pristine portion of the park. Increased day visitors to Little Redfish Lake means increased stress on the eastern portion of the park's native inhabitants, increased trash, increased off-trail impact, and decreased positive park experiences for paying cabin renters and their families. All of this would occur in an area that is not governed as well as the western portion of the park.

We know that South Walton's 30A is a popular and much visited corridor that is experiencing widespread development. This, in turn, has opened up job, tourism, and real estate opportunities, but if we don't balance these opportunities with preservation of natural areas we will lose our uniqueness and our ability to continue to garner tourism and tax dollars. Our dune lakes are a calling card for our area - rare, beautiful, and protected. Little Redfish Lake is tiny and fragile, and if we fail to protect even the smallest of our precious dune lakes by opening up the park to potentially overwhelming day use - shame on us.

Consider leaving the original UMP in place, and adding parking and recreational amenities to the more developed and ranger supervised eastern portion of the park. The TDC could certainly justify funds allocated for these improvements as easily as they could for the western portion of the park. In this win-win situation tourism parking and recreational opportunities would be increased, wildlife would be preserved, cabin renters would continue to enjoy a taste of the real Florida, and Grayton Beach State Park would maintain its reputation as one of the most beautiful and unspoiled parks in the state.

Respectfully Yours,  
Patricia O'Brien-Murphy

**Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Jay Siem <jaycsiem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 24, 2017 12:54 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Western Unit of Grayton Beach State Park Proposal  
**Attachments:** Little Redfish Lake.pdf



Date: June 10, 2017

To: Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks

From: The Homeowners Association of Bannerman Beach Estates  
President, David Knight: [dknight@WaltonCommunities.com](mailto:dknight@WaltonCommunities.com)  
Mobile: (678) 595-4300

Re: Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan Amendment, June 2017

The Bannerman community has great respect for the work your department does in protecting the coastal dune lakes and providing first class public access to those lakes that are spacious enough to accommodate the citizens and visitors to Walton County, however we strongly oppose the introduction of a paddle board launch and boardwalk to Little Redfish Lake, part of which adjoins our community. This unique and rare ecosystem, developed over thousands of years, is simply too small to handle the introduction of what could be many paddle boarders, paddle board festivals etc. Assuming 2 paddle boards per vehicle, the proposed 22 space parking area with two additional ADA spaces could introduce over 40 people into this tiny lake at any one time.

Many of us are avid paddle boarders. There are many larger lakes in the area that we enjoy using, particularly Western Lake, Lake Powell and Choctawhatchee Bay. These larger ecosystems are better able to handle the human element, picnic lunches, trash collection, restrooms, etc.

Little Redfish Lake contains many fresh and salt-water fish, including bream, bass, pan fish, catfish, redfish, flounder, speckled trout and mullet. An eagle nests near the western shoreline and a mature alligator also lives in the lake. Little Redfish Lake and it's serenity is the jewel of our community and we have always been good stewards and guardians over it.

Your own literature aptly describes the unique landscape surrounding the lake:

*“Embedded within the scrub several small natural communities occur, including depression marshes, mesic and wet flat woods, estuarine unconsolidated substrate and estuarine tidal marsh...[the] scrub community occurring adjacent to beach dunes is significant habitat for Choctawhatchee beach mouse.*

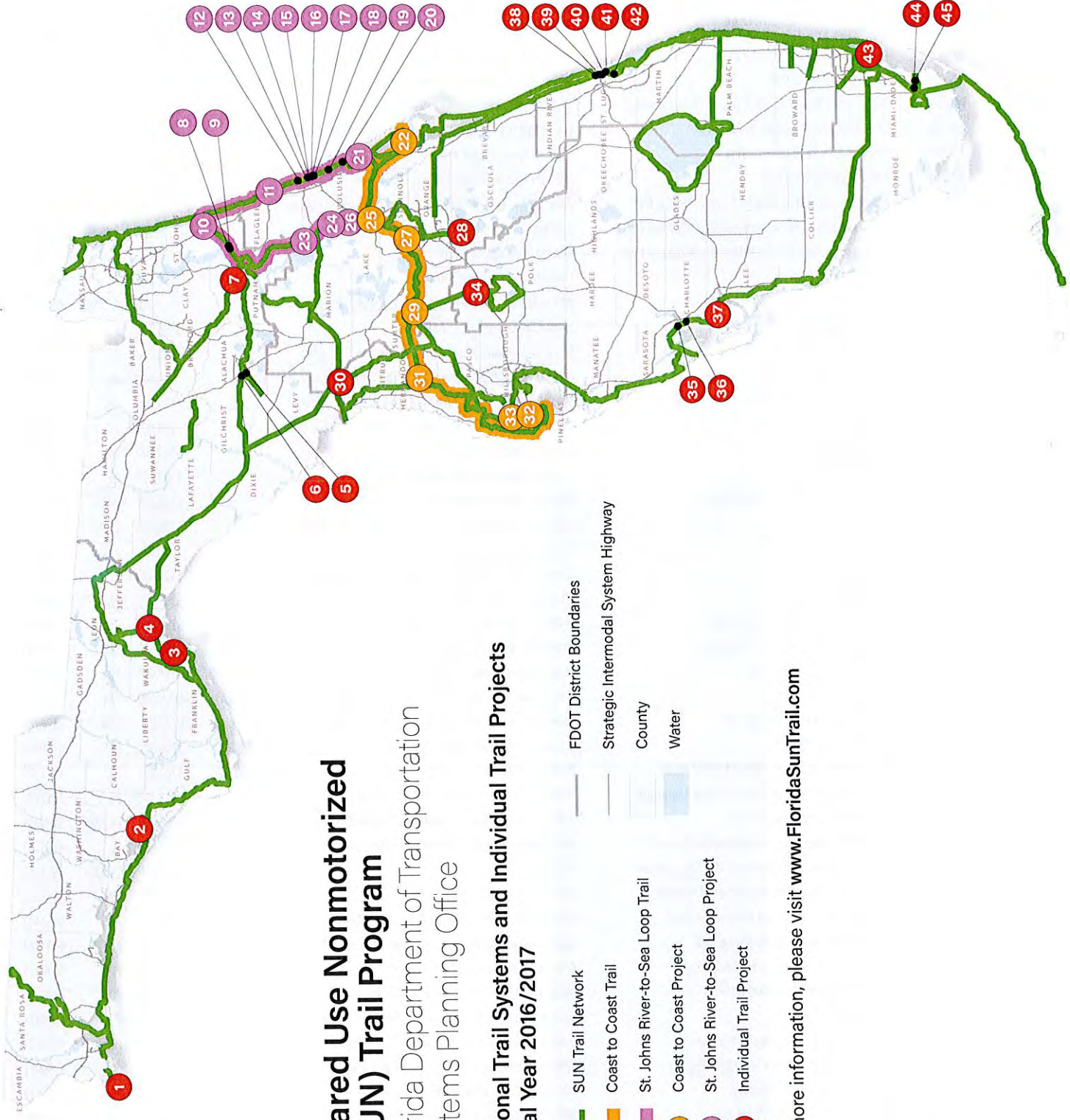
As you know, the beach mouse is endangered. Many rare plant varieties also grow in the park. It took a long time for Little Redfish Lake to become the treasure we see today. We feel strongly that it should be left alone.

Respectfully,

Bannerman Beach Estates



50 Miles



# Shared Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program

Florida Department of Transportation Systems Planning Office

## Regional Trail Systems and Individual Trail Projects Fiscal Year 2016/2017

- SUN Trail Network
- Coast to Coast Trail
- St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Trail
- Coast to Coast Project
- St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Project
- Individual Trail Project
- FDOT District Boundaries
- Strategic Intermodal System Highway
- County
- Water

For more information, please visit [www.FloridaSunTrail.com](http://www.FloridaSunTrail.com)





# Shared Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Program

Florida Department of Transportation  
Systems Planning Office



## Regional Trail Systems and Individual Trail Projects - Fiscal Year 2016/2017

ID	Tier	FDOT Dist.	Counties	Trail Name	Segment	Cost	Phase	FM Number
1	IND	3	Escambia	Perdido Key Multiuse Trail (SR 292)	Alabama State Line to State Park Entrance / Gongora Drive	\$1,123,144	PE	4389082
2	IND	3	Bay	Lynn Haven Rails to Trails	SR 75 (US 231) to East 10th Street	\$268,000	PE	4399281
3	IND	3	Wakulla	CC2S: Coastal Trail West: SR 30 (US 98) Coastal Highway	CR 372 / Surf Road to SR 61 (US 98)	\$800,000	PE	4399261
4	IND	3	Wakulla	CC2S: Coastal Trail East: SR 30 (US 98)	West of SR 363 Woodville Highway / St. Marks Trail to Lighthouse Road	\$200,000	PE	4399262
5	IND	2	Alachua	SR 24 / Archer Road Multiuse Trail	SW 76th Terrace to SW 41st Boulevard, Gainesville	\$450,000	PE	4399341
6	IND	2	Alachua	Tower Road Multiuse Trail	SW 26th Place to SW 8th Avenue, Gainesville	\$950,000	CON	4399331
7	IND	2	Putnam	Palatka to Lake Butler State Trail aka SR 100 Rail Trail	Roberts Lane to St. Johns River Water Management District	\$6,261,419	CON	4282023
8	SJR2C	2	St. Johns	Palatka to St. Augustine State Trail aka SR 207 Rail Trail	Putnam County Line to Hastings	\$2,217,575	CON	4357961
9	SJR2C	2	St. Johns	Palatka to St. Augustine State Trail aka SR 207 Rail Trail	Main St (Hastings) to SR 207 / Spuds	\$3,288,834	CON	2102868
10	SJR2C	2	St. Johns	SR 207 / A1A	End of trail to Flagler County Line	\$750,000	FS	4399321
11	SJR2C	5	Flagler	SR A1A	A1A or Alternate Route from S 26th Street to N 9th Street	\$600,000	FS, PDE	4398731
12	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Ormond Beach Gap	SR 40 from Cassen Park to A1A	\$300,000	FS	4398721
13	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 1: N Beach St	Sickler Drive from 350' south of 2nd Street to 2nd Street	\$20,000	PE	4398711
14	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 2: Ballough Bridge	Ballough Road Bridge approximately 0.01 miles north of Anita Avenue	\$20,000	PE	4398701
15	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 3: S Beach St	South Beach St from Marina Point Drive to Orange Avenue	\$100,000	PE	4398691
16	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 4: S Beach St	South Beach St from Bellevue Avenue to Marina Point Drive	\$65,000	PE	4398681
17	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 5: Donnelly Pl	Donnelly Place from Shady Place to Bellevue Ave	\$510,000	CON	4398671
18	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Daytona Beach Gap 6: S Beach St	South Beach St from Wilder Blvd to Shady Pl	\$100,000	PE	4398661
19	SJR2C	5	Volusia	New Smyrna to Port Orange Gap: US 1	US 1 from Canal St to Beville Rd	\$1,500,000	PDE	4398651
20	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Edgewater Gap	Dale Ave to 10th St	\$1,100,000	CON	4398631
21	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Oak Hill to Edgewater: US 1	US 1 at Kennedy Parkway to Dale Ave	\$800,000	PDE	4398621
22	C2C	5	Brevard	Space Coast Trail: Titusville	East end of Max Brewer Bridge to Merritt Island Refuge	\$300,000	PE	4361873
23	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Pierson Gap: SR 15 (US 17)	SR 15 (US 17) from Washington Ave to Palmetto Ave	\$300,000	PE	4398771
24	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Spring to Spring Gap: Deleon Springs	Grand Ave / Baxter St to SR 15 (US 17)	\$750,000	PE	4398751
25	C2C	5	Seminole/Volusia	Spring to Spring Trail: US 17 / 92 Bridge	Wayside Park to Lake Monroe Park	\$1,800,000	CON	4364341
26	SJR2C	5	Volusia	Spring to Spring Gap: Deland	Lake Beresford Park to Grand Ave	\$750,000	PDE	4398741
27	C2C	5	Orange	Orange Co Gap Segment 2	N Hiawasse Rd to N of SR 414 on SR 441 / Clarcona	\$2,000,000	PE	4364331
28	IND	5	Osceola	Shingle Creek Trail South Phase 1B	Palmetto Ave to southern limit of future Shingle Creek Phase 2B	\$2,230,000	CON	4398781
29	C2C	5	Lake	South Lake Trail Phase 4	Van Fleet State Trail to Villa City Rd (CR 565)	\$700,000	PE	4358931
30	IND	7	Citrus	HOFI: Withlacoochee-Dunnellon Trail Connector	North end of Withlacoochee State Trail to south end of Dunnellon Trail	\$280,000	PE	4373491
31	C2C	7	Hernando	Good Neighbor Trail Connector: Alternate Alignment	West Suncoast Parkway to SR 50 / Cortez Blvd, Brooksville	\$475,358	PE	4357201
32	IND	7	Pinellas	SWCC: Pinellas Trail Loop Phase 2	John Chestnut Park to Enterprise Rd, Palm Harbor	\$5,700,000	PE, CON	4400931
33	IND	7	Pinellas	SWCC: SR 60 / Courtney Campbell Cswy Ped Overpass	Courtney Campbell to Bayshore Trl Seg Ream Wilson Clearwater Trl	\$1,362,488	PE	4374981
34	IND	1	Polk	Van Fleet State Trail: Pedestrian Bridge Replacement	Polk City	\$251,000	PE, CON	4402351
35	IND	1	Charlotte	SWCC: Harborwalk Phase 1B Southern Boardwalk	SR 45 Gap, Charlotte Harbor	\$1,114,800	CON	4298202
36	IND	1	Charlotte	SWCC: North Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridge	US 41 and North Fork Alligator Creek, Punta Gorda	\$215,000	PE	4402341
37	IND	1	Lee	SWCC: Van Buren/El Dorado/Kismet Trail	Cape Coral Gap: Del Prado Blvd to Burnt Store Rd at Van Buren Pkwy	\$1,778,100	PE	4402361
38	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: Historic Downtown Ft. Pierce Retrofit	Georgia Avenue to A1A / N Causeway Dr	\$275,000	PDE	4400321
39	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: Historic Highwayman Trail Gap	Indian Hills Dr to Georgia Ave, Fort Pierce	\$100,000	PDE	4400341
40	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: FEC Overpass	Savannas Rec Area to S of Savannah Rd / Heathecote Gardens	\$275,000	PDE	4400331
41	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: Indian Hills Rec Area Trail Retrofit	South of Savannah Rd to Indian Hills Dr, Fort Pierce	\$80,000	PE	4399971
42	IND	4	St. Lucie	ECG-SE: Savannas Preserve State Park Gap	Walton Rd to Savannas Rec Area, Port St. Lucie	\$500,000	PDE	4399991
43	IND	6	Miami-Dade	ECG-SE: The Underline Segment A	SW 13th St to SW 19th Ave, Miami	\$1,445,000	PE	4355012
44	IND	6	Miami-Dade	Biscayne Trail Segment D, Phase 2	SW 117th Ave to SW 137th Ave, Homestead	\$122,825	PE	4398981
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Total Cost: \$44,434,543

<b>Tier</b>	<b>C2C: Coast to Coast</b>	<b>SJR2C: St. Johns River to Sea Loop</b>	<b>IND: Individual Project</b>
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**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Maurice Stouse <moe.stouse@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2017 4:32 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Plan Amendments: Letter for the Gulf Trace Owners Association  
**Attachments:** Gulf Trace Owners Association Position Jun 2017.docx



25 June 2017

Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Office of Park Planning  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd  
MS 525  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

[FL\\_StateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:FL_StateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Opposition to amendments for the Grayton Beach State Park Plan

While the Gulf Trace Owners Association and the Grayton Beach State Park have long been partners in protecting and preserving the beautiful and rare ecosystems that we share as neighbors, it is with regret that we must inform you that we strongly oppose much of the Division of Recreation and Parks' proposed Unit Plan Amendment of June 2017.

Gulf Trace has established itself as a strong, environmentally sensitive partner with the Park and share the Park's desire to provide increased public access to the area's beaches and believe adding parking spaces near the existing beach boardwalk is a good development; however, we are alarmed by the Park's proposal to allow camping sites with their inevitable fire hazards and the development of Little Redfish Lake that will eventually change the delicate and natural ecosystem of this rare coastal dune lake. Again, we understand people's desire to enjoy the lakes, but there is great pressure in Northwest Florida to continue the recreational sprawl that favors humans over endangered wildlife, rare flower and fauna and the serenity that makes Grayton Beach State Park so special. We would suggest utilizing the existing opportunities in the larger lakes and preserve Little Redfish Lake for future generations of people and animals.

We provide three points in our opposition to the proposals.

- 1) **Extreme fire hazard.** The northern street of Gulf Trace backs up to the state park. The building of camp sites produce predictable fire hazards which could lead to forest fires that would imperil all homes in Gulf Trace and potentially others. For practical reality, campers often enjoy a campfire along with an alcoholic refreshment. This is a bad combination for the inhabitants of the Park and Gulf Trace and the larger community, particularly during the dry season when winds could easily cause a fire to move very quickly and unpredictably.

Each year, state parks and recreation has cut a fire-break between the park and the houses in Gulf Trace. They have not controlled burned in this area as it is too risky to the homes in the neighborhood. It's clear from this Park practice that the Park recognizes the enormous risk of fire so close to houses. We appreciate there being no burn and submit that it is a known hazard. The Park providing tent camping immediately behind a neighborhood will increase dramatically the likelihood of fire and is completely inconsistent with the Park's own practice of not utilizing a controlled burn by Gulf Trace.

- 2) **Campers needing and wanting access to the beach:** The proposed camping sites would be along Forest Dunes Drive and it is foreseen that campers would take the route that would seem the quickest as well as the most logical to access the beach. The access for the public is far removed from the campsites, while the temptation to go the much shorter walk through our private neighborhood would be very strong. It is inevitable that the many of the Park campers would elect to access the roads and homes and yards of Gulf Trace. The owners of GTOA pay for the maintenance and upkeep of all roads, common areas and beach walkovers in Gulf Trace (all of which are not public). The assumption of risk, costs and any other issues cannot and should not be the responsibility of Gulf Trace homeowners.

Why can't the campsites be located away from subdivisions and homes such as ours? Grayton Beach State Park is significant in size and there is plenty of choice other than putting these sites right next to homes.

- 3) **Ecology:** Gulf Trace is among a select few areas along 30A that is considered turtle friendly. The homeowners have gone to expense and inconvenience to make this possible. Turtle nests already face decimation by storms, increasing the number of people in this area of the beach certainly poses additional threats. Most visitors do not know nor appreciate how to be turtle friendly...e.g. covering flashlights with colored wrap.

In addition, other wildlife feel the pressure of our human presence. Cars, littering, feeding of the animals...all diminish the ecosystem and safety of the deer, bear, eagles and other fauna. In addition, alligators live in Little Redfish Lake. It would seem only a matter of time that the increased presence of people in this small lake would lead to people and the alligator meeting. Eventually, the alligator will lose to people, but maybe only after someone is injured or worse. This is but a few of the impacts to the delicate ecosystem of which Gulf Trace is a part. And lastly, bathroom facilities. The plan calls for these facilities to be located at least a quarter mile from the campsites.

Sincerely,

Maurice Stouse  
President  
Gulf Trace Owners Association  
POB 1247  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
[moe.stouse@gmail.com](mailto:moe.stouse@gmail.com)

cc: Governor Rick Scott  
Florida State Senator George Gainer  
Florida State Representative Brad Drake  
Walton County Commissioner Tony Anderson  
Walton County Tourism Development Council Executive Director Jay Tusa  
Gulf Trace residents/owners



# Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Regional System

## Coast To Coast Trail Connector

State Of Florida Department of Transportation Systems Planning Office



### LEGEND

- Existing Trail
- Programmed or Funded for Construction
- Partially Funded for Pre-Construction Phases

### Existing Trail Name Project in Development

#### NOTES:

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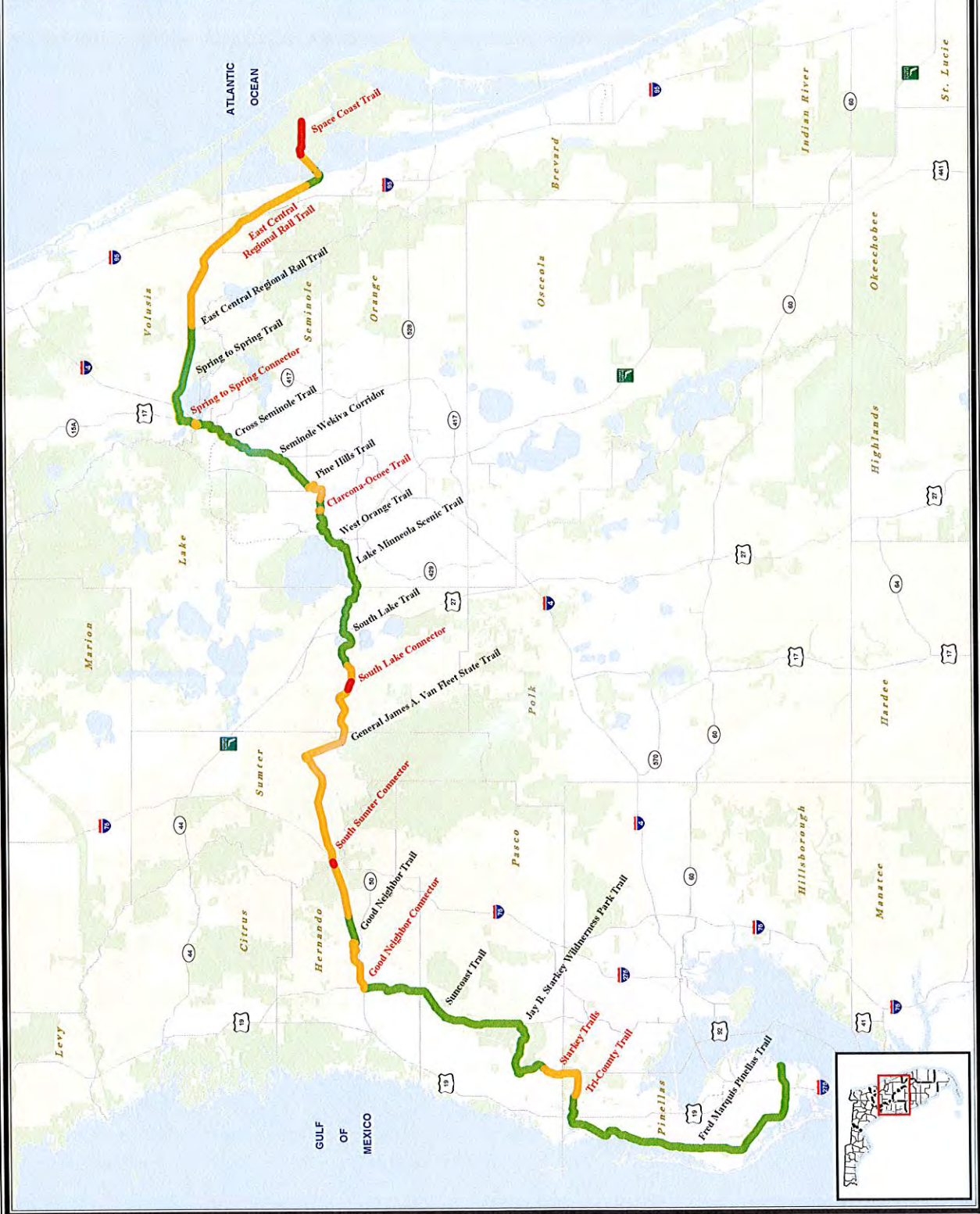
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Additional trail information may be obtained by contacting your local government.

Source:  
Florida Department of Transportation  
Systems Implementation Office  
Date: 5/22/2017

#### Existing Conditions

- SIS Highways
- Planned SIS roads
- County Boundaries
- Water
- Urban Areas
- Managed Lands



## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Clef Vaughan <clefvaughan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 6:36 AM  
**To:** Maurice Stouse  
**Cc:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Re: Grayton Beach State Park Plan Amendments: Letter for the Gulf Trace Owners Association

Well said, Moe!

Clef

On Sun, Jun 25, 2017 at 3:32 PM, Maurice Stouse <[moe.stouse@gmail.com](mailto:moe.stouse@gmail.com)> wrote:

--

Clef Vaughan  
Cell no 5014256117

**Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** nancy mchugh <nancybmch@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 1:56 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayson beach

I object to the amendment to changing the original amendment for graytonbeach state park. I'm a home owner and permanent resident of walton cO. Thank you. Nancy

B

Mchugh

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Allen, Matthew  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2017 6:02 PM  
**To:** Alsentzer, Daniel  
**Cc:** Poplin, Warren; Faure, Benjamin  
**Subject:** FW: Little Redfish

Daniel, FYI

**From:** Carl Valentino [mailto:carlvalentino@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 24, 2017 4:05 PM  
**To:** Allen, Matthew <Matthew.Allen@dep.state.fl.us>  
**Cc:** 'Maurice Stouse' <moe.stouse@gmail.com>; 'Richard Harrell' <ninedotsfl@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Little Redfish

Matt,

Please do not allow development of the Little Redfish area.

Please do not let anyone destroy a beautiful natural preserve.  
Please do not ruin the eagles hunting ground and lake.  
Please do not displace the deer, the panther, the bear, the many species of wildlife.  
Please do not put little kids in danger on paddle boards and kayaks on a lake with alligators and water moccasins.  
Please do not have people in tents on the ground where rattle snakes live.

Please do not allow development of the Little Redfish area.

Thanks in advance for your kind attention to my pleas.

Best regards,  
Carl  
Carl Valentino, PE  
Marketing, Sales and Applications Engineer  
71 Gulf Shore Drive  
Gulf Trace  
Santa Rosa, Beach, FL 32459  
[carlvalentino@comcast.net](mailto:carlvalentino@comcast.net)  
832.723.7545 cell

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Henry Barbour <hbarbour@capitolresourcesllc.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2017 6:37 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Unit Plan Amendment June 2017  
**Attachments:** Grayton Beach State Park Henry and Georgie Barbour letter.rtf

Please find our attached letter regarding the Unit Plan Amendment for Grayton Beach State Park, which is also pasted below. thank you.

June 27, 2017

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Park Planning  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd MSS25  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399 Via email: FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the Division of Recreation and Parks' proposed Unit Plan Amendment of June 2017.

We live in Gulf Trace, which is bordered by the Grayton Beach State Park to the west, north and east and by the Gulf of Mexico to the South. We bought our house here in 2008 and the stability of Grayton Beach State Park as a neighbor was a positive factor in our decision, because we never dreamt the Park would do anything inconsistent with the long-term interest of the State Park.

However, we fear your proposed plan is greatly flawed to the point of being dangerous for area homeowners and the beautiful animals and plants that inhabit Grayton Beach State Park.

In order to be brief, we will attempt to concisely share our concerns about the proposed amendment.

- Fire Hazard – This is the most dangerous part of your plan. It is inconceivable to us that the Park would invite people to camp with a campfire in the woods immediately adjacent to a neighborhood. As we understand it, the Park now bush hogs rather than conducts a controlled burn because of the obvious risk of burning down houses. This is a prudent and smart practice by the Park, and we are greatly alarmed that guests of the Park would be allowed to have campfires (and surely consume alcohol) in the same Park where your team has decided a controlled burn is a bad idea. And we have our doubts that there would be enough Park Rangers to patrol all this activity. This risk just seems wholly out of sync with the Park's goals and objectives.
- Campers in Gulf Trace – We are delighted to have Park guests stay in the cabins in the Park and utilize the Public Beach just to the west of Gulf Trace. This has worked well, and clearly there is ample room on the Public Beach for additional people, so we support your plan to add parking spaces for people to access the beach. However, the location of the campsites next to Forest Dunes Road will inevitably lead to campers walking the much shorter distance through Gulf Trace rather than through the State Park. We don't believe campsites make sense so close to a neighborhood (and the Park has many other areas not near neighborhoods), but really cannot begin to understand why you would locate the campsites right next to a neighborhood and far away from the beach access. This would seem to be inconvenient for your proposed campers and our neighborhood as people would certainly wander through our neighborhood to access the beach through our private streets and beach access.

- Finally, we find the development of Little Redfish Lake as one more environmental loss in a highly popular tourist destination that seems to have an insatiable appetite for more land, bigger buildings, more people and less natural habitat. This is clearly a defeat for preservation and conservation. If people want to paddleboat or canoe, have them go to the larger lakes in the Park rather than disturb this small coastal dune lake. It will quickly get overwhelmed. In addition, this encroachment into Little Redfish Lake would also put people at risk to an encounter with the adult alligator that lives there and likely end up pushing the gator from its home one way or another – much less the negative impact on other endangered and rare animals.

We are not members of the Not In My Backyard crew, but believe our concerns are simply based on what is best for local habitat of the Park and the adjacent neighborhoods. Gulf Trace has pro-actively established itself as a turtle friendly community and a good neighbor to the Park dating back nearly 40 years.

We urge the Park to reconsider its plan for the overall good.

Sincerely,

Henry and Georgie Barbour  
58 Gulf Ridge Drive  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
850.468.0157

**HENRY AND GEORGIE BARBOUR  
58 GULF RIDGE DRIVE  
SANTA ROSA BEACH, FL 32459**

June 27, 2017

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Park Planning  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd MS S25  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399      Via email: FLStateParkPlanning@dep.state.fl.us

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However, we fear your proposed plan is greatly flawed to the point of being dangerous for area homeowners and the beautiful animals and plants that inhabit Grayton Beach State Park.

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We urge the Park to reconsider its plan for the overall good.

Sincerely,

Henry and Georgie Barbour  
58 Gulf Ridge Drive  
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
850.468.0157



## **Baxley, Demi**

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**From:** Chuck Young <c.young@mindspring.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2017 9:19 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** GBSP Unit Management Plan Amendment June 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

As property owners at 112 Savelle Drive in the Gulf Trace Subdivision, we are responding to the current plan for the Grayton Beach State Park.

We oppose the current plan for the following reasons:

--The proposed tent camping sites that are in close proximity to Forest Dunes Blvd. Pose a major fire hazard for the adjoining property owners.

--It is clear to all that the campers will take the shortest route to the beach from the campsites. They will not go through the park to the approved beach access but will use the Gulf Trace access to the beach.

--Little Redfish Lake should be protected at all costs. Opening it to recreation is just a bad idea.

This plan has too many flaws and should not be implemented.

Chuck and Pat Young  
404-521-2824

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Patty Reeder <Patty@Stonescapes.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 10:30 AM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** GRAYTON BEACH STATE PARK

**Importance:** High

I have been hearing about a proposed facility going in at LITTLE REDFISH LAKE. Can only imagine what kind of damage that would do to the existing area plus the impact it would have on the parking, traffic, etc. in that already congested area. If any area needs a restroom facility, paddle board launch etc it is the area around Western lake that is currently being used by property owners who have a pass to drive on the beach. Improve that area rather than ruining a pristine area that should be left alone.

PATRICIA A. REEDER (PATTY)  
STONE SCAPES INC.  
139 BAY GROVE RD.  
FREEPORT , FL 32439  
850-974-4889  
patty@stonescapes.org

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** Melinda Gates <GatMelinda@co.walton.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 1:33 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Cc:** Channing St. Aubin (channing\_staubin@fws.gov); Charlie Reichman; David Lovell; Debbie Heard (dlgheard@gmail.com); Joe Mustachio; Marsha Anderson; Mike Bowden  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach Unit Management Plan Update Comment

On behalf of the Coastal Dune Lake Advisory Board, Walton County, the following comment is submitted for your consideration:

The Coastal Dune Lake Advisory Board of Walton County supports the purchase of the Little Redfish Lake property associated with the Natural Resources Damage Assessment project. The purchase of this property meets one of the many goals identified in the 2008 Coastal Dune Lake Management Plan. This Board has received many concerns from the public on the potential detrimental effects the proposed improvement plan will have on Little Redfish lake and the natural habitat of the area. Therefore, in lieu of the current proposed *improvement* plan, the CDLAB recommends the State adhere to the access improvements *and other features* identified in the 2013 Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan.

Coastal Dune Lake Advisory Board Members Include:

Marsha Anderson  
Mike Bowden  
Debbie Heard  
Adrian (Dave) Lovell  
Joe Mustachio  
Charlie Reichman  
Channing St. Aubin

Thank you,  
-Melinda

Melinda Gates  
Environmental Specialist  
"Coastal Resource Liaison"  
Walton County Board of County Commissioners  
Public Works Department  
Environmental Section  
117 Montgomery Circle  
Defuniak Springs, FL 32435  
Phone: (850)892-8108  
Fax: (850)892-8094

## **Baxley, Demi**

---

**From:** Melinda Gates <GatMelinda@co.walton.fl.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Unit Management Plan

Please be advised the Walton County is full support of the purchase of the 7 acre parcel located adjacent to Little Redfish Lake associated with the NRDA Phase 5 project. The purchase of this parcel will meet one of the many goals outlined in the 2008 Coastal Dune Lake Management Plan as well as provide additional public beach access in Walton County.

Thank you for your consideration of the proposed project.

Thank you,  
-Melinda

Melinda Gates  
Environmental Specialist  
"Coastal Resource Liaison"  
Walton County Board of County Commissioners  
Public Works Department  
Environmental Section  
117 Montgomery Circle  
Defuniak Springs, FL 32435  
Phone: (850)892-8108  
Fax: (850)892-8094

## Baxley, Demi

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**From:** alanesiem@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 2:16 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach State Park Western Unit

As a home owner in both Bannerman located on the west edge of Little Red Fish and Gulf Trace located in front of Grayton Beach State Park, we feel we are impacted negatively by the proposed developments. We do believe that more people should have access to the beautiful beaches in Walton County. We also believe the dune lakes are unique and fragile & must be protected and preserved.

Strongly against padding launch on Little Red Fish Lake.

Fragile eco system

Wild life - alligators, eagles, mice, turtles, etc.

Too small an area for paddle boarding or kayaking Destruction of the dunes - you can't control where people will forge their own trails

In favor of observation deck.

Strongly against 12 camping sites

FOREST Fire - one cigarette butt or one fire 🔥 gone wild and you will not only burn down the forest but put at risk all the home in Gulf Trace.

Security - how will you secure the Gulf Trace Community from theft and mischievous activities?

Unwanted traffic - how will you control campers using the designated walk ways and not using the roads through Gulf Trace to get access to the beach? How will you control bicycles from using the roads in Gulf Trace & where they park their bikes? Since the recent ordinance change, we are dealing with people riding their bikes into Gulf Trace and parking them in our driveway and damaging the facade of our house. People do NOT respect the private property of others.

We are in favor of directing campers and day trippers to the existing boardwalk to gain access to the beach. The long stretch of beach is wide open for people to use. BUT not in front of Gulf Trace which is crowded with vacationers and renters.

For 12 camping sites, you take on a lot of risk vs. the reward. We do NOT believe it will be possible to prevent forest fires, damages to the dunes and Little Red Fish Lake, and control where people will roam.

Thank you,  
Alane Siem

Sent from my iPad

## Baxley, Demi

---

**From:** Jack Hanes <jhanes1953@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 2:40 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Grayton Beach development proposal

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to provide some comments regarding the proposed developments to the west end of Grayton Beach State Park. I wholeheartedly support the purchase of the additional land in order to preserve it from development. Currently, Walton County Florida is seeing unprecedented popularity of its beaches! The acquisition of several hundred feet of additional beach dedicated to public use is sorely needed.

However, the proposed boardwalk access and potential impact on Big Redfish Lake gives me great concern! Currently, this particular coastal dune lake is one of the least developed and most pristine examples of these rare coastal dune lakes. The addition of a boardwalk and launching area for kayaks and paddle boards will, certainly, have a very adverse affect on the virtually undisturbed ecosystem of this particular lake. In addition, I would like to remind you that this particular lake has a very long history of alligator infestation, something that would not mix well with kayakers and paddle boarders!

So, in conclusion, I am supportive of and very grateful for the purchase of this additional land and it's dedication as part of Grayton Beach State Park. However, I am opposed to the boardwalk and any potential increased use of Little Redfish Lake.

Respectfully,  
Jack Hanes, president  
Sanctuary by the Sea Condominium Association

Sent from my iPad

## Baxley, Demi

---

**From:** Jack Hanes <jhanes1953@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 28, 2017 2:44 PM  
**To:** FLStateParkPlanning  
**Subject:** Re: Grayton Beach development proposal

I apologize for a mistaken reference in my email comments below. I was referring to little redfish Lake, not big redfish Lake.

Jack Hanes

Sent from my iPad

> On Jun 28, 2017, at 1:40 PM, Jack Hanes <jhanes1953@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> To whom it may concern,

>

> I am writing to provide some comments regarding the proposed developments to the west end of Grayton Beach State Park. I wholeheartedly support the purchase of the additional land in order to preserve it from development. Currently, Walton County Florida is seeing unprecedented popularity of its beaches! The acquisition of several hundred feet of additional beach dedicated to public use is sorely needed.

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>

> Respectfully,

> Jack Hanes, president

> Sanctuary by the Sea Condominium Association

>

> Sent from my iPad

## Baxley, Demi

---

**Subject:** FW: Expansion of Grayton Beach State Park West  
**Attachments:** FW: Expansion of Grayton Beach State Park West

**From:** Colleen Castille [<mailto:colleen@colleencastille.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, June 30, 2017 3:33 PM

**To:** Murray, Sine <[Sine.Murray@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Sine.Murray@dep.state.fl.us)>; Martin, Diane <[Diane.Martin@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Diane.Martin@dep.state.fl.us)>; Sturtevant, Toni <[Toni.Sturtevant@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Toni.Sturtevant@dep.state.fl.us)>; Woolam, Scott <[Scott.Woolam@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Scott.Woolam@dep.state.fl.us)>

**Cc:** Reardon, Bevin <[Bevin.Reardon@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Bevin.Reardon@dep.state.fl.us)>

**Subject:** RE: Expansion of Grayton Beach State Park West

Dear Sine,

Thank you so much for the info on the Grayton Beach State Park Expansion. I was unable to attend the meeting at which

You presented the expansion plan for the park.

However, I was able to get the plans.

The sand scrub oak hammock ecosystem which particularly lies south of the 30A is an endangered ecosystem (we don't have a

Category for the in the endangered species law). It is a good thing the state bought the land, but it isn't just to protect the

Public right to access the beach. It is to protect the species that live within the ecosystem. I am disappointed that the plans are

Now to further impact this ecosystem. The whole expansion plan is ill advised in my opinion. I do however disagree with your

First thought that my opinion may be somewhat of the NIMBy issue. I will validate below.

Those of you who have been around long enough may recall that I was secretary of the DEP when the cabins were first Built. The Gulf Trace neighborhood was fully opposed to them. By me talking to my neighbors in Gulf Trace, we were able to get the Cabins and dune walkover built finally agreed to. In part, we said that it would be just like another low density neighborhood and would not impact our neighborhood.

So while I can tell you that I do not support the expansion of daily public access on this location, I can tell you it is for the ecosystem

And not because of our neighborhood.

I spend enough time walking and exploring this area with my grand nieces and nephews that I can tell you that what you are doing

Is the very thing that DEP is not supposed to be doing. Your new mission in part states that you desire toe "enhance ecosystems."

Your plan does not enhance the ecosystem but in fact begins the destruction of it. This is not a planted pine forest. It is a natural

Balanced ecosystem, that supports species that we see everyday. The placement of the tent sites are right smack dab in the middle of

A local herd of deer. My grand kids leap up in the morning so we can get an early look at the deer walking across the road to access Alligator

Lake. There are black bears that traverse the forest to avoid people, but if you are early and quiet you can see them.



Each species you eliminate by virtue of placing human habitation structures in place begins the slow decline of the web of species that depend Upon it.

I highly recommend that you find a new plan to expand public access.

Warm Regards,

Colleen M. Castille  
3209 Adwood Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
850.566.5791  
[Colleen@ColleenCastille.com](mailto:Colleen@ColleenCastille.com)



308 North. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 222-2473  
fl.audubon.org

June 13, 2017

Gary Clark, Deputy Secretary for Land and Water  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Proposed infrastructure development at Grayton Beach State Park

Dear Mr. Clark:

Audubon was concerned to learn of a proposal to add additional recreational infrastructure to the western unit of Grayton Beach State Park, which will be the subject of a public meeting in Walton County this evening. We understand that this infrastructure is proposed to be funded by Walton County to provide additional public access and as a companion to the proposed NRDA acquisition of seven acres of beach frontage around the adjacent outfall of Little Redfish Lake.

While the acquisition would make a nice addition to Grayton Beach State Park, it is not appropriate to develop this infrastructure on the western unit of the park.


The western unit of Grayton Beach State Park represents some of the last, quality coastal scrub in Walton County. Much of this habitat type has been converted to housing in the region, and the habitat on this parcel warrants protection on behalf of all Floridians for whom it is held in trust.

In addition to the direct footprint of the infrastructure, the proposed level of recreational use will be challenging for the limited park staff to manage from their location at the main entrance unit of the park. Without onsite staffing, use is likely to exceed projections and come at the expense of the site's resources.

The park's unit management plan never identified this unit as a good candidate for additional recreational development—in part because of its ecological value and in part because of its management challenges. There are many recreational improvements already recommended for the main entrance unit of the park in the existing Unit Management Plan (UMP). If recreational improvements are necessary to justify the use of NRDA recreational use funds on the dune outfall acquisition, then the improvements should be made in accordance with the existing UMP at the main entrance unit of the park.

While we are sympathetic to Walton County's desire to increase coastal public access, Grayton Beach State Park's western unit is serving an important public purpose by protecting this important habitat and low impact public experience. Audubon does not support the proposed expansion of recreational infrastructure in the western unit, and encourages DEP to invest instead in implementing the recreational elements already identified in the Grayton Beach State Park UMP at the main entrance.

Sincerely,



Julie Wraithmell  
Deputy Executive Director

Cc: Daniel Alsentzer, Park Planning