

Jonathan Dickinson State Park Unit Management Plan Amendment

INTRODUCTION

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

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

PLAN AMENDMENT

Overview

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

Best Practices

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

CONCEPTUAL LAND USE PLAN

Northeast Tract – Public Golfing Area

Objective: Increase public access to recreational golfing opportunities.

Action:

- Leverage existing improved lands and adjacent uplands suitable for the design and construction of public golf courses and associated facilities.

This concept proposes the design and improvement of lands for a public golf facility. All facilities will be designed and developed in harmony with the surrounding natural environments and will meet or exceed standards provided by the DEP/University of Florida IFAS Best Management Practices or the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program Standards. The proposed improvements include two separate outdoor recreation spaces, one alongside the existing Florida East Coast Railway (FECR) Corridor extending to U.S. Highway 1 and another within the northeastern portion of the park. Allowable improvements include publicly accessible golf course facilities, related amenities, and facilities to support operations.

**Jonathan Dickinson State Park
Unit Management Plan Amendment**

Considerations:

- The proposed improvements between the FECR corridor and U.S. Highway 1 may necessitate the relocation of existing park entrance, management office complex, staff residences, and other ancillary facilities. Facility relocations should be prioritized in other park areas east of the FECR corridor, given the existing proximity to utilities and public roadways.
- A non-operational radar facility will need to be removed, as well as the Hobe Mountain observation tower, which has been closed due to safety concerns.
- Avoidance of sensitive habitat will be priority in the design of the proposed facilities.

DRAFT