

Anastasia 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 Anastasia 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

Anastasia Lodge

Objective: Expand overnight accommodations beyond traditional camping.

Actions:

- *Design and develop a park lodge.*

Development of a park lodge, with up to 350-room capacity, is proposed in the southern portion of the park within functional vicinity of the Beach Access Area. This general location is east of the campground and south of the beach access parking where a borrow pit that was dug prior to park acquisition offers a potentially viable site for a portion of the lodge and associated infrastructure. Viewshed from the lodge would include maritime hammock, dune ridges, and Atlantic beach. Design considerations will further include separation from the campground to ensure distinct recreational experiences.

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Considerations:

- These proposals entail evaluation and avoidance of critical wildlife habitat that is distributed throughout portions of Anastasia State Park.

Salt Run Use Area

Objective: Introduce new recreation facilities.

Actions:

- *Design and develop pickleball courts.*
- *Design and develop a disc golf course.*

Construction of up to four pickleball courts and a disc golf course in the general area east of the main park drive – adjacent to the north side of the Salt Run Use Area – is proposed. Users may utilize the existing parking associated with the Salt Run Use Area, which is currently used primarily by paddlers. The new user group may park on the north end of this existing parking area, while paddlers may typically park toward the south. If necessary, parking may be expanded. An existing restroom adjacent to the parking area may be considered for upgrade or expansion as necessary to accommodate the increased recreational activity.