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Re: CRA Board Meeting Reminder Kayak Launch

Thursday, May 21, 2009 4:32 PM

From:

"info@floridakayakcompany.com" <info@floridakayakcompany.com>

To: (deleted) CRA Mailing List

Hello all,

I see two items dealing with kayak launches. Here are some links which you might find helpful.

[OpenLands.org All About Canoe & Kayak Launches](#)

and

[National Park Service Design Standards for Canoe & Kayak Launches](#)

Please keep in mind that an effective design is site based, that is, what might be appropriate for Kings Bay Park might not be the optimum design for Hunter's Spring. Whichever design is selected the key to it working will be adequate capacity. In the winter months there may be a hundred or more kayaks launched from Hunter's Spring on a Saturday. Trying to funnel that kind of traffic down a one lane ramp is impossible.

A converted boat ramp design is the least desirable of all options. The most preferred is a beach launch with a hard bottom and gradual slope. Please also give consideration to having a large enough loading and unloading zone and an adequate staging area.

From our perspective the current launch at Hunter's Spring is almost ideal as it is. The only way it could be better is to have a designated staging area near the sand bar and a better way down to the sand.

The Kings Bay Park kayak launch is more problematic. It is very narrow and generally very slippery. One must often dodge fishing lines coming off the adjacent pier. I personally have had pier fishermen harass my group when trying to launch from this site. The other consistent problem has been with the city's concessionaire pre-empting large areas outside their lease. Picnic tables take up most of the potential staging area and often block the ramp as well. Vehicle access to the launch is often blocked with concessionaire's or their customers' vehicles and they often stage their own rentals kayaks and canoes on the launch itself making it difficult to use the launch without moving their gear out of the way. I understand a new concessionaire is about to take over and I hope these issue will be addressed.

If we can be of service in reviewing the launch designs, please let us know. We currently maintain a mailing list of almost 300 paddlers who are more than happy to share their thoughts. With some forethought, Crystal River could be a mecca to paddlers much like Inverness and the [Withlacoochee](#).

State Trail is to cyclists.

Sincerely,

Matt & Sue Clemons
Aardvark's Florida Kayak Company, Inc
Crystal River
