

Wekiva River Natural Resource and Recreation Assessment

Project:

Wekiva Wild and Scenic River User Capacity Study

Client:

Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Advisory Management Committee

Project Team:

Exum Associates, Barth Associates, DeLoach Engineering Science, and the University of Florida

Challenges:

- The 41.6-mile Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System lies just north of the Orlando metropolitan area, and experiences high recreational use
- Multiple agencies and private entities own land and operate recreational facilities along the River, and a coordinated effort was needed to implement a comprehensive approach to management

Accomplishments:

- Captured existing conditions with site photos, GoPro videos, stakeholder interviews, GIS maps and GPS tracks of the River System,
- Documented environmental degradation from recreational use,
- Conducted a User Survey of recreationists in the River System,
- Defined Desired Future Conditions for facilities, river conditions and the user experience,
- Created a process for monitoring Indicators of Success and
- Recommended actions to protect natural resources and enhance the user experience.

An Executive Summary was created to capture the most important aspects of the Study. See the full document [HERE](#).



CONVERSION AND ALTERATION OF NATURAL COMMUNITIES NEAR RECREATION SITES (in acres)

River Segment/ Classification	Conversion	Alteration	Natural	Total
Rock Springs Run				
Recreational	44.8	35.8	774.4	855
Wild	0	0	2,008.4	2,008.4
Wekiwa Springs Run and Wekiva River				
Recreational	426.9	42.5	1,168.4	1,637.8
Wild	106.2	5.1	3,798	3,909.3
Black Water Creek				
Recreational	80.2	0	410.5	490.7
Scenic	17.1	0	2,016.4	2,033.5
Wild	229.8	0	2,969.9	3,199.7
Totals	905	83.4	13,146	14,134.4



Assignment

Exum Associates led a User Capacity Study to ensure that river recreation does not cause environmental impacts or user conflicts and is compatible with the qualities of a National Wild and Scenic River.



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