JEKYLL ISLAND
CLAM CREEK PICNIC GROUNDS - JEKYLL CAMPGROUND
Jekyll Island, at 5,700 ACRES, is the smallest of Georgia's barrier islands; located in Glynn County, just southeast of the city of Brunswick and south of St. Simons Island. The western side of the Island is fronted by Jekyll Creek and salt marsh, while the eastern portion is decorated by sandy beaches of the Atlantic Ocean. Jekyll Island has a diverse and rich history. It has never been determined who the first occupants of the island were, but assumably small groups of Native American hunter-gatherers seasonally inhabited the island some time around 2,500 B.C. By A.D. 1540 a majority of the Georgia coast, including Jekyll Island, had become populated by the Guale Indians, to later be occupied by European settlers.

In 1733, James Oglethorpe and the passengers aboard the Anne established the English colony of Georgia, in present-day Savannah. The colony quickly grew and immediate conflict developed with the Spanish colony of Florida. Oglethorpe rallied tens of soldiers to serve as Georgia's defense and dispatched troops to St. Simons Island to establish a town and fortress known as Frederica. Of the men serving to construct Frederica, a man by the name of WILLIAM HORTON was one of them. Horton was a significant leader during the events that occurred during the mid 1730's and was eventually promoted to the rank of major and was put in command of the troops assigned to Frederica. Later, in April of 1736, Horton was granted 500 acres by the Trustees of the Georgia colony. Of the 500 ACRES awarded to Horton, he took claim to the Island we know of as JEKYLL. By 1737, Horton had established residency on the island, raising cattle and brewing beer until he passed in 1748. The remains of his house can still be found and has been recognized as one of the OLDEST STRUCTURES in Georgia history.

Over the next few decades, Jekyll had a number of owners, until 1792 when the island was purchased by the SAPELO COMPANY, which was made up of four French landowners, among them CHRISTOPHE DUBIGNON. From 1800 to 1886 DuBignon and his descendants were the principle owners, with AGRICULTURE as the primary activity for the island. By 1879, John Eugene DuBignon, a grandson of Christophe and survivor of his father Joseph bought all four parcels. John Eugen and his brother-in-law Newton Finney purchased the land with the idea of forming a hunting club for wealthy northerners. The two eventually sold the island to the newly incorporated JEKYLL ISLAND CLUB, with their exclusive idea in mind. Between 1888 and 1928 wealthy northerners joined the club, building late Victorian style cottages across the landscape. Because of the concentration of prominent business leaders, Jekyll has been the scene of a variety of historical events. The Jekyll Island Club prospered into the 1930's but soon lost life due to national events such as the Great Depression and World War II. By 1947, THE STATE OF GEORGIA PURCHASED the entirety of Jekyll Island, opening it to the public as a state park.

The JEKYLL ISLAND AUTHORITY has owned and operated the State Park since 1950. The island has become renowned for the preservation of its natural and historic resources. Its beaches are a constant source of entertainment and a destination for many travelers. Clam Creek Park sits on the Northern end of the island, with its winding road weaving through an oak-saw palmetto forest, leading to an active picnic ground. Vast marsh land lies on the western and eastern portion of the site, applicable for crabbing, fishing, and kayaking, while at the northen end you will find a large fishing pier that extends out into the Brunswick River. Clam Creek Park is one of three picnic areas on the island that offers fishing, horseback riding, covered and uncovered picnic areas, grills, walking/jogging trails and access to the infamous Driftwood Beach.
CLAM CREEK PICNIC AREA

- Living shoreline development to address erosion issues
  Enhance existing Parking lot
  Clam Creek Bike Path Bridge
- Improve circulation throughout the site
  Separation between vehicular and pedestrian (foot & bike) traffic
  Create fluid horse riding routes
  Address the bike path bridge erosion issues
- Upgrade the Access/Uses of the Salt Marsh
  Incorporate blue trail / kayak launch sites
  Crabbing/Fishing platforms
- Picnic Area Restoration
  Additional shade structures
  Group picnic platforms
  Active playground; swings, play mounds, metal slides
- Green Initiatives
  Minimal impact to trees
  Make use of native wetland grasses and plant materials
  Eco-Friendly equestrian trails along the Clam Creek Bridge

JEKYLL ISLAND CAMPGROUND

- Develop available 12 acres to increase the campgrounds
  Primitive campsites in live oak rich areas
  Install up-to-date bathrooms and laundry facilities
  Available Wi-Fi hotspots
- Dog Park
  ½ acre to ¾ acre in size
  Maintain security for campers
- Explore existing campground to consider greater buffers
  Minimize the number of camper locations
  RV campgrounds are pull through with power & sewage hook up
- Clubhouse
  Seating for at least 50 campers
  Include amenities; bathrooms, showers, vending machines, etc.
- Provide additional seasonal storage for RV’s
- Connection to Clam Creek Park
  Access to blue trail / kayak launch
  Picnic accessibility

PROJECT STATEMENT

Develop an integrated master plan that reconnects the Clam Creek experience with the natural roots of Jekyll Island’s coastal environment. The design will focus on revitalizing the current living shoreline, enhancing circulation, accessibility, and integrating creative design solutions to update public activity zones, while preserving the existing natural habitats for wildlife.
Clam creek park is surrounded by the ocean shoreline resulting in a variety of land uses. An unstable living shoreline, erodes the northernmost point, while the marshland to the East and West are constant flood zones. Areas marked in grey identify soil suitable for development.

Along the coast, storm surge is often the greatest threat to life and property from a hurricane. Storm surge is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tides. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) has identified the effects of different category storms, charting potential flood zones.
A majority of Jekyll Island is covered by a mixed oak-saw palmetto forest and natural salt marshes that creep in from the coast. Clam Creek Park embodies all aspects of Jekyll Islands landscape. Live oaks provide heavy amounts of shade and spread across the sites canopy, while low growing palmetto bushes cover the ground. To the East undisturbed marsh land provides endless fishing and crabbing opportunities.

Jekyll Island is relatively flat, with very little elevation change. The land averages between .01 and .04% grade change. Areas with the greatest slope do not impact our design site, with Clam Creek Park and Jekyll Island Campground sitting on a slightly varying level grade. Drastic elevation changes seem to occur between intersections of salt marsh and dry ground.
Jekyll Island Campground has always been a simple and naturalistic camping area. People flock to the area for its live oak tree cover and easy access to Clam Creek Park and Driftwood Beach. The friendly campground is lined with sandy roads and scattered bollards/signs. Updating bollards/signs and planting boxes could REFRESH the driving paths and reduce circulation confusion. The addition of a dog park and an EXTENSION to the primitive camping grounds will add to the Jekyll Island Campgrounds.

Clam Creek Park is in need of a RESTORATION. The existing conditions of the site are beginning to deteriorate. Along the shoreline, temporary erosion control (1) was put into place but the recycled rip rap has begun to fail. The existing parking lot (2) has undergone intense amounts of erosion and will need to be restored. Further into the picnic grounds you will find green tin roofed, tabby columned picnic seating (3) and asphalt walk/bike paths (6). Further to the East the bike trail bridge (4) has undergone several years of wear and tear and will benefit from an UPGRADE.
Clam Creek Park provides a designer with endless opportunities. In this first concept, I have removed the main parking lot and scattered single space parking along the entry drive in order to optimize the views and buildable land in the northeast corner of the site. Vehicular circulation retains its original form, while pedestrian foot traffic now weaves freely throughout the park. Adding kayak, fishing, and crabbing platforms extends the park’s limits further into the marsh and allows users to interact with the wetlands. With the parking lot relocated, an interactive lawn sits above the marshland providing scenic views out into the marsh and sound. The interactive lawn caters to any variety of activities, from tanning to frisbee or bocce to concerts; the possibilities are endless. The picnic grounds still lie in their previous location but now become the central gathering space below a newly designed greeting plaza, located near the pier. All in all, the concept on the left expands Clam Creek’s potential and utilizes the prime real estate previously hidden beneath the asphalt. The combination of open lawn space and living shorelines encompassing the park livens the atmosphere and motivates people to explore and learn about their surroundings.
Conceptual diagram number two tackles a number of issues addressed by the Jekyll Island Authority. Instead of removing the 50+ space parking lot, I intend to restore and improve the existing lot. To address the continuous erosion impeding against the parking asphalt; implementing gabion mesh baskets filled with recycled oyster shells along the coast will act as a buffer between tides and help regenerate the weakened soil. Vehicular circulation is limited to just the parking lot and picnic grounds; offering a drop off point to unload and reload picnic supplies near the existing covered picnic tables. Reducing vehicular traffic near the pier allows pedestrians/fisherman to walk freely without the worry of cars and open up the space for informational boards and monuments. The concept also introduces equestrian friendly paths that are subtle on horse hoofs and provide riders with a scenic route through the marsh. Although, this concept remains simple it is the addition of boardwalks, plazas, and restructured circulation that improves Clam Creek Park for the better.
Clam Creek Park is surrounded by water and wildlife on all sides. The parks only interaction with the water is from the large fishing pier located at northern most point of the island. This concept dives into the possibilities of expanding the parks relationship with the water and venturing into the existing marshlands and providing access into the creeks that are flush with wildlife. Incorporating boardwalks, kayak drop ins, crabbing platforms, and fishing docks in and around Clam Creek expands the parks usability. The best real estate on the property is covered in an asphalt parking lot; I intend to remove the eye sore and relocate parking further inland and hide the cars amongst the live oaks. An activity field, that is suitable for all ages, will replace the existing parking lot. In order to create interactions between park visitors and wildlife, we will cut into the existing coastline and construct a living shoreline. Not only will the living shoreline bring wildlife right to your feet but it will also reduce the effect of soil erosion the ocean is having on the coast.
The Jekyll Island Campground focuses predominantly on the RV camper's experience. Concept one intends to improve both vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the forefront of the site. Allowing for comfortable passage to and from the Clam Creek Picnic Grounds. A newly renovated welcome center will rejuvenate the entrance and provide better security to the grounds. Concept one also embodies the installation of a dog park that can be used by both campers and the public. A fully interactive dog park provides guests with a safe environment for their pets to freely exercise in a closed off environment. An expansion into the untapped acreage on the northeast side of the site allows for a full wilderness experience for car and backpack campers. Separation from the main RV grounds allows primitive campers to feel as if they are in the middle of the forest. Concept one's layout utilizes the existing conditions of the site and only asks for slight alterations to the existing hardscape design.
Conceptual diagram number two for the Jekyll Island Campground also retains the original RV parking layout but with them added proposal for additional parking, located near the front entry. Single lane, one way traffic roads will weave into the site allowing for simplified circulation and less confusion, helping reduce the number of way finding signs. A dog park and primitive camping also can be found in this concept. The dog park is now located on the eastern side of the site, posing the possibility to make it 2-3 acres instead of just a single acre. Primitive camping nestles in-between the RV grounds and untapped forest making it easy for campers to find parking within the site and access their designated camping platform. Concept two also proposes the idea to incorporate hiking trails that intertwine beneath the oak trees and connect all portions of the RV campground with the dog park, bird sanctuary, and primitive campground.
The Jekyll Island Campground is covered by a dense live oak forest. Many people travel to the RV campground for the shade that is offered by the lush tree cover. Concept three, retains the character of each live oak and builds with the forest. A dog park, primitive camping, trails, and community recreation areas all are a part of this design.
The main objective was to design a well-integrated recreational park; that cohesively blends the pre-existing natural elements of Jekyll Island with the updated needs of the public user. Our goals intend to reconnect the Clam Creek experience back with the natural roots of Jekyll Island's coastal environment. The design focuses on revitalizing the current living shoreline, enhancing circulation, expanding accessibility, and coordinating design solutions that rejuvenate the public activity zones, all while preserving and enhancing existing natural habitats. The Clam Creek renovation involves expanding and artfully modifying the previous site conditions, that users have enjoyed for many years.

Focus lies primarily on the fishing and picnic experience. In order to enhance these areas, foot and vehicular traffic needed to be simplified. An uncomplicated loop, aligned with parallel parking and drop-off stations, now clearly directs one way traffic around the perimeter of the site. Upon entering the grounds a grand three-tiered planting wall, with unique signage adds identity to the area and establishes the main focal points of the park. A newly located, central parking lot hides amongst vegetation and still offers access to the existing and newly renovated Jekyll Fishing Center grounds. Where the old parking lot once lied, rolling mounds and flowering trees decorate the landscape, providing endless recreational opportunities.

The picnic grounds retained most of its character; now offering a central plaza, an increased number of shade pavilions, and an open air environment that allows for a natural picnic experience. Ornamental grasses creep out of the wetlands and mesh the built environment with the existing natural habitats. Overall the design simply combines what the park originally offered with enhanced landscaping, creative recreational opportunities, and improved site amenities.
The Jekyll Island Campgrounds is a frequently traveled destination for many RV campers. Many people have a sense of pride and ownership to the RV grounds that hide beneath the canopy of Jekyll Island’s southern live oak forest. With this in mind, major alterations did not pose as a necessity. Instead of re-designing the site, the best solution was to add on and improve the existing conditions. Alterations were made to help improve both foot and vehicular circulation within the site. A gentle vegetative buffer separates all varieties of camping (RV, primitive, high-end) from each other to protect campers’ privacy. A frequent camper of the grounds would not be disappointed by the changes but rather pleased with the updated amenities that the grounds now has to offer. All changes retain the integrity of the site and remains cohesive with the natural environment that it hides amongst.
The Clam Creek Picnic Grounds are nestled quietly between the northern beaches and salt marshes of Jekyll Island. The re-design offers an INTERACTIVE, NATURAL landscape, that utilizes the most pristine portion of the picnic grounds. The design intends to provide opportunities for human interaction with the EARTH by offering large mounds that double for both play and relaxation. With limited hardscape and added vegetation the site is able to PRESERVE existing wildlife habitats, while retaining user FUNCTIONALITY. Ornamental grasses surround the site to help protect against erosion and add visual texture. The simple design reconnects the Clam Creek experience with the natural roots of Jekyll Island's coastal environment.
SECTION ONE
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA - CLAM CREEK

BEACH FRONT PICNIC TABLES  PATH TO PIER  FISHING CENTER  PATIO DINING  RECREATIONAL MOUNDS  OPEN LAWN  OVERLOOK

SCALE: NTS
N
SECTION A-A'

CHARLIE LOW  -  LAND 4900  -  STEFFENS  -  UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  -  APRIL 21, 2014
SECTION TWO
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA - CLAM CREEK

OPEN LAWN
FEATURE PLANTING WALL W/ SIGNAGE
RECREATIONAL MOUNDS
PATH  ROAD

SCALE: NTS
N

SECTION B-B'
SECTION THREE
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA - CLAM CREEK

HAMMOCK PARK
BENCH SWINGS
OPEN LAWN
RIP-RAP
SECTION FOUR
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA - CLAM CREEK

GRASSES
OVERLOOK

BENCH
SEATING

PATH

RECREATIONAL MOUNDS

FISHING CENTER
DINING PATIO

D
D'
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
JEKYLL ISLAND, GA - CLAM CREEK

1. PAVERS AT GRADE

2. TREE

3. BIKE RACK

4. FEATURE WALL