

History & Nature

Named for its previous owners, the park was purchased in 1983 from the Henderson family estate and opened to the public on March 29, 1991. This was the first acquisition under the *Save Our Coast Program*, a land conservation program initiated by Governor Bob Graham in 1981. The Henderson family wanted the land preserved to protect the natural features of the area, and to provide the public with an opportunity to enjoy the surroundings.

The initial construction of the park included two picnic pavilions with restrooms, beach access boardwalks, an entrance station and park support facilities. In March 2000, 30 campsites, a bathhouse with restrooms and showers, camping area, playground and an additional beach access boardwalk were added to provide visitors with more access to the park.

A beautiful three-quarter mile nature trail was built through this partnership between the Friends of Henderson Beach State Park and the park. The trail now provides visitors with a rare view of some of the last remaining and endangered coastal scrub communities in the Florida panhandle.

Surrounded by Henderson Beach State Park, the U.S. Air Force maintains the Clausen Tracking Site. This site was installed in 1951 to provide national security programs and rocketry testing programs in the United States. Remnants of the original tracking installations can be seen atop the hill adjacent to the Air Force property along the nature trail. Today a larger version of this tracking system provides a landmark for visitors throughout the park.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Henderson Beach State Park

17000 Emerald Coast Pkwy
Destin, FL 32541
(850) 837-7550

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 8 a.m. until sunset, 365 days a year.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet and be well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- For camping information, contact Reserve America at (800) 326-3521 or (866) I CAMP FL or TDD (888) 433-0287 or visit ReserveAmerica.com.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

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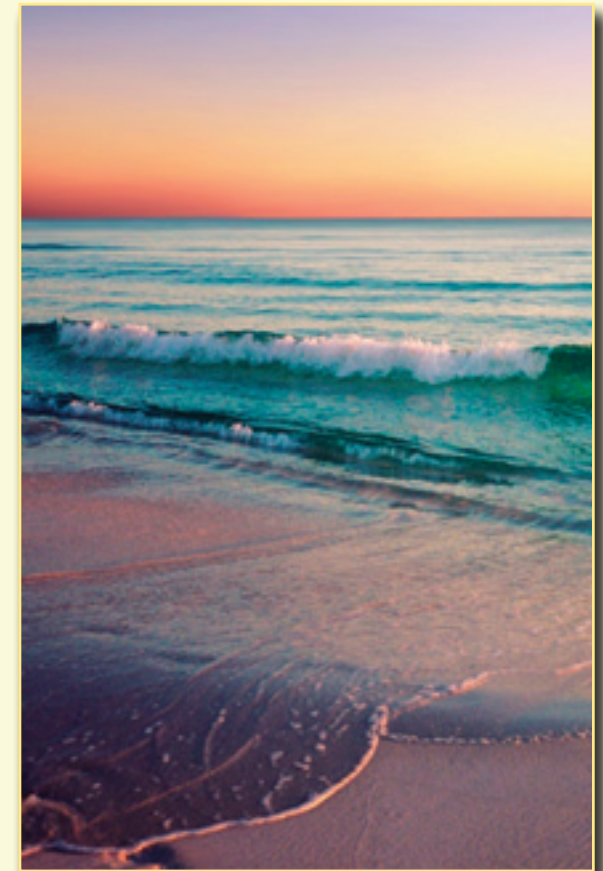
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Florida state park



Northwest
Florida

Henderson Beach State Park

A gem of the Emerald Coast



...the Real FloridaSM

National Gold Medal Winner

Florida State Parks - "America's First Two-Time Winner"



FLORIDA
State Parks
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Created on 09/07



Real Fun in ...the Real FloridaSM

Our family oriented beach is one of the areas most prized assets. Depending on the season, visitors' beach experiences could be highlighted by sightings of dolphins, sea turtles, migratory birds, butterflies and gorgeous sunsets.

Visitors may enjoy a leisurely **bike ride** on the park's **mile-long paved road**. Destin is known as the luckiest **fishing** village in the world. Visitors wishing to try their luck in the surf may catch popular species such as pompano, red fish, flounder, catfish, whiting and cobia. Bait and tackle can be purchased just outside the park.

The park has **60 campsites** that can accommodate either **tents** or **RVs**, with a mixture of back-in and pull-through sites. The sites have **water, electricity** (some 50 amp), **picnic tables, ground grills** and **clothesline posts**. Amenities include **heated and air conditioned restrooms** with **showers, coin operated washers, dryers** and **vending machines**. Unlike remote wilderness camping, provisions and restaurants are a short drive away.

The three-quarter mile pet-friendly **nature trail** meanders through ancient but still growing and shifting dunes, with vegetation known as coastal scrub. The trail provides a vista of the park, and in some places, the Gulf of Mexico.

