



Hunter's Lake Boat Ramp

Option 1: Manual Closing. The Park's Department "Gate closer" contract, this person manually closes three parks every night (Anderson Snow, Delta Woods, and Pioneer Park). Adding Hunter's Lake to the current list of parks that are closed daily would equate to approximately \$285 per month or \$3,420.00 annually.

Pros:

- Easy to modify the contract to add this service.

Cons:

- Opening is not part of current contract. Morning gate-opening would require County staff to be there timely every morning. This could lead to complaints, especially if staffing issues causes delays.
- Cars still in the parking lot. It is likely that fishing could still be occurring when the gate closer arrives. These cars would get locked in or the contractor would have to leave the park opened.

Option 2: Automatic Closing 10pm-6am. The Park's Department has utilized solar powered automatic gates at other locations and these seem to work well. The gates cost approximately \$5,000.00 to purchase and install and they come with an adjustable timer that can be programmed. This option is much more recommended from a logistical point of view.

Pros:

- Automatic gate does not require staff to close or open and the programming allows for adjustable timeframes.
- One-time upfront payment. No contractual agreements.

Cons:

- The County would have to figure out the optimum operational hours of the park. Too early vs Too late. For example, fishing and hunting patrons would likely want to have access to the boat ramp at a very early time of day. Creating a reasonable timeframe may be difficult to determine.
- Should there be a deviation between weekdays and weekends? For example, earlier access may be more bearable on weekends by the surrounding neighborhoods.

Option 3: Automatic Closing 10pm-6am Only During Hunting Season - September 1st - February 1st. Having restricted hours only during migratory bird hunting season would greatly reduce the hunting impact to the surrounding residential neighborhoods. All other off-season timeframes for the boat ramp could be left to 24-7 boat ramp hours.

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Cons:

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Option 4: 24 hour Access. Allowing 24 hour access to the boat ramp is consistent with all other boat ramps operational hours through out the County.

Pros:

- Consistent with the existing boat ramps operation timeframes throughout Hernando County.
- Less of impact to the fishing community that utilizes the ramp for access.

Cons:

- Potential for early morning hunting.