



April 10, 2026

Carla S. Burrmann, Manager
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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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Subject: Jenkins Creek Public Use Swim Platform

Dear Ms. Burrmann,

Jenkins Creek is a brackish stream system that includes a spring boil located in Spring Hill, Hernando County adjacent to Linda Pederson Park. This spring system is south of the Weeki Wachee springs complex and provides important warm-water habitat for the Florida manatee in winter months. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Manatee [Warm Water Habitat Action Plan](#) lists Jenkins Creek Spring as a secondary warm-water refuge and manatee presence in this area is increasing as visitor pressure increases in the Weeki Wachee River.

FWC staff are collaborating with Hernando County on monitoring and restoration efforts at Jenkins Creek including, but not limited to, manatee habitat assessments, spring run enhancement, and evaluation of potential disturbance by recreational activities. Ongoing and future proposed work is intended to restore this natural habitat and offer appropriate protection measures for manatees utilizing the system.

The FWC Imperiled Species Management, Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration, and Public Access Services Sections and the FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute are supportive of Hernando County's efforts to minimize direct and indirect impacts to manatees in this system. Proposals to relocate existing waterway access infrastructure, such as public swim platform(s), to alternative areas within the Park will ensure manatee disturbance within the highest use areas of the spring run are minimized. We are supportive of the re-use of the platform as an ADA-access fishing platform in the dead-end canal at Linda Pederson Park where fishing activities are greatest.

FWC staff encourage Hernando County to consider additional mechanisms to enhance public education and outreach within and adjacent to this warm-water site. Please continue to coordinate with staff to ensure adequate informational materials, such as signage, are available and installed in appropriate locations.

We thank you, again, for your continued efforts to support manatee protection and conservation efforts at Jenkins Creek.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Pasawicz, Manatee Management Program Administrator
Imperiled Species Management Section

cc.

Anna Laws, FWC Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration
Ha Nguyen, FWC Public Access Services Office
Shigetomo Hiram, FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute