

Proposed Recommendation for the City Commission on the Hawks Missile Site Area

Background:

We would strongly encourage the City Commission to consider the following with respect to the Hawks Missile Site Area:

Along with the contiguous City Parks known as the White Crown Pigeon Reserve and Little Hamaca Park along Government Road, the Hawks Missile Site Area is the largest undeveloped open space area controlled by the City and is currently significantly underutilized by the residents and visitors of Key West

It is clear from the results of the recent consultant's report that all activities considered for the area should be restricted to passive activities (no recreation fields)

Some of the passive activities that the Parks and Recreation Board has discussed in the past to better utilize this very valuable City asset include:

- Multi-use bike and recreation paths to connect access to the area to South Roosevelt Blvd at both Key West By the Sea and at the Salt Ponds Condos and Apartments (as proposed in the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan)
- Kayak Launch
- History exhibits to include both the production of salt and the role of the area in the Hawks Missile Crisis
- Kid's activities such as a small adventure park that may include rock climbing walls and a short low impact zip line
- Bike park

Although the Monroe County Airports Authority has recently indicated an interest in acquiring a portion of this area, we believe that such proposal should only be considered if:

(1) it is structured in such a way to minimize the amount of land relinquished and any disruption to the City's planned potential future uses described above

(2) that the County pay full market value for any land transferred with such funding retained for use by the City's Parks and Recreation towards the cost of future improvement and development of the area