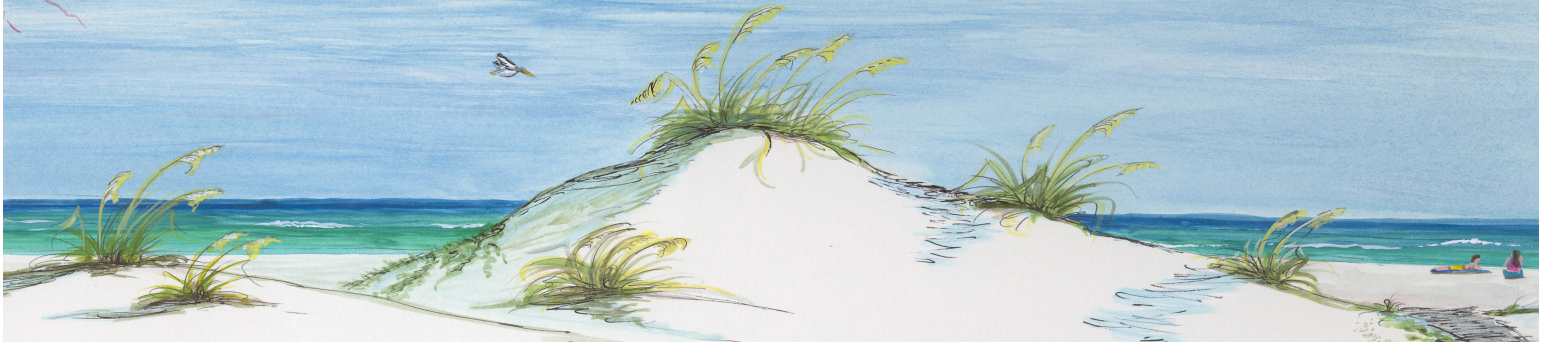


Perdido Key

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gulf Islands National Seashore
Florida District



Perdido Key, a unit of Gulf Islands National Seashore, is a fragile barrier island made up largely of fine quartz sand held together by plants adapted to this harsh environment. It provides habitat for many shore birds, small animals, and nesting sea turtles. The grass beds of the sound are the nursery ground for 95% of all commercially harvested marine species such as shrimp, crabs, and mullet. Wind and wave actions are the dynamic forces that constantly reshape the island.

Know before You Go

Facilities are open daily from 8:00 am to sunset. The entrance fee is good for seven days at all park areas or you may purchase an annual park pass. Park along the roadside except the last half mile. Use the temporary unloading zone

at the end of the road. Protect your valuables in a safe place. Metal detectors are not allowed. Use the boardwalk crossovers to access the beach. Some picnic shelters and tables are first-come, first served. Others are reservable at www.recreation.gov. There is no

electricity and generators are not allowed. Bring your own grill and dispose of charcoal in provided containers. Skateboards, roller-skates, and rollerblades are prohibited. Bicycles are allowed on paved roads only. **Glass containers are not allowed on the island.**

Hiking

Hike the elevated and accessible “Discovery Trail” that starts soundside at the canoe launch. Experience nature’s adaptations in the half-mile adventure. Rest areas with benches are provided.

It is an 11 mile round-trip hike from the end of the road east to Batteries Slemmer, Center and 233. Visitors can enjoy bird watching, shell collecting, or photography. All plants, animals, and shells with marine life in them are protected.

Swimming

A section on the Gulf side is reserved for swimmers. Lifeguards are on duty from April through September. Strong rip currents can occur. Be safe and don’t swim alone.

Camping (Primitive Camping)

Primitive camping is allowed one-half mile beyond the end of the road to the east end of the island. There is an entrance fee but no camping fee. A self-registration form must be completed and displayed on vehicles remaining in the park. Register at the Perdido Key Entrance Station. Read the camping rules on the back of the registration card. Practice **Leave No Trace** principles.

Private Boaters

Plan you boat trip carefully and be sure to have adequate fuel and supplies. Rangers cannot give or sell gas to private boaters nor can they tow disabled boats back to the mainland. Boats must anchor at least 500 feet outside the designated swim beach on the south side. Know state and federal regulations for the safe operation of private watercraft.

Personal Watercraft (PWC)

PWC are permitted within the seashore boundary with the exception of the lagoons of Perdido Key within Big Lagoon. PWC may not be operated within 200 feet of non-motorized vessels and people in the water. PWC may not operate at greater than flat wake speed within 300 yards of the park shorelines to protect submerged grass beds.

Fishing

Florida state fishing regulations apply at Perdido Key, Gulf Islands NS. A saltwater fishing license is required and is available at most bait and tackle shops. Do not fish within the flagged swim beaches.

For more information call 1-888-347-4356 or go online at <http://marinefisheries.org>.

Sea Life

Use caution to avoid jellyfish and stingrays. Shuffle your feet while

wading in the water to scare stingrays away. If you get stung from a jellyfish apply vinegar to the irritated area. Sharks inhabit the waters. Be alert, especially in the morning and evening. Never swim alone.

Pets

Florida State law prohibits pets on beaches. Pets must be kept on a six foot leash at all times. Please do not leave pets in cars during summer months. Inside car temperatures can reach 160 degrees

in a matter of minutes, even with partially opened windows.

Changing Weather and Surf

Watch the weather. Storms can quickly form over water. During lightning storms stay out of the

water and seek shelter; rough surf and rip currents are dangerous. Observe beach safety flags. The sun is very intense. Stay out of direct sun from 10 am-2 pm. Use sun block and drink plenty of water.

Rosamond Johnson Beach

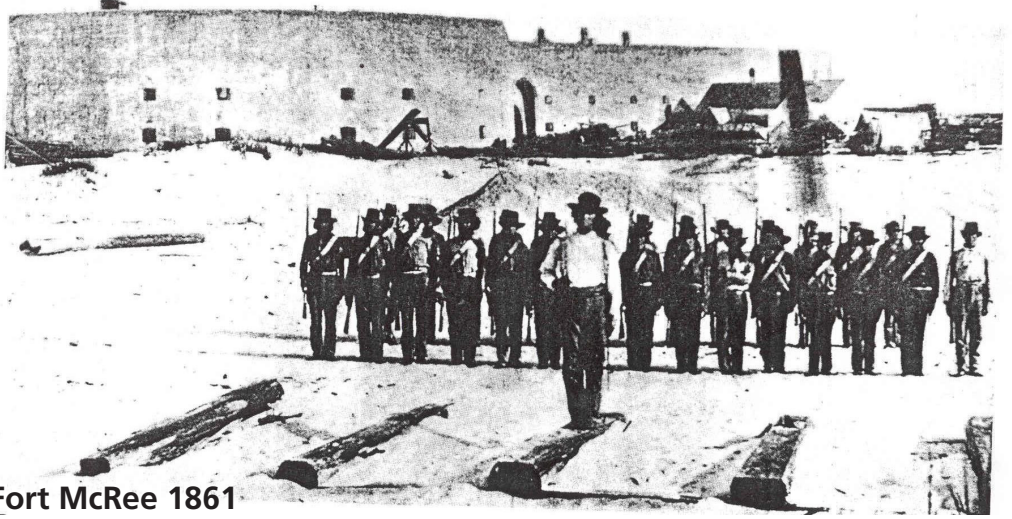
Private Rosamond Johnson, Jr. was killed on July 26, 1950 during the Korean Conflict. Having carried two wounded men to safety under enemy fire, he was killed going back for a third, becoming the first African American from this area to die in that conflict.

During segregation, Rosamond Johnson Beach on Perdido Key was one of the few beaches open to African Americans. Now part of Gulf Islands National Seashore Johnson Beach continues to honor the ultimate sacrifice of Rosamond Johnson, Jr.



Fort McRee

A large brick fort was completed at the eastern end of Perdido Key in 1837. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also built Fort Barrancas and Fort Pickens to defend Pensacola Pass and the Naval Yard. McRee was damaged during the Civil War and eventually claimed by the Gulf's wave action and erosion. Often confused for the old fort, Battery 233 is built on the foundations of Batteries Slemmer and Center.



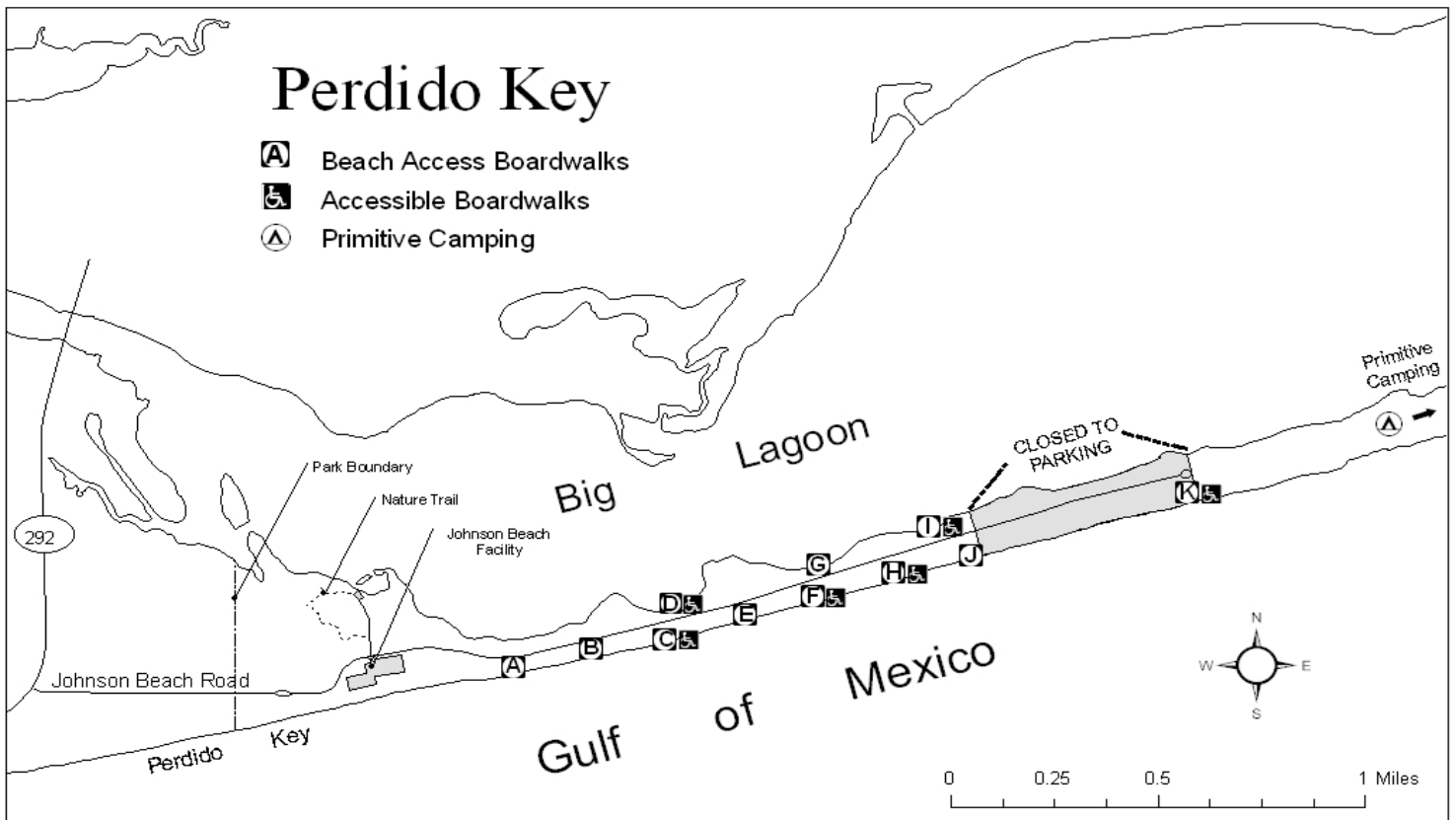
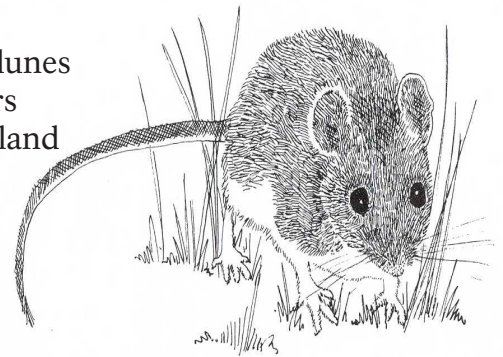
Fort McRee 1861

Kite Surfing

Kite surfing disturbs nesting birds and is not allowed from March 1 through August 31, except from the western park boundary to Boardwalk Crossing A excluding the swim area at Johnson Beach when lifeguards are on duty.

Protect Wildlife and Save the Dunes

A healthy dune system is vital to the survival of wildlife including the endangered Perdido Key Beach Mouse. Sand fencing allows the dunes to grow and boardwalk crossovers protect the plants that hold the island together. Walking on the dunes destroys critical habitat. Use the crossovers to access the beach.



For more information call the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center at (850) 934-2600 or visit the park website at www.nps.gov/guis