Please observe the following while you enjoy visiting Unit 4

- Hours are from dusk until dawn, year-round.
- Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.
- No motorized vehicles.
- Camp in designated areas and stay on established trails.
- Practice Leave No Trace: If you carry it in, carry it out!
- Observe wildlife from a distance and respect posted signs.
- Contact FWC’s Wildlife Alert at 888-404-3922 if you suspect a fish, wildlife, boating, or environmental violation. Use this line to also report dead, sick, or injured sea turtles, birds and marine mammals.

Open Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aquatic tanks, historical and cultural exhibits, and outdoor boardwalks are featured and admission is free. Come check us out!
Welcome to Unit 4

The Unit 4 tract stretches along the bayshore of St. George Sound and is located just east of the center of St. George Island, Florida. The property, also known as “East Hole” after the oyster harvest area located just to the north, is made up of 251 individual lots and a single seven acre parcel of marsh; all fragmented by platted county roads, alleys and canals.

From 1982 to 2010, the state acquired the parcels that make up Unit 4 to conserve the shoreline and contribute to the overall protection of Apalachicola Bay. The properties were incorporated into the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) and are currently managed by DEP’s Florida Coastal Office.

The property offers a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, hiking, picnicking, wildlife viewing and beach activities. Tidal marsh, wet flatwoods and scrub are the dominant natural communities. Unit 4 is also a site along the Great Florida Birding Trail.

Exploring the Area

Depending on the time of year and weather, island life can be a challenging environment. ANERR encourages visitors to practice these safety tips.

- Stay hydrated and apply sunscreen.
- Use caution as trails and low areas may be flooded during certain times of the year.

One primitive campsite is located between the 9th Street East entrance and the bayshore. Paddlers traveling along Florida’s Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail have priority at the site. The campsite is free but registration with ANERR is recommended. There are no facilities or potable water.

Access at 6th Street East

The main entrance at 6th Street provides visitor access to St. George Sound. It contains a small parking area and information kiosk. A picnic table is available on the beach. Visitors may carry kayaks or canoes to the water, although there is no designated launch at this location.