

Welcome  
to the

# Camping Area of Shell Key Preserve

[www.pinellascounty.org/parks](http://www.pinellascounty.org/parks)



## RESERVATIONS

**Camping permits** are available at no cost to campers. Camping permit does not include the Fort De Soto **boat ramp / beach parking fee**. A camping permit may be obtained in a number of ways. Regardless of the approach, permittees must have a valid, signed permit and photo identification in their possession while camping. To be considered valid, a permit must:

- Include complete and accurate camper information that has been received by the Fort De Soto Campground Office.
- Conform to restrictions regarding the maximum party size and maximum number of consecutive days.
- Be signed by the permittee.

## FACILITIES

- None: No restrooms facilities available - campers are required to bring, use, and remove portable toilets.

## CAMPING RULES

- Camping rules are clearly stated on the permit and are listed below. Campers must abide by these rules at all times. Those who choose to violate the Preserve's rules are at risk of being fined by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Each permittee must indicate that they, and the members of their party, will comply with all rules.
- A "leave no trace" camping ethic is expected at all times from visitors to the Preserve. Access to Shell Key is by watercraft only.
- Alcohol, pets, littering, nudity, fireworks and excessive noise are prohibited at all times in the Preserve.
- Removal of live animals from the beach (sea turtles, sand dollars, conchs, starfish, fiddler crabs, etc.) is prohibited.
- Camping is allowed only in the southern Public Use Area. Within this designated area, there are no defined campsites so visitors are free to select a camping location of their choice. All overnight camping requires a permit issued by the County.
- There are no facilities at Shell Key Preserve, and campers are required to bring, use, and remove portable toilets.
- Duration of stay cannot exceed 14 days.
- Permittee is responsible for everyone in their party.
- Permittee must possess photo identification and a valid, signed camping permit while camping.
- Campfires and other open fires are permitted in the designated camping area only from October 1 through April 30. No camp fires allowed from May 1 through September 30. (Due to turtle nesting, \$118 fine imposed)
- Do not place glass, cans, nails, and other debris in campfires.
- Grills do not fall under the definition of open fires and are allowed in all public use areas.
- Do not remove or disturb any vegetation.
- Campers must obey all Preserve rules.
- Be considerate of other campers. To report rule violations, contact the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office at (727) 582-6200.

## OCCUPANCY LIMITATIONS

- Groups of 50 or more require a large-group permit.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Please respect and appreciate this wonderful natural resource known as Shell Key Preserve as you enjoy your camping experience. Shell Key Preserve is a sensitive environmental area that deserves public vigilance and care. The privilege of camping carries the responsibility of good stewardship so that the islands and waterways remain intact for future generations. Through your actions, Shell Key Preserve can remain a welcoming place for generations to come.



## PROHIBITED

- ⊘ Alcoholic beverages
- ⊘ Pets
- ⊘ Nudity
- ⊘ Use of gasoline-powered generators
- ⊘ Littering
- ⊘ Fireworks
- ⊘ Camping in other than approved sites
- ⊘ Removing, damaging or defacing trees, shrubs, or any other plants
- ⊘ Removal of any live animals from the beach (sea turtles, sand dollars, conchs, starfish, fiddler crabs, etc.)
- ⊘ Feeding or harrassing wildlife
- ⊘ Excessive noise is prohibited at all times in the Preserve.
- ⊘ No camp fires allowed from May 1 through September 30. (Due to turtle nesting, \$118 fine imposed)

**Violators of the above rules may be directed to vacate the campground.  
In the event of a serious infraction, a citation may be issued.**

Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To obtain accessible formats of this document, please contact the Communications Department at (727) 464-4600/TDD (727) 464-4431.