



Public Notice: Jekyll Island Carrying Capacity and Infrastructure Study Update

Issued April 23, 2018

The following is an update from Sand County Studios regarding the Carrying Capacity and Infrastructure Study it is conducting for the Jekyll Island Authority. Questions or comments regarding the study should be sent to: info@sandcountystudios.com

Sand County Studios and the Jekyll Island Authority hosted a public open house on Tuesday, April 17th, 2018 to introduce and explain the purpose of the Carrying Capacity and Infrastructure Assessment Study and to solicit input from the community about the process. The intent of this research is to provide the Jekyll Island Authority Board and Management with the tools to evaluate decisions for the future of the island.

This project specifically looks at the idea of “carrying capacity,” which is the number of individuals who can be supported within a given area without degrading the natural, social, cultural, and economic environment for present and future generations. The increasing popularity of Jekyll Island presents both an opportunity and a challenge. How do we ensure the enjoyment of visitors while still maintaining the natural environment and pleasant experience? A sustainable carrying capacity seeks to balance human needs and environmental systems.

The project is still in its infancy. Thus far, the Sand County Studios team and JIA developed goals and objectives, established a clearly-defined process and timeline, and mapped critical environmental, cultural, and infrastructure resources. The next steps will include a detailed analysis of all factors that impact carrying capacity on the island, “what-if” scenarios that look at different approaches to these same resources, and a review of policies and procedures that influence decisions on the island. The final project will provide data-driven recommendations that can be integrated into future planning efforts to help create a holistic and sustainable Jekyll Island - one that is economically viable and protects the unique resources and character of the island.

More information about this project is posted online at: <https://www.jekyllisland.com/jekyll-island-authority/public-input-sessions/>

Sand County Studios is a landscape architecture and environmental planning firm located in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to Sand County Studios, the team also includes Sherwood Design Engineers (civil engineering), Silver Mountain Solutions (strategic policy & project planning/renewable energy), HaydenTanner (finance & sustainable economics), and Heritage Strategies (cultural/resource planning).