

- At present, the island is at 85% of its functional capacity. Given a projected 7% annual growth in visitation to Jekyll, the island will exceed capacity in 3 to 4 years even without additional development.
- The study recommended avoiding development of land that is currently undeveloped. Regardless of what might be built, any redevelopment or new development could put additional pressure on existing infrastructure – water, sewer facilities, traffic and roads, and the environment, according to the study.
- Emphasizing the point that just because you have capacity doesn't mean you have to use it for development, the study encouraged the JIA to explore ways to increase revenue that would not impact Jekyll's character or burden its infrastructure, as further development might.
- Recommendations on how to control the increase in visitation included restricting additional development on the island; limiting parking availability; providing alternative modes of transportation; and increasing JIA revenue through enterprises that have a small footprint and large economic input, such as the Summer Waves water park.
- According to the study, retaining Jekyll's unique character and controlling additional development will be the JIA's greatest challenge, for unless growth is controlled and managed effectively, Jekyll Island could be "loved to death."

The key question now is the extent to which the capacity study's findings and recommendations will shape JIA decisions regarding further development on the island. Discouraging in that regard is the JIA's preliminary approval of the first development proposal submitted to the Authority since the completion of the capacity study, a 48-unit condominium project presented to the JIA at its January 15<sup>th</sup> board meeting. For further information on the future of Jekyll Island and how you can help shape it, see the article below entitled "Development Forges Ahead on Jekyll Island."



**Beach Village and  
Convention Center  
Photo by James Holland**