

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Long Beach Park - Educational

A. General Information

Organization: Panama City Beach – Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)
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B. Project Information

Project Name: Long Beach Park Educational beach/dune lake walk/paddle trail
Location: Panama City Beach – Front Beach Road & Chruchwell Drive
State: FL County: Bay
Watershed/Basin: Choctawhatchee River and Bay Watershed – 03140101
Lat/Longitude: 30° 10.743'N Affected Area: 22.57 acres
85° 48.709'W

C. Project Description

The Long Beach Park - Educational Project will provide access for visitors and residents to experience the natural ecosystems that exist within Historic Long Beach. The Project consist of the purchasing of the old Gulf of Mexico Beach Club motel property for public beach access and use: the purchase of an adjoining five acres for an upland park to support non-beach education and wetland restoration; and the donation of some nine acres of privately owned wetlands and uplands for a 1.5 mile walking trail around extensively impacted Lake Flora - head waters to Grand Lagoon. Grand Lagoon directly discharges to St Andrews Bay, an Outstanding Florida Water and Aquatic Preserve and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico.

Facilities proposed within the park include: beach volleyball, passive playground, kayak/canoe/sail Gulf & Dune Lake launching facility, dune walkover, stormwater detention facilities (with reuse water irrigation), restrooms, parking facility, observation platforms, viewing benches and picnic

pavilions. Traffic light and crosswalks are proposed to provide access across Front each Road and Churchwell Drive. The Bay Town Trolley stop will be located at the beach facility. The existing usable buildings on site will be utilized as a Nature Education Center. Community educational programs will be presented by resource professionals.

The proposed Project Site is located along a series of old dune lakes that form the headwaters of Grand Lagoon. The improvements of this lake system and stormwater treatment will enhance the water quality and productivity of St. Andrews Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It is the City’s intention to clean up the lake on the project site and restore the area to an ecological sustainable system for the propagation of fish and wildlife. The projects intent is to provide an urban setting compatible with an ecological enhancement corridor. The lake and beach front parcels (both fee purchase and conservation easements) included in this project site are located in this lake and dune corridor.

Additional benefits the park will provide include:

The existing direct outfall structures removed will reduce pollutants and beach shoreline erosion. The stormwater ponds will also provide reuse-water for the landscape irrigation. All lighting will be turtle friendly. Kiosks placed on transit stops will include dune, bird, wildlife, shoreline, turtle and water quality educational information. Alternate efficient modes of travel such as 8’ wide trails, bike trails, with mass transit system access will reduce the vehicular traffic along with added efficiency from the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) all to help reduce CO2 emissions. The main land acquisition will be for wildlife walking trail, dune lake restoration, beach access and stormwater ponds. Refer to attached plans for added details on the overall project.

D. Project Type(s)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| ✓Restoration | ✓Protection |
| ✓Debris Removal | ✓Land Acquisition |
| ✓Maintenance/Management | ✓Education |

E. Project Habitat(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ✓Upland | Riverine |
| Marine/Estuarine Wetlands | ✓Freshwater Wetlands |
| ✓Beach/Dune | Subtidal (Nearshore/Offshore) |

F. Resource Benefit(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✓Marine Mammals | Corals |
| ✓Shellfish | ✓Shoreline |
| ✓Water Column | ✓Fish |
| ✓Birds | ✓Vegetation |
| ✓Terrestrial Wildlife | ✓Human Use (Recreational, Cultural) |
| ✓Sediment/Benthos | ✓The project will directly benefit: |
| ✓Reptiles/Amphibians | ✓Sea Turtles and Dune Nesting Birds |

G. Project Status

Project/Resource Acquisition: Right of way and temporary easements have been identified, notifications have been sent to owners and parcels identified.

Time to implement: Demolition and construction could start within 6 months of funding and land acquisition.

Project Planning/Design: Schematic plans are on hand and demolition specification.

Time to Project Completion: 12 month construction duration

The project is part of the Community Redevelopment Agency Plan, Panama City Beach Comprehensive Plan, along with support from North West Florida Water Management District and Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.

H. Project Costs

Estimated Cost:	\$6,200,000 for Land	\$2,000,000 TIF 2011
	\$2,800,000 for Const.	\$2,000,000 TIF 2012
	\$9,000,000: Total	\$2,000,000 TIF 2013