

POTENTIAL DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL RESTORATION PROJECTS: PROVIDING INFORMATION TO ASSIST WITH PROJECT ASSESSMENT

To help you propose projects to the State of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we developed this project submission form. You are not required to complete this form to submit a project. However, completion of the form will help DEP gather the information required to completely and accurately evaluate a project against the selection and evaluation criteria. Where appropriate in the form, please provide references to any additional supporting information.

Project Name: *(Include project number from DEP's existing list of submitted projects, if applicable.)*

Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access, Restoration & Resource Conservation Project – SR-17

Location for Project Implementation: *(For example, city and county, GIS coordinates if known.)*

Navarre Beach Park, Navarre Beach, Florida Santa Rosa County, Florida (Santa Rosa Island)

-86.85768 (Lat) 30.38322 (Long)

Brief Project Narrative: *(Describe what the project will do.)*

The proposed project consists of coastal conservation practices that include dune and coastal habitat restoration and safe public access to recreational resources of the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

The first component involves new infrastructure that provides safe access to coastal resources and additional opportunities for public recreation. This includes design and construction of two 300 ft. x 5 ft., synthetic wood, Beach Access Boardwalks from existing pavilion/parking lot areas to the Santa Rosa Sound. These Boardwalks will provide developed pedestrian access where none currently exist. Additionally, improvements will include design and construction of a 20'x 20' mixed material, kayak/canoe launch that will increase recreational use to users of all ages and abilities.

Signage identifying local marine and wildlife habitat, to remind visitors about marine safety and preservation of the marine habitat would be included on the boardwalks allowing a visitor a complete experience. Directional signage would also indicate the canoe/kayak launch and specific safety rules.

Maintenance and operations of the boardwalks and kayak/canoe launch would include coordination of cleaning services, regular maintenance, repair, trash collection and events to open, announce and market the new resources available to visitors.

The second component involves conservation and restoration of habitat including planting additional native coastal vegetation for habitat restoration. Restoration will occur in the secondary dune area of the project, which will enhance habitat for wildlife, and increase the stability of the barrier island during storms. This component will enhance habitat and promote a diverse dune ecosystem. This component will restore approximately 10 acres of coastal dune habitat.

Maintenance and operations of the dune restoration and replanting would include volunteer coordination, planning, planting, marking and monitoring the restored area. Additional planting would be part of ongoing maintenance and care of the area. The equipment purchased in year one would allow for ongoing renewal and maintenance at a nominal cost.

Potential lifespan of the project would be 20 years with proper maintenance and repair and barring any significant storm damage.

Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access, Restoration & Resource Conservation Project anticipates 20,000 visitors annually based on current park usage of Gulf Front walkovers and will account for a 10% increase in visitors to the beach for the 2014 season. Direct economic impact would be \$2.3 million and new tax revenue of \$43,600 annually. I think we need to site where this info came from, according to the original questions from Jessica. *** Estimates Based on 20,000 visitors with 50% from out of area. Average family of four staying four nights at average lodging rate of \$109 and average daily spending of \$287 including lodging.*

Estimated Project Costs: *(Describe the costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations and maintenance. Identify other available funding sources such as matching funds, in kind contributions or state or federal dollars. If possible, attach a schedule of anticipated costs, by year, over the anticipated project life.)*

The estimated cost of the project is as follows:

Budget Item	Budget	Match/In-kind	Funds Requested
Dune Walkovers 2 - 300' x 5' synthetic wood walkovers with stairs and shower	\$345,000.00		\$345,000.00
Canoe Pier/Launch 1 - 20' x 20' mixed materials with stairs	\$65,000.00		\$65,000.00
Native dune plants for restoration Seagrass, Vermillion and Bitter Panicum	\$12,000.00		\$12,000.00
Equipment for dune restoration Hand shovels, Planting rakes, buckets, gloves, hoses, Fencing, marking tape and a John Deere Trail ATV	\$21,000.00		\$21,000.00
Public Information Materials (signage, rack cards, marketing)	\$55,000.00		\$55,000.00
Project planning and construction coordination - Dune restoration project	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00
Project planning and construction coordination – Walkover and Canoe/Kayak Launch - construction	\$60,000.00		\$60,000.00
Operations, Maintenance – Dune Restoration – \$22,000 x 3 years	\$66,000.00		\$66,000.00
Operations, Maintenance and Utilities – Boardwalk and Canoe Launch - \$62,000 x 3 years	\$186,000.00		\$186,000.00
A/E Design and Master Plan for Walkovers and Canoe Launch	\$41,000.00	\$41,000.00	\$41,000.00
TOTAL	\$876,000.00	\$41,000.00	\$835,000.00

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Screening Criteria

S1. Technically and administratively feasible: *(Briefly describe the critical technologies involved and any relevant past experience with similar projects.)*

Master planning and design for sound side dune walkovers have been completed within the park and have identified the walkovers and canoe launch as technically and administratively feasible. All infrastructure will be constructed meeting all applicable codes and resource conservation and protection standards.

Project partners have significant experience with dune plantings and resource conservation and protection.

S2. Provides environmental benefits: *(Briefly describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project and any potential environmental costs associated with implementing or maintaining the project, e.g., loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation.)*

Environmental benefits that are expected to occur post implementation include:

- 1) Enhanced protection of the dune system that will occur with developed pedestrian access (boardwalks). Currently visitors to the shoreline walk through the dune system. Protection of the dune system will increase habitat for wildlife and increase the stability of the barrier island during storms.
- 2) Restoration and enhancement of ten acres of habitat through dune plantings. Protection of the dune system will increase habitat for wildlife and increase the stability of the barrier island during storms.
- 3) Creation of a canoe/kayak launch will protect the dune systems as current visitors pull canoes or kayaks over the dunes destroying the dune system and wildlife habitats. The kayak/canoe launch will improve recreational access for citizens, increase habitat for wildlife habitat and increase the stability of the barrier island during storms.

No environmental costs are anticipated with the project.

S3. Does not conflict with any ongoing or planned response or remediation work: *(Briefly describe ongoing response activities in the project implementation area, if any, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work.)*

There are no ongoing response activities in the project implementation area.

S4. Complies with applicable and relevant federal, state, local, and tribal laws and regulations: *(No information is needed for this screening criteria.)*

If implemented, all applicable and relevant federal, state, local and tribal laws and regulations will be followed.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Evaluation Criteria

E1. Will restore, rehabilitate, or replace a natural resource or service¹ believed/demonstrated to have been injured as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill or associated response activities: *(Briefly describe the nature of any relationship between the new/improved resources or services and those adversely impacted by the oil spill.)*

This project will restore natural resources such as the dune system and enhance wildlife populations, especially sea turtle populations. In addition, human services such as access to recreational resources will be enhanced within the park. Human activities in this location include: fishing, swimming, canoe/kayaking, birdwatching, snorkeling and hiking. Additional recreation opportunities that will be provided as a result of project implementation include kayaking/canoeing and swimming.

¹ In this form, "Services" (or "natural resource services") refers to the functions performed by a natural resource for the benefit of another natural resource and/or the public. Services can be "ecological services" – physical, chemical or biological functions that one natural resource provides for another (such as provision of food) – or "human services" – the use of natural resources used by humans that provide value to the public (such as hunting and fishing).

E2. Is located in, or nearby, resources or services injured by the deepwater horizon spill: *(Briefly describe where the project would be implemented with respect to past/ongoing remediation work.)*

The project location is located on the sound side of Navarre Beach. The Gulf Side of Navarre Beach was directly impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill had a direct negative economic impact on Navarre Beach, the town of Navarre and Santa Rosa County as a whole. Business closures, loss of revenue for critical services and education continue to be an issue. Restoration and improvement of the Gulf of Mexico will have a positive impact on the areas economic future.

E3. Is ready for implementation, e.g., design, permitting, and necessary impacts assessments have been completed: *(Briefly describe where in the permitting process the project stands along with an estimated date of when the project can be implemented if it is not currently ready.)*

Preliminary design has occurred for the dune walkovers and canoe/kayak launch. Final design, permitting and construction of the dune walkovers and canoe launch would take approximately two years.

Implementation of the dune plantings could occur within six months.

E4. Is cost effective: *(Briefly describe why you think the project is cost effective. Discuss whether this project is more cost effective than alternative projects which would provide similar resource or service benefits.)*

Cost estimates for the dune walkovers and canoe/kayak launch were provided by the Engineering/Design firm who conducted the original master plan and are based on current construction costs. The materials identified are durable and cost effective. Based on 20,000 visitors annually, total new tax revenue from visitors is \$43,600* and a direct economic impact of \$2.3 million.

**based on 20,000 visitors -half from out of town -spending an average of four nights in Navarre.*

Cost estimates for the dune plantings were provided by subject matter experts based on similar recent projects.

E5. Has a high potential for long-term success as demonstrated by incorporating established/reliable methods and technologies: *(Briefly describe if/how critical methods and technologies that will be used to implement the project could be considered reliable or proven.)*

Dune restoration will be based on research and techniques developed by researchers from the University of Florida. These researchers have studied the dune system along Navarre Beach for more than ten years. In this time they have developed propagation, design and planting techniques for the dune system.

E6. Is likely to provide benefits rapidly following implementation: *(Briefly describe the anticipated change in benefits anticipated over time.)*

Visitors utilizing the boardwalk and the kayak/canoe launch will have no impact on the coastal dune system. This will allow the system to maintain ecosystem services. Dune habitat restoration will enhance ecosystem services of the dune habitat at Navarre Beach Park.

E7. Has a high likelihood of public acceptance: *(Briefly describe evidence to support the given answer based on surveys or results and assessments from past projects. Known or likely opposition to a project should be recognized.)*

Based on a 2011 survey of desired improvements within the park, the number 5 and 6 highest ranked facility was canoe/kayak launch and dune walkovers. The public has supported passive infrastructure in the past within the Navarre Beach park.

The need for the local turtle rehabilitation center has been expressed by local sea turtle rescuers due to cold stun events in the past. In addition, a local facility will offer a benefit to the community to understand the importance of sea turtle populations.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Submit this form via email to Rebecca Wintering at Rebecca.Wintering@dep.state.fl.us . If you have any questions or concerns about the process for submitting a project, please contact Rebecca Wintering at:

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A current summary of projects is accessible through the Florida DEP's website at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/projects.htm> (click on "View the list of restoration project ideas").