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

A. General Information

Organization:	Panama City Beach – Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)		
Contact Name:	Mario Gisbert	Title:	PCB - CRA Manager
Address:	110 South Arnold Road, Panama City Beach, FL 32413		
Phone/Email:	850.258.6179 MGisbert@pcbgov.com		
Website:	http://pcbonthemove.com/		

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 85° 48.709'W	Affected Area:	22.57 acres

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 CO_2 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
- ✓Debris Removal
- ✓Maintenance/Management
- ✓Protection
- ✓Land Acquisition
- ✓Education

E. Project Habitat(s)

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

F. Resource Benefit(s)

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

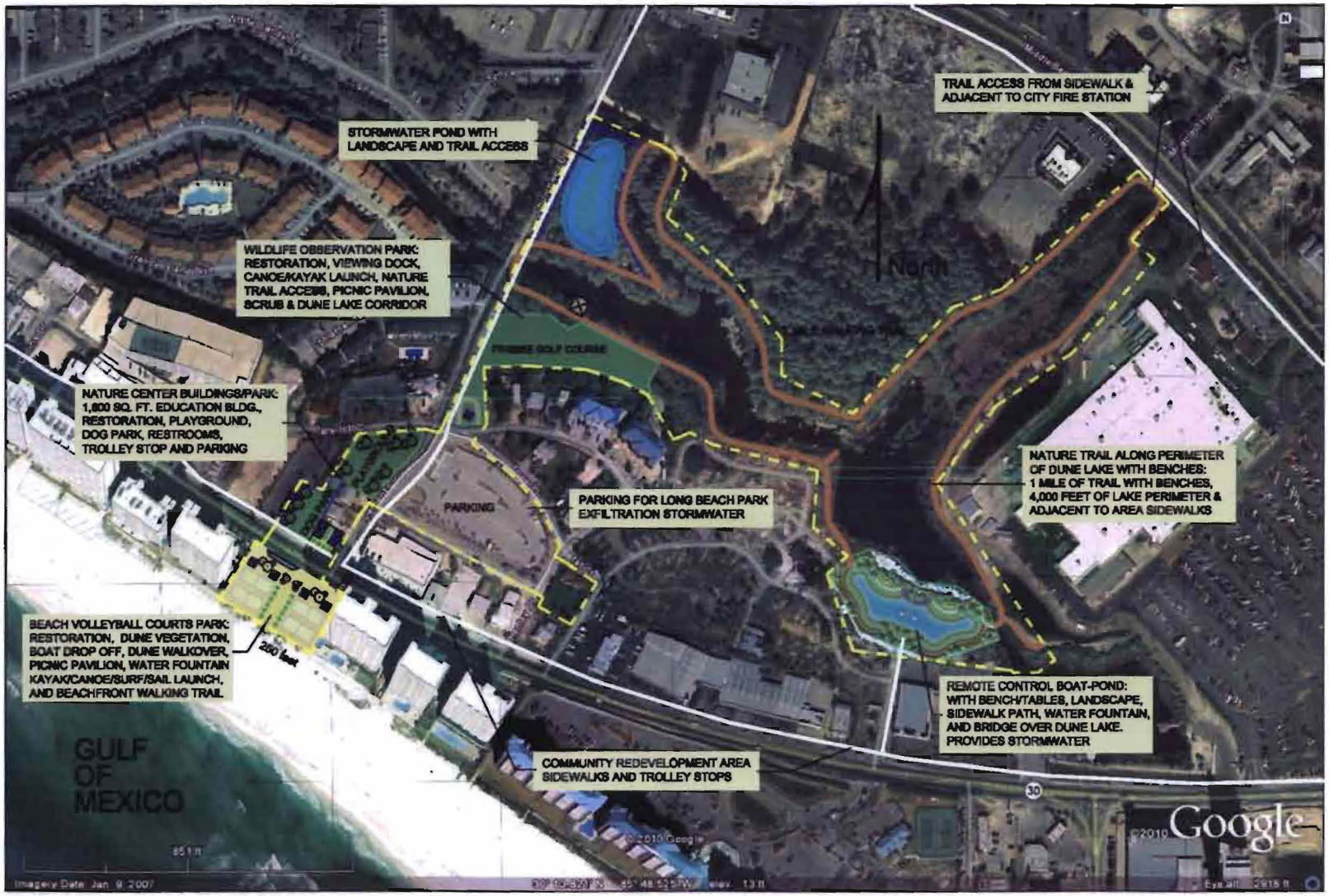
G. Project Status

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


TRAIL ACCESS FROM SIDEWALK & ADJACENT TO CITY FIRE STATION
STORMWATER POND WITH LANDSCAPE AND TRAIL ACCESS
North
WILDLIFE OBSERVATION PARK: RESTORATION, VIEWING DOCK, CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH, NATURE TRAIL ACCESS, PICNIC PAVILION, SCRUB & DUNE LAKE CORRIDOR
NATURE CENTER BUILDINGS/PARK: 1,600 SQ. FT. EDUCATION BLDG., RESTORATION, PLAYGROUND, DOG PARK, RESTROOMS, TROLLEY STOP AND PARKING
PARKING
PARKING FOR LONG BEACH PARK EXFILTRATION STORMWATER
NATURE TRAIL ALONG PERIMETER OF DUNE LAKE WITH BENCHES: 1 MILE OF TRAIL WITH BENCHES, 4,000 FEET OF LAKE PERIMETER & ADJACENT TO AREA SIDEWALKS
BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURTS PARK: RESTORATION, DUNE VEGETATION, BOAT DROP OFF, DUNE WALKOVER, PICNIC PAVILION, WATER FOUNTAIN KAYAK/CANOE/SURF/SAIL LAUNCH, AND BEACHFRONT WALKING TRAIL
200 feet
REMOTE CONTROL BOAT-POND: WITH BENCH/TABLES, LANDSCAPE, SIDEWALK PATH, WATER FOUNTAIN, AND BRIDGE OVER DUNE LAKE. PROVIDES STORMWATER
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA SIDEWALKS AND TROLLEY STOPS
GULF OF MEXICO
30
©2010 Google
Imagery Date: Jan 9, 2007

Project Sketch with Amenities Shown

Parcel Map and Acquisition Requirements

Clearing and Demolition Requirements

Existing Ecosystems

Florida/National Recreation Paddling Trail

Florida Department of
Environmental Protection
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Mimi A. Drew
Secretary

December 24th, 2010

Mayor Gayle Oberst
City Hall
110 South Arnold Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Dear Mayor Oberst:

Extending around Florida's entire coast, the 1,515-mile Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail is both a legislatively designated Florida recreation trail and a national recreation trail. For grant purposes, the Churchwell sites in Panama City Beach, Bay County, is on the main route of the Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail. Any amenities provided for paddlers regarding this project will certainly be welcomed by paddlers.

Should you have any questions regarding the trail, please do not hesitate to contact me: (850) 421-3677; doug.alderson@dep.state.fl.us.

Thank you,

Doug Alderson

Doug Alderson
Florida Paddling Trails Coordinator
Office of Greenways and Trails

Natural Areas

February 17, 2011

Ellen Cunningham
Conservation Properties, Inc.
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 101
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Dear Ms. Cunningham,

Thank you for your request for information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). We have compiled the following information for your project area.

Project:	Churchwell Sites FCT Proposal – Revised Report
Date Received:	02/15/2011
Location:	Township 3S, Range 16W, Section 36 Bay County

Locally Significant Natural Area Status

We have determined that this site **does meet** the criteria for a Locally Significant Natural Area (LNA) for purposes of Florida Communities Trust proposal evaluations. The attached table details how the site matches the FNAI criteria for LNA status.

Element Occurrences

A search of our maps and database indicates that currently we have several Element Occurrences mapped within the vicinity of the study area (see enclosed map and Element Occurrence table). Please be advised that a lack of Element Occurrences in the FNAI database is not a sufficient indication of the absence of rare or endangered species on a site.

The Element Occurrences data layer includes occurrences of rare species and natural communities. The map legend indicates that some Element Occurrences occur in the general vicinity of the label point. This may be due to lack of precision of the source data, or an element that occurs over an extended area (such as a wide ranging species or large natural community). For animals and plants, Element Occurrences generally refer to more than a casual sighting; they usually indicate a viable population of the species. Note that some Element Occurrences represent historically documented observations which may no longer be extant. Extirpated Element Occurrences will be marked with an 'X' following the occurrence label on the enclosed map.

Likely and Potential Rare Species

In addition to documented occurrences, other rare species and natural communities may be identified on or near the site based on habitat models and species range models (see enclosed Biodiversity Matrix Report). These species should be taken into consideration in field surveys, land management, and impact avoidance and mitigation.

Locally Significant Natural Area Criteria

FLORIDA Natural Areas INVENTORY

Date: 16-Feb-11
Site Name: Churchwell Sites - Revised
County: Bay
Requested by: Ellen Cunningham
Total Site Acres: 26

Site must meet any 1 of the 4 Criteria below to qualify as an LNA:

	Minimum Acres Needed to Qualify	Acres on Site	Criterion Met	Notes
1. FNAIHAB Priorities 1-3				
plants	5	6	Yes	
invertebrates	5	0	No	
birds	10	0	No	
reptiles	10	0	No	
amphibians	10	0	No	
fish	10	0	No	
mammals	20	0	No	
2. Natural Communities				
upland glade	1	0	No	
pine rockland	1	0	No	
scrub	5	0	No	
rockland hammock	5	0	No	
seepage slope	1	0	No	
coastal uplands	1	0	No	
sandhill upland lake	1	0	No	
sandhill	20	0	No	
dry prairie	20	0	No	
upland hardwood	50	0	No	
pine flatwoods	50	2	No	
3. Potential Natural Areas				
Priorities 1-4	20	0	No	

4. FNAI Element Occurrences

EO must be Srank S1-S3, AND EITHER (EO Rank A, B, C OR Grank G1-G3); AND Last Obs < 20 years

Sname	State Rank	EO Rank	Global Rank	Last Obs Date
None meet criteria				

**The spatial extents of some wide-ranging species are not fully represented by FNAI element occurrences. For those species, reliable habitat data are used to determine if a site meets LNA criteria. An element occurrence may not appear on the enclosed map for these species.*

NOTE: ***All acreages for Criteria 1-3 are calculated from FNAI GIS data layers. These data are primarily based on remotely sensed information such as satellite imagery and aerial photography. FNAI makes every effort to maintain the most accurate statewide data available, but no statewide data will be 100% accurate for every site.***

Documentation for LNA criteria and all data is attached to this report.

This document revised 9 September 2008.

FNAI habitat models indicate areas, which based on land cover type, offer suitable habitat for one or more rare species that is known to occur in the vicinity. Habitat models have been developed for approximately 300 of the rarest species tracked by the Inventory, including all federally listed species.

FNAI species range models indicate areas that are within the known or predicted range of a species, based on climate variables, soils, vegetation, and/or slope. Species range models have been developed for approximately 340 species, including all federally listed species.

The FNAI Biodiversity Matrix Geodatabase compiles Documented, Likely, and Potential species and natural communities for each square mile Matrix Unit statewide.

The Inventory always recommends that professionals familiar with Florida's flora and fauna should conduct a site-specific survey to determine the current presence or absence of rare, threatened, or endangered species.

Please visit www.fnai.org/trackinglist.cfm for county or statewide Element Occurrence distributions and links to more element information.

The database maintained by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory is the single most comprehensive source of information available on the locations of rare species and other significant ecological resources. However, the data are not always based on comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Therefore, this information should not be regarded as a final statement on the biological resources of the site being considered, nor should it be substituted for on-site surveys. Inventory data are designed for the purposes of conservation planning and scientific research, and are not intended for use as the primary criteria for regulatory decisions.

Information provided by this database may not be published without prior written notification to the Florida Natural Areas Inventory, and the Inventory must be credited as an information source in these publications. FNAI data may not be resold for profit.

This report is made available at no charge due to funding from the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Florida Communities Trust.

Thank you for your use of FNAI services. If I can be of further assistance, please give me a call at (850) 224-8207.

Sincerely,

Michael O'Brien

Michael O'Brien
Data Services Analyst

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