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:

Long Beach Park Educational beach/dune lake walk/paddle trail

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Contact Information:

Mario Gisbert, Panama City Beach Assistant City Manager – CRA Manager

110 South Arnold Road

Panama City beach, FL 32413

Cell: 850-258-6179

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

Bay County - Panama City Beach – Front Beach Road & Chruchwell Drive

Choctawhatchee River and Bay Watershed – 03140101 30° 10.743'N 85° 48.709'W

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

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.

Estimated Project Costs: *(Describe the costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations and maintenance. If possible, attach a schedule of anticipated costs, by year, over the anticipated project life.)*

Estimated Cost:	$6,200,000 for Land
	$2,800,000 for Const.
	$9,000,000: Total
Budget from TIF:	$2,000,000 TIF Year 1
	$100,000 TIF Year 2
	$100,000 TIF Year 3 and beyond

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

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, lake clean up 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.

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.)*

The project provides: restoration, debris removal, maintenance/management, education, protection and land acquisition for Lake Flora – coastal dune lake, adjacent wetlands, adjacent scrub dunes and Gulf Beach. The Habitats that will benefit include: uplands, freshwater wetlands, coastal dune lake, dune and beach. The Resources that will benefit include: recreational /educational & access, terrestrial wildlife, vegetation, birds, reptiles, amphibians, sediment, water column, shellfish, shoreline, sea turtles and nesting dune birds. All of these benefits are utilized to educate the public through exposure and educational information.

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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.)*

The Project does not conflict with any known remediation work.

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

The Project will meet all applicable local regulations.

Anticipated Project Outcome with Respect to Evaluation Criteria

E1. Will restore, rehabilitate, or replace a natural resource or service[1] 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.)*

A large component of the oil spill is public education; people need to understand the fragile balance between the need for oil and the natural resources that are at risk in order to attain the oil. The Gulf of Mexico is out greatest resource for this community in its natural state, with education we may be able to keep it that way.

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 site located starts on the white sandy beach of the Gulf of Mexico, transitions into dunes, then scrub dunes, dune lake and ends in transitional wetlands. All of these systems where affected during the oil spill in Louisiana, this is a great example for Florida. Our beaches were impacted and or coastal dune lakes were blocked off from the Gulf in order to protect them during the oil spill off Louisiana. We need to learn from this close call, what our decisions today mean for our 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.)*

The low impact project has gone through schematic design and the demolition specifications are ready to implement. Upon funding the project could break grown upon acquisition of the land parcels and execution of easements.

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[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).

E4. Is cost effective: *(Briefly describe why you think the project is cost effective.)*

Land cost are as low as they have been for many years, a land purchase in today's economy would provide the most land for the fewest dollars. The easements help expand the project into a larger overall trail that will only work as a whole.

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.)*

Nature trails in urban areas provide exposure to forgotten natural ecosystems that are often ignored. Education is a proven way of safeguarding our environment. Canoes and kayaks provide a smaller footprint on the ecosystem and the growing sport benefits from additional access points.

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

The Project will provide alternate educational activities to visitor. The removal of blighted buildings along the beach front provides space for sea turtles and nesting birds.

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.)*

The Project will provide direct access to Lake Flora a costal dune lake and the Gulf of Mexico, including canoe/kayak access. The perimeter walking path will also provide hands on access to scrub dunes and wetlands adjacent to Lake Flora through a mulch improved path. The educational facility will expose the public to the surrounding natural ecosystems often overseen by beach goers. The project will also serve as a buffer from future development.

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:

Rebecca Wintering
Environmental Specialist III
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 235
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Rebecca.Wintering@dep.state.fl.us

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*").