

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.)*

Bagdad Mill Site Passive Park Coastal Access Improvements (SR 16)

Contact Information:

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

6953 Main St. Bagdad (Milton), Santa Rosa County

Lat: 30.602999 Long: -87.038147

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

The Bagdad Mill Site Passive Park is a 18 acre unimproved park located at the confluence of Blackwater River and Pond Creek in Bagdad, Florida. The park is owned by the State of Florida and leased through the Office of Greenways and Trails to Santa Rosa County BOCC for development of a passive park. The lease expires 7/26/2054. The design phase has been completed for the Park Improvements and ~~Permitting is currently underway~~all regulatory permits have been recieved.

There are several water access improvements planned for the Park including: fishing piers, boat tie-up, and kayak launch with support features including boardwalks and parking lot.

This project involves construction of the water access improvements as follows:

Tee Fishing Pier (ADA accessible)

Floating Boat Dock (with stairs)

Floating Boat Dock (connector dock)

Handicap Ramp from Fishing Pier to Dock

Kayak Launch

Kayak Launch Parking Lot

Boardwalk (1800 sf) from trail loop to Kayak Launch

In addition, there are a series of educational wayside exhibits planned for the park that will describe the history and ecology of the site including the river system and other environmental components such as native species and habitat such as wetlands. The cost associated with the 15 exhibits is \$27,500 or approximately \$1833 each. Funding in the amount of \$1833 would fund the cost of one wayside exhibit detailing the impacts of the oil spill on surrounding watersheds.

For more information regarding the park plans and for a conceptual layout, please visit:

<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/parks/bagdadmillsite.html>

The oil spill caused extensive damage to marine and wildlife and to the Gulf's fishing and tourism industries. Last summer's oil spill significantly hindered recreational fishing and boating within Santa Rosa County. The Bagdad Mill Site Passive Park Coastal Access Improvements will provide additional recreational and fishing opportunities regardless of age, race, gender or economic status and help the area recover from last summer's negative impacts.

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.)*

Total project costs are estimated at: \$878,532

Mobilization \$15,000

Tee Fishing Pier (ADA accessible) \$106,515 *

Floating Boat Dock (with stairs) \$252,480

Floating Boat Dock (connector dock) \$190,543.50

Handicap Ramp from Fishing Pier to Dock \$134,130

Turbidity Barrier – Docks \$16,215

Kayak Launch \$18,500

Turbidity Barrier – Kayak Launch \$1,035

Kayak Launch Parking Lot \$24,351

Boardwalk (2,670 sf) from trail loop to Kayak Launch \$76,095

(1) One wayside exhibit detailing the impacts of the oil spill on surrounding watersheds \$1,833

Project costs do not include any ~~contingency~~contingency or ongoing operations and maintenance which would be absorbed by the Board of County Commissioners.

*We have an ~~awarded pending~~ State of Florida, DEP, Coastal Partnership Initiative Program Grant (NOAA funding source) in the amount of \$30,000 of which \$22,500 of grant funds were awarded specific to the tee fishing pier. County Commission ~~Distiret~~District II recreation funds have been identified as a match to this CPI funds. In summary \$45,000 in CPI and match funds are available to offset the estimated cost of the tee fishing pier item listed above at \$106,515.

Other funds (~~includin~~including the paragraph above) including grants and other local sources in the amount of \$436,210 have been identified for construction of general park ~~amenities~~–amenities. Additionally, funds in the amount of \$82,750 have ~~preveiously~~previously been expended and/or obligated by the county for design match and permitting. A grant in the amount of \$30,000 was expended from the Coastal Partnership Initiative program for the design.

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.)*

By using floating dock structures in the design of the site, a flexible design allowing ease of access to boats, canoes, and kayaks with low freeboard is facilitated. In an area that is subject to strong storm tides, floating docks which rise with the tide are more likely to withstand the influences of storms. Fixed structures are more likely to be damaged. The tee fishing dock is a fixed structure that will be constructed at an elevation of approximately 11 feet above mean sea level to be above most storm tides. This elevation will also provide handicap access from the higher bluff of the park.

In addition, the design proposes the use of aluminum framed dock modules with either wood decking or recycled plastic decking to provide for low maintenance.

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.)*

Access to the Blackwater River estuarine system is currently limited and will be facilitated by this project. Benefits attributable to this project include provision of additional coastal access and recreation opportunities associated with fishing, boating and kayaking. No public access currently exists in this location.

The park improvements project in its entirety involves converting a previous industrial site to a more natural park that will improve water quality for Blackwater River, an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW).

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.)*

This project does not conflict with any ongoing response activities. In fact, the park is on land that has been used for many years for industrial purposes and is now being reclaimed for conservation use. Impacts of the former industrial uses have been mitigated prior to initiating design of the park and are in place.

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

This project ~~is currently undergoing permitting~~ has received all regulatory permits including DEP and USACE. ~~(See below for current status)~~ All applicable and relevant federal, state, and local laws and regulations will be followed during implementation.

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.)*

Provision of new coastal access and recreation ~~opportunities~~ opportunities will offset or replace areas that have been negatively impacted by the oil spill.

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 Blackwater River is a Basin located off the East Bay system and Pensacola Bay Watershed which are directly connected to the Gulf of Mexico.

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).

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.)

Design is complete. Permits have been secured. The federal/state permits required to complete the work included in this proposal is a Joint Application in Northwest Florida through FDEP and the USACOE, which includes Environmental Resource Permit, Authorization to Use State-Owned Submerged Lands, and a Federal Dredge and Fill Permit. The joint ERP application was submitted through FDEP and the USACE on January 31, 2012. Permit approval from FDEP was recieved on May 1, 2012 and USACOE approval ~~is anticipated no later than December 31, 2012~~ was received on January 29, 2013. Copies of approved permits have been submitted to NRDA contact. Local permits required include a development order and applicable building permits by the Santa Rosa County Development Services Department. The site plan application and issuance of a Development Order was approved by Santa Rosa County Development Services on August 7, 2012.

For the items that the county intends to move forward with, such as general park construction items: the county will request the applicable building permits and will develop the bids and specifications necessary for competitive bidding ~~upon final permit approval in March 2013.~~ Project implementation (bidding and contract issuance) could begin as early as February 1, 2013 April 1, 2013 with construction commencing by May 1, 2013.

For the items requested through NRDA application, the county will have 100% construction plans as early as January March 2013, that will be available for bidding and procurement in coordination with the state.

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 are based on current construction dollars based on recent local project bid prices. Due to very limited access opportunities to the Blackwater River system and is located in a prominent location on the upper reaches of the system, construction of the park and water access features will provide a unique combination of access, location, and habitat types unduplicated in other parks and possible park locations. In addition, this park will have a direct and ongoing connection to the history of the old mill and its previous influences on the unique forest and riverine ecosystems of north Florida that cannot be duplicated in other locations.

The park will also benefit from a strong coalition of community stakeholders and supporting organizations that are dedicated to maintaining and nurturing the park and its facilities.

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.)*

As mentioned above, floating docks which rise with the tide are more likely to withstand the influences of storms. The tee fishing dock is a fixed structure that will be constructed at an elevation of approximately 11 feet above mean sea level to be above most storm tides. In addition, the design proposes the use of aluminum framed dock modules with either wood decking or recycled plastic decking to provide for low maintenance. These design features will greatly reduce ongoing maintenance costs and the impact of future storms.

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

Following implementation, additional recreational opportunities and coastal access is provided where none currently exist.

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 design of the Bagdad Mill Site was a result of a lengthy ~~puble~~public input process including community visioning and public meetings during the design phase. The project plans have widespread support of the immediate community and comments from the general public have been well received. There is no known opposition to this project.

The park project is strongly supported by a local coalition of stakeholders and supporting organizations that have worked to get the project organized, planned, funded, and designed. It is expected that they will continue their strong support and participation throughout the construction phase and after opening of the facility.

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

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

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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").