

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.)*

Recreation Loss Projects: Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers

Kellogg Property Park Improvements

Contact Information:

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

Kellogg Property in Walton County. Kellogg property has two locations: 1129 Nellie Drive, located directly on the Choctawhatchee Bay and 9.75-acre parcel NW of the Intersection of Nellie Drive and Nursery Road.

Brief Project Narrative: (Describe what the project will do.) *Improvements and enhancements for the Kellogg property in Walton County will provide for a wildlife nature preserve and educational center that will be used for restoration of critical habitat and to host educational estuarine lessons on Choctawhatchee Bay.*

This project will provide for enhancements to the 1129 Nellie Drive parcel that will be used as a staging area for restoring critical habitat—oyster reefs and living shorelines—within Choctawhatchee Bay and serve as a place to use as an educational / demonstration area for estuarine lessons on Choctawhatchee Bay. Improvements to this property will include:

1. Re-activate the well that is currently on-site. There is a well already on-site that can provide fresh water needed for rinsing equipment, teaching lessons associated with K-12 curriculum, and implementing various events hosted at this site.
2. Remove existing boathouse and install 2 boatlifts in its place.
3. Repair the existing sea wall that is failing after Tropical Storm Debby's high tidal activities.
4. Establish a small living shoreline area that can be used as a demonstration site near the existing stormwater pipe that borders the property on the east.
5. Provide educational signage on the following topics:
 - a. Choctawhatchee Bay: definition of an estuary, importance, what lives there, how to protect it, etc.
 - b. Living Shorelines: definition, importance, benefits, what lives there, etc.
6. Construct pavilion area with seating for outdoor education.

For the **9.75-acre Parcel NW of the Intersection of Nellie Drive and Nursery Road** portion of the Kellogg Property, enhancements will include:

1. Few built structures (i.e., gazebos, covered areas, etc.)

The area should introduce kids (and others) to nature's mystery, drawing them away from their electronics and into the natural world. This is accomplished by altering the landscape just enough to create a safe, accessible hiking experience.
2. ADA accessible boardwalk on over half the trail
3. Artistic metal archway that incorporates shapes of native plants and animals

This feature should inspire wonder and fantasy. People entering the trail should feel welcomed and intrigued by the world on the other side of the archway rather than intimidated by bugs, dirt, or the unknown.
4. Two-story "treehouse"

Allows visitors to see the forest from a new perspective. When they climb to the second story of the tree house, the forest canopy will be directly in their line of sight, and they can look down upon the understory and shrubs.
5. Central gathering area

This is a place where a group can convene for discussion, art activities, or just listening and observing nature. Just as visitors have had the opportunity to see the forest from the second story (in the "tree house"), this area allows them to be comfortable sitting on the forest floor. Since this area is at the center of the wooded property, it will have the least traffic noise. This location also makes it an ideal spot for bird-watching.
6. Stationary binoculars fastened to the platform of the central gathering area

One for adults and tall children, and one for small children and those in wheelchairs.
7. Signage

Enough signage to enhance visitors' experience in nature, but not so much as to overwhelm with information or detract from the outdoor experience. Topics include:

 - Natural community type, forest stratification
 - Which animals live or visit here?
 - Which birds might I see here?
 - Plant identification signs
8. Benches

Placed strategically along the trail for rest and reflection.

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.)*

For the improvements at **1129 Nellie Drive**: Cost estimates are estimated at \$66,250 not including repairing the comprised sea wall. Estimates and options need to be obtained from qualified engineer for this option. Partners for this project are Walton County and Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance.

For the enhancements at **9.75-acre Parcel NW of the Intersection of Nellie Drive and Nursery Road** portion of the Kellogg Property, enhancements are estimated at \$135,624. Partners for this project are Walton County, Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance and the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society.

Total costs: \$201,874

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.)*

CBA has coordinated enhancements and improvements at several sites located along the Choctawhatchee Bay. Prior projects included enhancements at Liza Jackson Park in Fort Walton Beach, Clement Taylor Park in Destin, and Cessna Park in Walton County. Virtually all components of the enhancements recommended for both parcels associated with the Kellogg property were included in the past projects. CBA's prior projects entailed bringing partners together to complete the project from the Federal government, State agencies, and local municipalities and business community. Past projects were coordinated through CBA working with the oversight and guidance of the local municipal partners.

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 enhancements provided for by this project at both locations will provide for bird watching activities, provide for outdoor/wildlife areas both upland and saltmarsh that are critical habitat for wildlife. Educational signage throughout both areas will provide educational opportunities for the general public as well as coordinated and organized lessons. The 1129 Nellie Drive will serve as a staging area for living shoreline restoration throughout the Choctawhatchee Bay in South Walton county through the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance. There will be no loss of habitat or conversion of habitat.

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.)*

None

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

Yes.

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 serve as a staging area to restore significantly eroded shorelines and provide critical habitat that may serve as a sanctuary for critically affected wildlife as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The educational center and wildlife nature preserve will attract tourists and help with loss revenue for Walton County.

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.)*

Walton County's shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico was impacted by oil in the form of tar balls and/or mats. The Choctawhatchee Bay is connected to the Gulf of Mexico through a pass and Intracoastal Waterway. The enhancements at this property will support living shoreline restoration work that restores critical estuarine habitat that ecologically is important for local wildlife. This project will also attract visitors to Walton County and generate revenue from vacationers who want to partake in the opportunities provided by the wildlife nature preserve and educational center.

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.)*

Many of the enhancements can begin with funding: restoring water at the 1129 Nellie Drive, educational signages-design and installation, picnic tables and benches, etc. However, permitting is needed for the living shoreline demonstration area, boat lift installment, and construction of various structures for observation.

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.)*

This project is very cost efficient. All funding provided will be used to cover material cost and permitting/engineering fees. Walton County will provide the bulk of the installation and labor costs. CBA and Choctawhatchee Audubon Society will provide guidance as technical experts.

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).

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.)*

This project will be maintained by Walton County and the educational center lessons and curriculum will be coordinated by CBA.

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

Working with Walton County and CBA, the location will be used to offer an outdoor area for bird watching activities, to learn about the South Walton area through the various educational signage available, will be a site for field trips and an outdoor classroom for local schools, and will provide a demonstration area for natural living shorelines in Choctawhatchee Bay.

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.)*

This project has a high likelihood of public acceptance. CBA and Walton County have experience with these types of enhancements. Also, public meeting have been held between near-by residents who have supported the endeavor to date. Both CBA and the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society have been contributors on this project from the beginning.

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").