Sea Rim State Park Improvements

Phase III Proposed Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Sea Rim State Park Improvements Project would construct two wildlife viewing platforms (Fence Lake and Willow Pond), a restroom, and a fish cleaning shelter. Sea Rim State Park includes 4,141 acres of marshland and 5 miles of beach shoreline, and is located in Jefferson County, Texas, southwest of Port Arthur on the upper Texas coast.

Located along the Greater Texas Coastal Birding Trail, Sea Rim State Park serves as a rest stop for many species of migratory birds traveling the Central Flyway. White and brown shrimp, crabs, and various sport fishes, such as red drum, speckled trout, and flounder, thrive in the park's lakes and bayous. It is an excellent location for recreational activities involving natural resources, including bird/wildlife watching, fishing, boating, camping, beach-going and swimming.

Much of the park's infrastructure was damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Rita (2005) and Ike (2008). To guide the restoration process, public comments were acquired through a public meeting held in 2010 in Port Arthur during redevelopment planning after hurricane damage at Sea Rim State Park.

The goals of biological conservation balanced with recreational opportunity will be supported by:

- Producing a new development footprint no larger than the original;
- Minimizing the losses of wetlands that experience surface inundation;

Location of proposed structures within Sea Rim State Park.

- Minimizing the losses of dunes over 6 feet in elevation; and
- Using sustainable construction methods to create energy-efficient structures.

The proposed infrastructure (viewing platforms, comfort station, and a fish cleaning shelter) would provide visitors increased opportunities to view wildlife, while also maintaining sanitary conditions. Texas experienced a loss of recreational use along the Texas coast during the spill, including recreational fishing, beach use, camping, diving, and wildlife viewing. The project would enhance opportunities for public enjoyment of natural resources, helping to address recreational losses.

ESTIMATED COST $210,000.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Pictured above are a marsh boardwalk and a fish cleaning station similar to structures proposed in the Sea Rim State Park Improvements project.