

Florida Coastal Access Project

Phase V Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Florida Coastal Access Project is intended to enhance public access to surrounding natural resources and to increase recreational opportunities through the acquisition and/or enhancement of coastal parcels in the Florida Panhandle. This early restoration project will be implemented in two phases.

First Phase

Four locations in the Florida Panhandle will be acquired and/or improved to increase recreational uses and coastal access. These locations include Innerarity Point in Escambia County, a parcel in the City of Destin, a parcel in the City of Lynn Haven, and Island View Park in Franklin County. This project includes American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant park amenities. It also includes funding for ten years of operation and maintenance activities to be utilized by the respective county or city through grant agreements with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Innerarity Point Park

The Innerarity Point Park site is a 3.38 acre tract in Escambia County. The property includes 265 linear feet of frontage along the Old River, which flows between Innerarity Point and Perdido Key out to Perdido Bay. The infrastructure will include an accessible boardwalk, dock and paddle craft launch, a “treehouse” overlook, a deck with bench seating, several picnic pavilions, two playgrounds, restrooms with rinse off areas, and a pervious concrete parking area.

Leonard Destin Park

The Leonard Destin Park site is a 3.42-acre parcel on Calhoun Avenue in the City of Destin. The property includes 280 linear feet of frontage on Choctawhatchee Bay. The park infrastructure will include an accessible beach access, boardwalk and deck with kayak launch, improvements to the existing dock, interpretive elements such as an historical seine boat and signage, public art, a playground, a splash pad, a restroom, and a gravel parking area.

Lynn Haven Preserve and Park

The Lynn Haven Preserve and Park site is an approximately 90-acre unimproved tract located within the City of Lynn Haven, Bay County. The property includes 1,650 linear feet of frontage on North Bay and 3,570 linear feet of frontage along McKitchen’s Bayou and its unnamed source creek. The park infrastructure will include an access road and bridge, internal road, large gathering structures, outdoor classroom, a two-story screened-in bay/bayou overlook, picnic pavilions distributed throughout the park, multiple restrooms, dock access to bay and bayou for kayaks and fishing, dock access to motorized boats on the bay, natural playground, defined beach areas along bay, fitness loop, disc golf course, multi-use trails, bayou boardwalk and wildlife viewing areas, maintenance building and storage, and vehicle parking.

Island View Park

The Island View Park site is a 7.13-acre tract located in Franklin County about one mile east of the City of Carrabelle. The project site is currently owned by Franklin County. The property is divided by U.S. 98, a state-designated Big Bend Scenic Byway, with an inland northwestern parcel that is 4.0 acres and a waterfront southeastern parcel that is 3.13 acres. The waterfront parcel of the property includes 884 linear feet of frontage along St. George Sound. The project will include construction of a public park on the waterfront southeastern parcel to enhance the public’s access to the surrounding natural resources and to increase recreational opportunities. The park infrastructure will include an accessible boardwalk with decks that connect the two existing piers, restored and improved existing piers, shoreline access for paddle craft, a central plaza with an informational kiosk, a pervious concrete parking area for visitors, and a turn lane for park access.

ESTIMATED COST FOR FIRST PHASE: \$34,372,184

Second Phase

The second phase of this project will include acquisition of one or more additional properties in the Florida Panhandle and planning, selecting and implementing actions on the additional property(ies), to support passive recreational amenities that would provide additional recreational uses and coastal access for the public. This phase also includes ten years of funding for the operation and maintenance of such property(ies) as public parks. The second phase of the Florida Coastal Access Project will be identified by the Trustees in a future proposed restoration plan.

ESTIMATED COST FOR SECOND PHASE:

\$11, 043,389

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR FLORIDA COASTAL ACCESS PROJECT: \$45,415,573

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Florida Coastal Access Project Locations



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