Phase III Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project includes construction of multi-use campsites, tent campsites, beach access boardwalks, equestrian facilities, and restroom and shower facilities on the beach side of the park, located on the upper Texas coast in Galveston, south of Houston.

The park features 2,000 acres of barrier island ecosystem, with an array of coastal habitats that host a surprising variety of wildlife. It is visited by birds from throughout the eastern hemisphere during the spring and fall migration seasons. Wading and shore birds, mottled and mallard ducks, raccoons, armadillos and marsh rabbits are among the species found in the park, which is ideal for wildlife observation and photography. Surf and bay fishing for spotted seatrout, sandtrout, redfish, black drum, croaker and flounder are also popular.

Historically, the state park provided camping facilities and associated amenities for day-use and overnight visitors. However, in 2008 Hurricane Ike devastated the upper Texas coast and destroyed much of the park’s infrastructure. To guide the restoration process, Texas
Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) developed the Galveston Island State Park Master Plan in 2011. Developments in this project are consistent with the master plan, which has been through extensive public review.

The planning team designed a multi-faceted public engagement strategy that canvassed a local, state, and national audience. Public comments were acquired through stakeholder meetings/workshops, public meetings, and surveys. Emphasis was placed on reaching out to not only past visitors, but to audiences that have never been to Galveston Island State Park, or the Texas park system in general.

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

The estimated amount of Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill early restoration funding for this project is $10,745,060.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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