

# Galveston Island State Park Beach Redevelopment

## Phase III Proposed Early Restoration Project

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This proposed project includes construction of multi-use campsites, tent campsites, beach access boardwalks, an equestrian trail head, 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.

The project would provide greater access to visitors and enhanced opportunities for recreational experiences connected with natural resources. At the campsite facilities, restrooms with associated parking spots are paired with rinse showers. The beach access boardwalks would provide access across the dunes to the beach from multi-use campsites and tent campsite areas. The multi-use campsites are designed to be

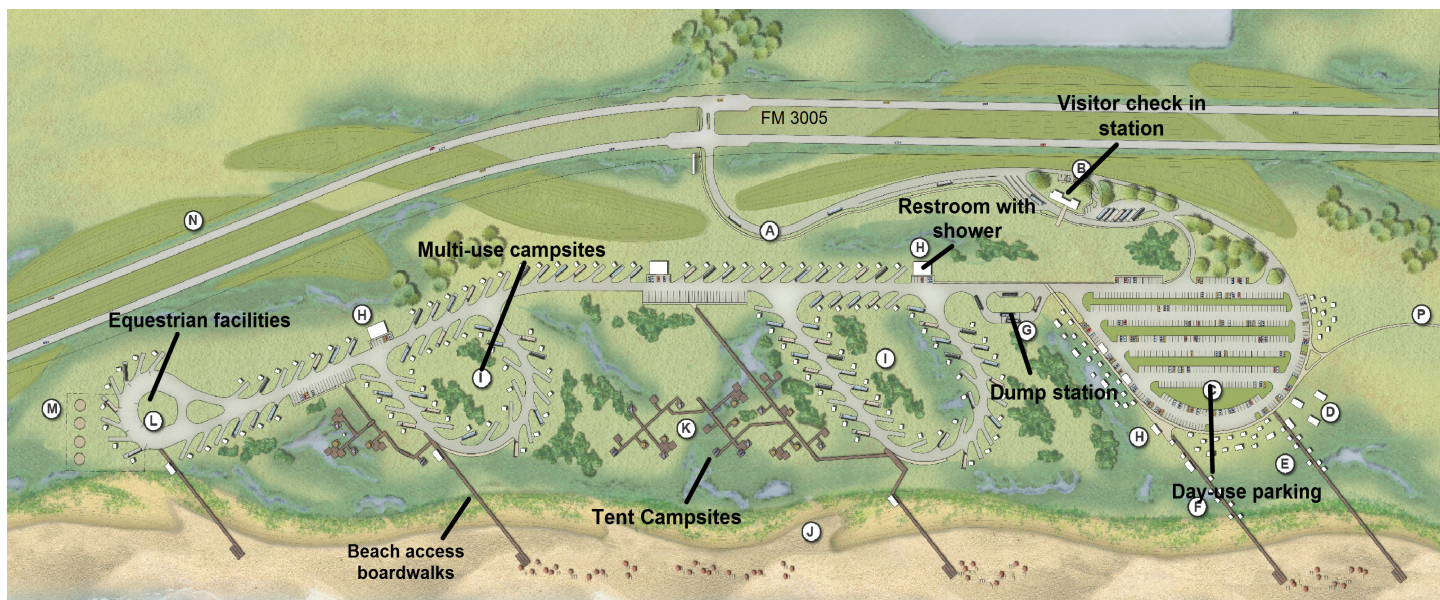
RV-accessible and equipped with water and electric hook-up. An RV septic dump station is also planned for the park. Each campsite would also have a picnic shelter and grill within close proximity. Native shrubs will be planted to provide a screen between the campsites. Additionally, this project proposes multiple tent campsites with associated amenities, which may include boardwalks and parking spaces. Equestrian facilities would include limited trailer parking and access to horse corral pens as well as the beach.

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



*The proposed project would construct more campsites like this one, plus other facilities.*





Artist rendering of proposed Galveston Island State Park beach redevelopment. Graphic created by Studio Outside.

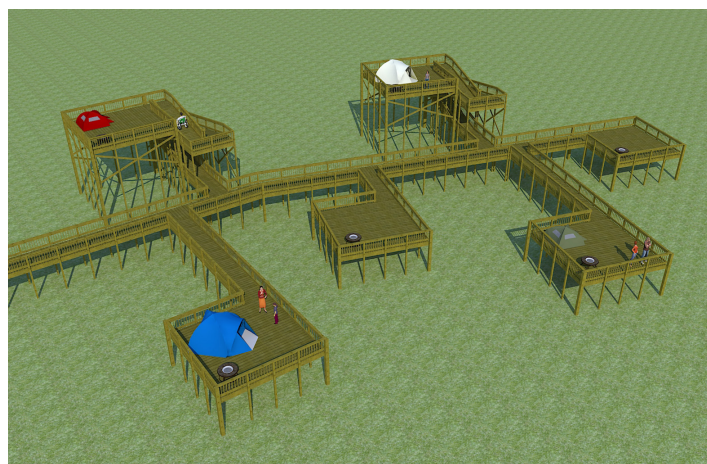
park's infrastructure. To guide the restoration process, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department developed the Galveston Island State Park Master Plan in 2011. Developments proposed by this project are consistent with the master plan, which has been through extensive public review.

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 proposed for this project is \$10,745,060.



Artist's vision of a possible design for tent camping platforms at Galveston Island State Park. Graphic created by Richard Garcia, TPWD Infrastructure Division, Planning and Design Branch.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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