

# Florida Restoration Area

## Draft Phase V.3 Florida Coastal Access Project

### Overview

The Florida Coastal Access Project was first proposed as part of Phase V of *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Early Restoration (prior to the settlement of the DWH oil spill natural resource damage assessment), and was described, evaluated, and ultimately selected in the Final DWH Oil Spill Phase V Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. The Florida Coastal Access Project is intended to enhance the public's access to the surrounding natural resources and increase recreational opportunities through the acquisition and/or enhancement of coastal parcels in the Florida Panhandle.

### First and Second Phases

In the first phase of the Florida Coastal Access Project, four locations in the Florida Panhandle were selected to be acquired and/or improved to increase recreational uses and coastal access. These locations included Innerarity Point in Escambia County, Captain Leonard Destin Park in Okaloosa County, Lynn Haven Bayou Park and Preserve in Bay County, and Island View Park in Franklin County. Construction of park amenities has begun at Innerarity Point Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Lynn Haven Bayou Park and Preserve. Island View Park was substantially completed in August 2018, but was destroyed by Hurricane Michael on October 10, 2018. Franklin County, the owner of Island View Park, is seeking Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement to reconstruct the amenities.

In the second phase, one location in the Florida Panhandle was selected for acquisition and improvement, the Salinas Park Addition. The parcel was acquired in February 2018 and construction of the elevated boardwalk on the new parcel has begun.



### Third Phase

For the third phase of the Florida Coastal Access Project, the Florida Trustee Implementation Group (FL TIG) prepared the Phase V.3 Florida Coastal Access Project: Draft Restoration Plan/Supplemental Environmental Assessment (draft plan) to describe and evaluate the proposed action which involves implementation of the preferred alternative – Navarre Beach Marine Park Addition.

The preferred alternative consists of the acquisition of an approximately 4.75-acre coastal inholding parcel in Santa Rosa County within existing Navarre Beach Marine Park property for a cost of approximately \$2 million. The purchase of the parcel would be achieved via a partnership between the FL TIG and the Trust for Public Land.

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The draft plan is available to the public for comments from June 25, 2019 through July 22, 2019. Comments on the plan can be submitted, during the comment period, in person at the public meeting planned for July 18, 2019 at 5:30 PM ET at the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station. Comments are also accepted during the public comment period online at <https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/2019/06/florida-restoration-area-draft-phase-v3-plan-released/> or by mail to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 29649, Atlanta, GA 30345.

For additional details, please see the DWH Trustee website: <https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>

For additional information, contact:

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