

Perdido Key Gulf of Mexico Public Access



OVERALL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Escambia County has prioritized public access to the Gulf of Mexico and preservation of Perdido Key beach mouse critical habitat. The Perdido Key Gulf of Mexico Public Access project is a planning assistance activity that will fund the planning, design, and permitting for public infrastructure improvements to facilitate public access, attract additional people to the community, and enhance the economy. Amenities will include public parking, restroom facilities, covered picnic facilities, and a dune walkover with observation platform. Undeveloped areas will be enhanced through habitat restoration to maximize benefits to the endangered Perdido Key beach mouse. Habitat restoration creates connectivity among identified critical habitat areas and balances community desire for public access while providing critical beach mouse habitat for species survival. A near-shore artificial reef will be designed and permitted for increased recreational opportunities and to attract additional people for snorkeling, diving or fishing. Public access infrastructure provides connectivity and access to the artificial reef, allowing for resources of each to be enjoyed by the public.

PROJECT DETAILS

2016-17 MYIP ACTIVITIES - \$147,600 *Planning & Design*

- Restroom Design/Features
- Dune Walkover/Pavilion Design
- ADA Compatibility/Features
- Parking Improvements
- Educational Kiosk
- Habitat Improvement Planning
- Near-shore Reef Design/Permitting

Primary Eligible Activity: Planning Assistance

Secondary Eligible Activity: Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources.

*FUTURE ACTIVITIES - \$1,525,000 *Construction & Monitoring*

- Dune Walkover
- Restroom Facilities & Pavilion
- Parking Lot
- Beach Mouse Habitat Restoration
- Educational Kiosk Installation
- Near-shore Reef Deployment
- Monitoring

Total Project Cost: \$1,672,600

Leverage: \$3,100,000 (property acquisition)

*Future activities are not funded by the 2016-17 MYIP but could be funded in future multi-year plans



Overall Project Benefits

- Enhance Economic Development through increased access to local businesses and implementing the Perdido Key Master Plan
- Enhance Tourism Industry & Ecotourism Opportunities
- Provides ADA Access to Gulf of Mexico
- Tourism Destination/ Activity
- Connecting Trail/ Greenway
- Habitat Preservation (Dune Habitat)
- Enhanced Fishing Opportunities through Access and Reef
- Habitat Creation (Snorkel Reef)

Best Available Science

Identified in the Perdido Key Master Plan to enhance economic growth (See reference page)

Artificial Snorkel Reefs are identified as economic growth drivers (See reference page)

The Perdido Key Beach Mouse is listed as an Endangered Species and has limited habitat (See reference page)