

Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project, Alabama

Phase IV Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Jeff Friend Trail renovation project at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Alabama will address lost recreational use on Department of the Interior lands in the five Gulf States.

After the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, significant amounts of oil reached the sand beaches of Bon Secour NWR. As a result, intense spill response activities, which included the use of heavy equipment and vehicles on the beach, were conducted. Both the spill and the response caused a loss of recreational opportunities and a decrease in the quality of visitors' experiences at this coastal refuge.

The Jeff Friend Trail has been a popular destination with winter visitors and local schoolchildren since it was built 10 years ago. The trail, which was constructed to comply with American Disability Act (ADA) requirements, begins at the parking lot located on Ft. Morgan Road and provides convenient access to mature maritime forest and the shores of Little Lagoon.

The trail has surpassed its serviceable life and is in need of repair. The boardwalk is warped and cracked. The gravel portion of the trail also needs to be repaired; this would improve accessibility.

The project will replace the 1,250 foot wooden portion of the trail with a composite material boardwalk. The 3,700-foot gravel portion of the trail will be replaced



A portion of the existing Jeff Friend Trail as it runs parallel to the shores of Little Lagoon. Credit: Ben Frater/USFWS.

with a gravel compressed rubber, or other suitable material. Finally the two ADA-compliant parking spaces in the parking lot will be enlarged slightly to improve vehicular access.

ESTIMATED COST: \$545,110.

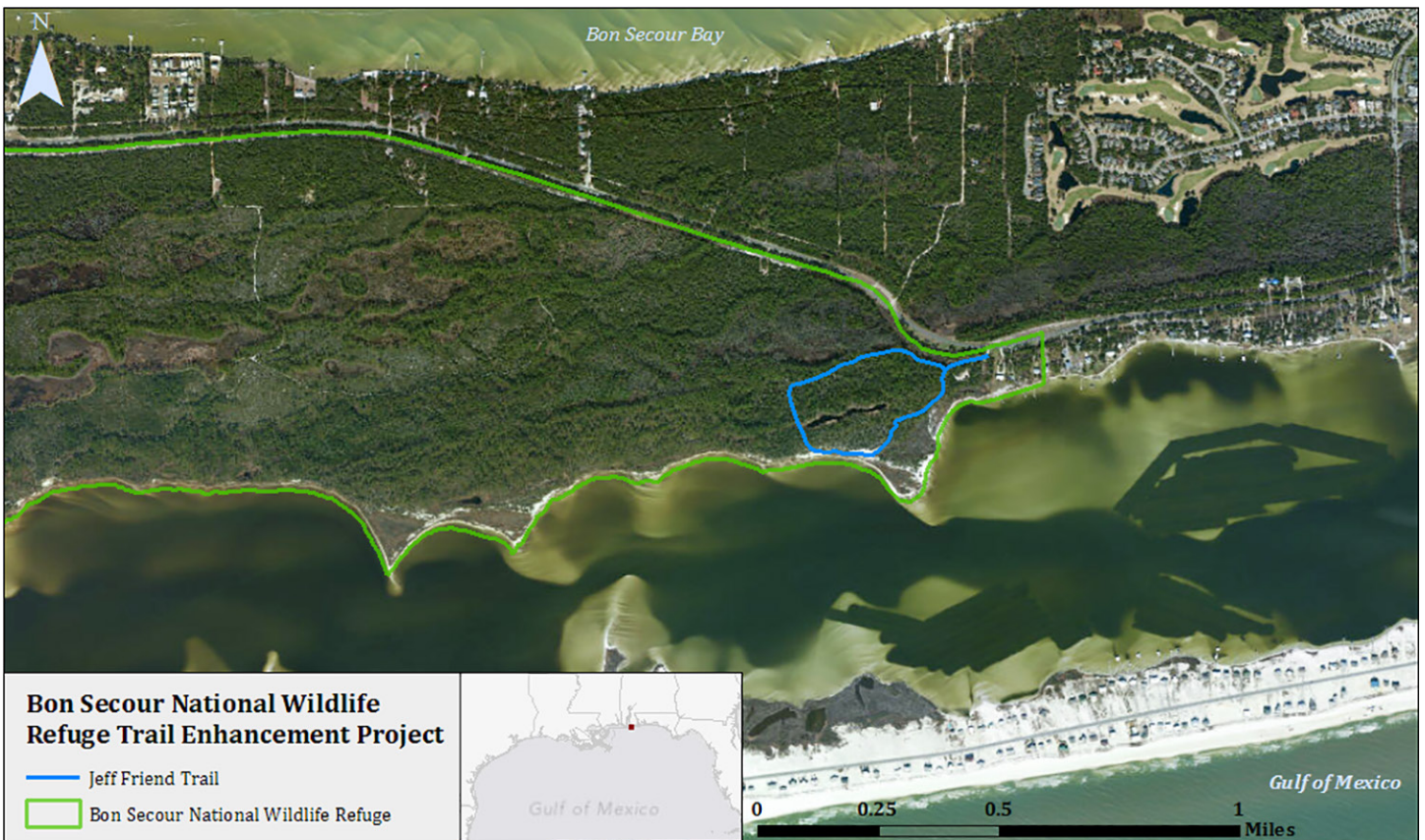
Brittany Petersen, Assistant Refuge Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bon Secour NWR
12295 State Highway 180, Gulf Shores, GA 36542
Office Phone: 251.540.7720
Brittany_petersen@fws.gov



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- Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge
- Jeff Friend Trail

Vicinity map: Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge Trail Enhancement Project



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Aerial image of Jeff Friend trail location (blue line) at Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge



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