

# Florida: Okaloosa County Projects

## Phase III Early Restoration Projects

### PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The *Deepwater Horizon* Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees have selected two recreational use projects in Okaloosa County. As a result of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill, the public's access to and enjoyment of their natural resources along Florida's Panhandle was denied or severely restricted. These two recreational use projects seek to enhance and/or increase the public's use and/or enjoyment of those natural resources.

The Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation project is located in Destin. The purpose of this project is to protect, stabilize, and re-establish the recreational opportunities of Norriego Point. The project will involve the construction of several erosion control structures to dissipate wave energy and protect the fill placed landward of the revetment to restore and expand the land area lost over time, approximately eight acres. Two new embayments will provide additional swimming areas as well as more space for boats and kayaks to pull in. Other facilities will include a picnic pavilion with restrooms, showers, and drinking fountains; educational signage; a multi-use trail, bike racks, and vehicle parking along the access road adjacent to the park land.

The Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection, and Education (Fort Walton Beach) project is located on Fort Walton Beach. The project will create an educational and interactive boardwalk, approximately 8,390 ft long, which would allow public access to areas of Santa Rosa Sound. In addition, the project will take advantage of access and equipment

availability to conduct several small natural resource and habitat enhancement projects including a 0.1 acre expansion of an existing intertidal oyster reef and an approximately 0.4 acre restoration of a degraded salt marsh by planting appropriate native vegetation in Santa Rosa Sound. These resource enhancements will provide additional educational opportunities along the new boardwalk.

### PROJECT COSTS

The Norriego Point Restoration and Recreation project is \$10,228,130.

The Northwest Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection, and Education (Fort Walton Beach) project is \$4,643,547.





**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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