

# DAUPHIN ISLAND EAST END BEACH & DUNE RESTORATION FACTSHEET



# #3

WINTER 2022



The engineering and design phase of an enhanced beach and dune system on the east end is continuing. The project consultant team has been working on the engineering investigations required for the design and permitting of the project. A public meeting will be held at 6pm on January 20, 2022 at Shelby Auditorium, 102 Bienville Blvd Dauphin Island, AL 36528, to explain to the citizens, including the homeowners in those neighborhoods (Audubon Place, Sandcastle Condominiums, Dauphin Island Surf Club, and DeSoto Landing) what the project would potentially look like, get feedback, and briefly discuss the legal steps which will need to be taken. Alabama state law requires the Town to establish a “designated” mean high tide line (MHT) prior to construction of the beach nourishment project and to obtain rights (easements) to utilize the lands lying between that newly designated MHT and the landward limits of the project.

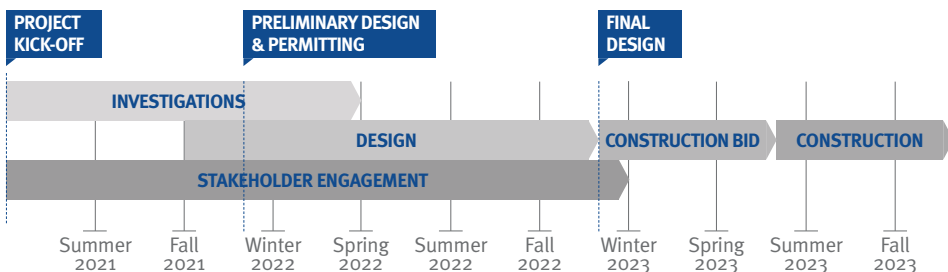
Title to the new sandy beach land lying seaward of the designated MHT line is retained by the State of Alabama. But, affected landowners retain all “statutory and common-law riparian or littoral



rights of access” to the new beach lands.

The project team is currently coordinating with East End condominium and homeowner associations to ensure longterm project success and habitat stewardship. Managed beach access, located and designed to protect dune features and minimize disturbance of native vegetation, is one example of how this project team and its stakeholders plan to incorporate wise stewardship.

## TIMELINE



## PROJECT GOALS

The goals of the project are to restore and protect beach, dune, and maritime forest habitats on the East End of the island. This project will also help the beach southwest of Fort Gaines that the public uses extensively.

## LATEST NEWS

The project team conducted field investigations in Fall 2021 including topographic and bathymetric surveys, cultural resource assessments, and geotechnical sampling. Coastal engineers and scientists are analyzing the data collected during the field investigations to develop a preliminary beach and dune design over the next six months to meet project goals and to address stakeholder input.

The Town will apply for a USACE permit in approximately three months, in which a formal public comment period will be available; however, we encourage and welcome questions and inputs during these early stages of the project (see contacts below). We appreciate everyone’s comments to date.

Construction of the project is estimated for 2023 (assuming funding and legal issues can be satisfactorily addressed). When construction is complete, and the dune vegetation has established, landowners along the East End can expect a sand dune and beach system similar to what exists today in the 2015-2016 project limits.

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