

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

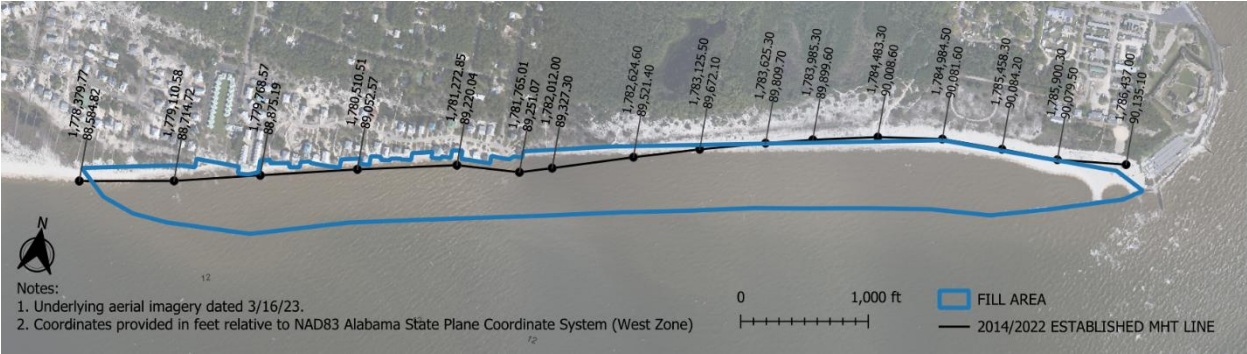
## DAUPHIN ISLAND EAST END BEACH AND DUNE RESTORATION PROJECT

The East End Beach and Dune Restoration Project is currently out to bid to secure a qualified marine contractor to bring a million cubic yards of sand to the East End of the island, restoring our beach and dune habitats. The Town of Dauphin Island received construction funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund and National Coastal Resilience Fund. This project will renourish and extend the beach restoration project built in 2015-2016. Approximately two-thirds of the sand placed in March 2016 is still within the project limits (after Hurricanes Nate, Michael, Sally and Zeta) with the remaining sand on the island beaches to the west. This new project was identified as the highest priority in the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Final Alabama Barrier Island Restoration Assessment Report, 2020.

A marine contractor will most likely mobilize in the fall 2023 and start building beach and dune habitat in the new year of 2024. When construction is complete, and the dune vegetation has been established, the public can expect to see sand dunes and a beach system similar to what presently exists along the Audubon Bird Sanctuary.

### PROJECT FOOTPRINT

The project will be placing sand in the project footprint as indicated by the blue line. The project will be restoring your private property to the established mean high tide line (black line). Extending out from the designated mean high tide line there will be a beach and linear dune system that will be vegetated with native plants and will contain sand fencing.



**Q. What dune or beach habitat will be constructed is in front of my house?**

- A.** Along Audubon Place neighborhood, a long linear dune will be constructed and heavily planted. Sand fencing will be installed to trap sand and prevent people traversing through the dune. In the DeSoto Landing neighborhood a flat beach and with plantings will be constructed. For the condominiums and East End Beach including the Bird Sanctuary and Dauphin Island Sea Lab properties a low profile dune called a hummocky dune habitat will be constructed and heavily planted. Sand fencing will also be found along this area.

**Q. Will there be sand fence in front of my house?**

**A.** Sand fence will be installed along most of the project length but not in the DeSoto Landing neighborhood where the project tapers off. There will be fencing placed in long lines behind the dune and in segments in front of the dune. Dune walkovers and designated paths are encouraged to keep people off this habitat. Landholders can work with the Town of Dauphin Island to put up signage and direct landholders/renters to proper locations for traversing the habitats. Dune walkovers are encouraged along the Audubon Place neighborhood. See below.

**Q. Will sediment be placed under my house?**

**A.**The project will be restoring your private property to the established mean high tide line (black line). The project can only build to the footprint of the project template (blue line) and therefore cannot put sand under your house (Audubon Place specifically). At Audubon Place, this may lead to a deficit of sand under your homes. If you are in DeSoto Landing or the Condominiums, this will not be an issue. If you would like to address the deficit of sand under your home you can engage a sand supplier (3<sup>rd</sup> party). Any sand brought to Dauphin Island needs to be permitted through Town for sand compatibility. Costs associated with these options will be the responsibility of the property owner.

**DUNE WALKOVERS (AUDUBON PLACE ONLY)**



Extending out from the designated mean high tide line along Audubon Place there will be a beach and linear dune system that will be vegetated with native plants and will contain sand fencing. The landholders are encouraged to construct dune walkovers with their neighbors to minimize impact to this newly restored beach and dune habitat. A permit for the dune walkover will have to be obtained from the Town of Dauphin Island planning commission as these dune walkovers are in the Dune Overlay District.

**Q. Do I have to put in a dune walkover?**

**A.** Please refer to ARTICLE 10. DUNE PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT (DPOD) REQUIREMENTS

**Q. Do I have to get a permit for a dune walkover?**

**A.** Yes, the planning commission and Town of Dauphin Island ordinance requires a permit in the Dune Overlay district.

**Q. Do I have to share a dune walkover with my neighbor?**

**A.**The Town cannot require you to share a dune walkover with a neighbor.

**Q. Are there construction plans for dune walkovers?**

A. Please refer to ARTICLE 10. DUNE PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT (DPOD) REQUIREMENTS. Best Management Practices and suggested specifications are provided.

**Q. Do I have to use specific contractors to construct a dune walkover?**

A. The Town does not have a list of approved contractors specifically for dune walkover however, any construction services do require a licensed contractor.



**CONSTRUCTION**

**Q. Will my rental property be disturbed during construction?**

A. Disruption on any part of the beach will only be in small sections at a time. The contractors will begin placing sand at one end and progress to the other end sometime in the new year 2024. Pumping the sand should take less than a month, and heavy machinery will rework this sand for a few additional weeks in small sections at a time. Exact timing is difficult to pinpoint right now and will depend largely on the contractor, as well as timing for nesting wildlife species. Pre-construction activities will include discussions with the contractor to develop a construction process with a more precise timeline, which will then be provided to all adjacent landowners.

**Q. How will bulldozers get to the beach, and will they be going through my property?**

A. Heavy equipment will be transported to the island by truck or barge and stored in an approved staging area next to the beach on the East End. Contractors will only need to access private property to mobilize equipment for construction activities within the agreed upon limits of the easements. The contractors will not need to move equipment through driveways or under houses.

**Q. How will you avoid disturbance to the healthy vegetation on my property within the construction easement limits?**

- A. Final design and construction will be conducted in coordination with ecologists specializing in native beach vegetation. Contractors will mark healthy vegetation to be avoided by heavy equipment. Sand may be placed in the vicinity of healthy vegetation if ecology consultants verify that the plants can survive or be replaced. This project does include the planting of new, native beach vegetation.

**Q. Where is the borrow area? Will they be digging deep holes beside the project?**

- A. The sand for this project will be dredged from a location about 4 miles south of Dauphin Island in State waters, the same borrow area used for the 2016 beach nourishment project. No pits will be dug on the island for this project. The sand in this borrow area closely matches the native beach sand in both color and grain size. In other words, it will look and feel just like the sand already on the East End.

**Q. Based on where the project ends, will water come around the end and scour out adjacent properties to the west?**

- A. No, the beach nourishment project should not cause erosion. In fact, property owners to the west can expect to see sand from the project washing westward (i.e., toward the beaches south of the golf course) soon after construction.

**Q. How far out will the beach be?**

- A. The constructed beach width will vary along much of the project length. Overall, the project will move the active shoreline about 300 feet south. At the western end of the project, it will taper down (reduce in width) to meet the existing beach. Note that this widened beach will quickly begin to erode. Some sand will move offshore (south), and some will move down the beach (to the west). This erosion of the beach is expected, but difficult to quantify. The biggest changes will occur in the weeks and months immediately after construction.