

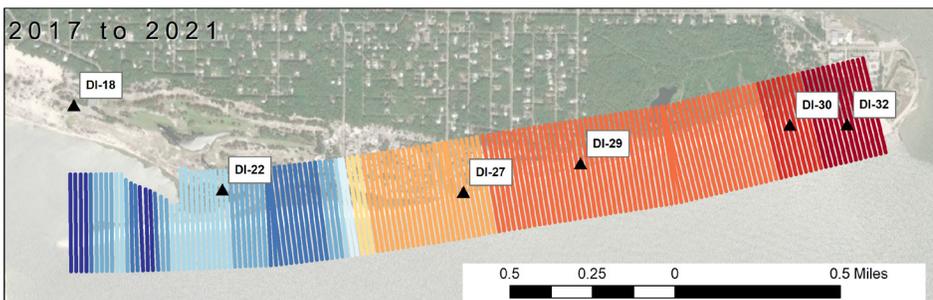
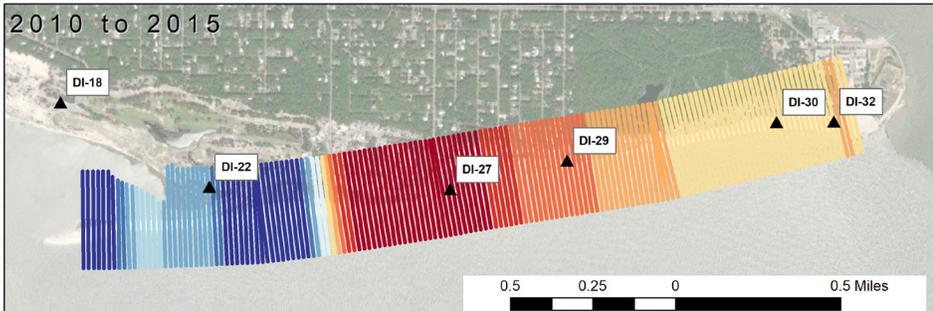
DAUPHIN ISLAND EAST END BEACH & DUNE RESTORATION FACTSHEET

FALL 2021



#2

Healthy beaches and dunes provide unique habitats for a variety of species (including humans). The publicly-accessible East End beach protects the Audubon Bird Sanctuary and other upland resources from storms.



The Town of Dauphin Island is working on the engineering and design phase for restoring the beach and dunes along the East End of the Island with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

The tentative plan is for this new project to renourish and extend (to the west) the 2015-2016 beach restoration project. Healthy beaches and dunes provide unique habitats for a variety of species (including humans). The publicly-accessible East End beach protects the Audubon Bird Sanctuary and other upland resources from storms.

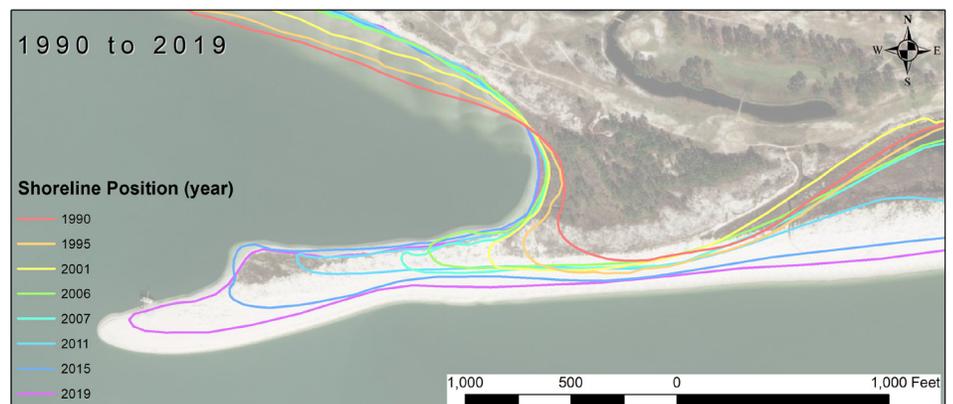
An open, public meeting was held in June 2021 to explain to the citizens, including the homeowners in those neighborhoods (Audubon Place, Sandcastle Condominiums, Dauphin Island Surf Club, and DeSoto Landing)

what the project would probably look like, to get feedback, and to 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

Above: Shoreline Changes: Pre- and Post-2016 Nourishment Project
Below: Growth of sand spit south of Isle Dauphine Golf Club

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. Another public meeting will be scheduled early next year prior to establishing that MHT line.



LATEST NEWS



The East End beaches are influenced by the offshore shoals and islands (image date: July 24, 2021)

The project consultant team has been working on the engineering investigations required for the design and permitting of the project. The beach has been surveyed and analyses of the physical coastal processes controlling the beaches of the East End are underway to inform the project design.

Historic shoreline change analysis, extending back through different time periods, is under way. Beach erosion has occurred as sand has been driven, by breaking waves, to the west resulting in wider downdrift beaches and growth of a sand spit south of the Isle Dauphine Golf Course.

Beach nourishment projects fare better when they are designed with an eye toward the tremendous natural forces that shape the coast. It is better to work with these natural forces as much as possible and to at least understand the long-term costs of trying to work against them.

The long-term East End beach erosion processes are significantly influenced by the presence of, and movement of, the shoals and islands immediately offshore (Pelican Island and Sand Island). Pelican Island has been migrating onto Dauphin Island since 2008 and thus the fishing pier is now surrounded by sand. That migration

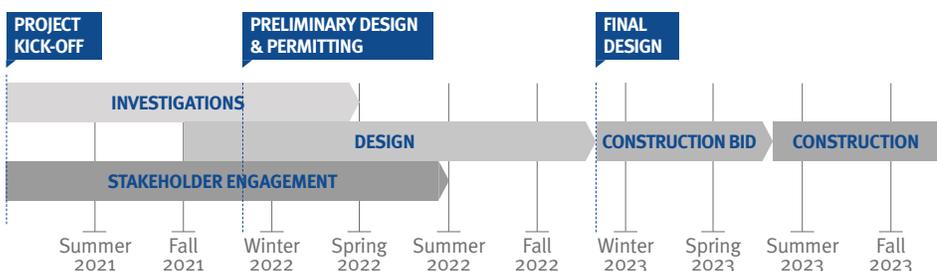
will continue for several more decades and this beach and dune restoration project will be designed to account for these ongoing changes.

The Town will apply for a joint Alabama-USACE coastal permit, in which a formal public comment period, probably including a second public meeting, will be available. However, we encourage and welcome questions and input during these early stages of the project (see contacts below). Construction of the project is estimated for 2023 (if all funding and legal issues can be satisfactorily addressed).

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.

TIMELINE



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