



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

1305 N. Shoreline, Suite 205, Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-1500 • 361-885-6202 • 361-881-5168 (fax)

Nueces Bay Causeway Public Access

CBBEP Project # 0932

Final Report June 2011

Prepared By:

**Jake Herring
Project Manager**

June 21, 2011

Submitted To:

**Melissa Porter
Texas General Land Office**

July 6, 2011

Project Objective:

To provide open public access to Nueces Bay and the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP) Nueces Bay Marsh Restoration Project while protecting sensitive habitat.

The CBBEP has been working towards providing safe and non-intrusive open public access to Nueces Bay along the west side of the Nueces Bay Causeway (Interstate 181 at Nueces Bay). The CBBEP holds fee title ownership to 30 acres that includes a prime upland site that is currently used by the public to access the eastern part of Nueces Bay that borders the town of Portland.

Prior to any new site improvements, undesirable debris was removed and properly disposed. This debris was a result of many years of illegal dumping by the general public. On June 6th 2011 the CBBEP employed 8 temporary workers to clean up the site. The workers removed approximately 2 tons of household debris and 30 tires. Once the site was clean, the CBBEP employed contractor began work on the improvements.

The improvements included the placement of approximately 1450 ft of bollard and cable fence around the portion of the CBBEP owned property that was suitable for vehicular access thus protecting sensitive habitat in the surrounding areas. This area will continue to be open at all times for vehicular public access and parking to access the eastern shoreline of Nueces Bay and the Nueces Bay Marsh Restoration site. The CBBEP also made necessary access road and parking improvements by placing approximately 100 tons of limestone road base and grading the designated upland parking area. The area also lends itself to small shallow watercraft launching. A partial bollard and cable fence was also constructed at the northern and southern property lines to delineate CBBEP Property. Upon receipt of authorization from TxDot to incorporate their ROW along the south bound side of HWY 181 into the public access site, CBBEP will bollard off the ROW within the project area to protect low-lying areas and sensitive wetlands from damages caused by motor vehicles. CBBEP will continue to allow foot traffic through the remainder of the CBBEP property but will restrict vehicular access to these sensitive areas with the exception of companies who have permitted access for business or emergency purposes. Once vehicular traffic in these sensitive wetlands is minimized, CBBEP expects the distressed wetland vegetation to recover relatively quickly

Upon the completion of Phase 2 of the Nueces Bay Marsh Restoration Project, the CBBEP will work with local partners to implement additional improvement in the public access areas. These include the creation and installation of interpretative signage for the site that include a highlight the ecological benefits the restoration project will have on the eastern portion of Nueces Bay. The CBBEP is also coordinating with staff at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to establish a kayak paddle trail at this access site to provide additional recreational and educational opportunities and to highlight the 160 acre marsh that the CBBEP is currently in the process of constructing.

Please see the attached project photos:



Debris removed from the access site prior to construction



Workers installing bollards along TxDot ROW



Access road to Nueces Bay Marsh Public Access Site



Line of bollards delineating the parking area



Portion of the parking area and one access road
off of HWY 181 at the Public Access Site