

# Magnolia and Indianola Beach Pavilions

A Project of the  
Coastal Management Program  
Contract No. 21-060-024-D273

Final Report  
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### **Project Background:**

Magnolia and Indianola beaches are the most utilized beaches in Calhoun County, attracting thousands of residents and visitors each year. Located in the Millers Point area, this long stretch of beach shoreline had no meeting facilities for local events, a group staging location for recreational activities nor places for fishermen, paddlers and birders to rest.

Calhoun County (the County) would use CMP Cycle 25 funds to construct two (2) pavilions for free public use with the goal of encouraging ecotourism and outdoor education. A 100' x 50' general-use pavilion would be built near the community of Magnolia Beach and a 25' hexagonal pavilion would be built near the community of Indianola Beach. Educational signage would be placed in the smaller pavilion to highlight the area's significant history and ecology. Both pavilions would be ADA compliant. Additionally, the County would install bollards and gravel parking to allow safe access to the pavilions.

The County entered into a contract with the GLO on November 3, 2021 to conduct the project. The contract was amended in July 2022 to increase the project budget due to increased construction costs.

### **Task 1: Survey, Bidding, Design and Permitting**

The County will obtain a Texas Antiquities Permit from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and provide the permit to the GLO for review. The County will then hire a professional archeologist to complete an archeological survey of the project site prior to construction. The archeological survey must be reviewed and approved by the THC. Upon approval, the County will use Buy Board to acquire a competitive construction bid for the pavilions in accordance with state and local procurement procedures. The selected vendor will develop technical specifications and designs. The County will send the technical specifications and designs to the GLO for review and approval prior to the start of construction. All necessary permits and environmental clearances must be obtained.

After receiving an approved Antiquities Permit, the County hired AmaTerra Environmental, Inc. to conduct an archeological survey near Magnolia Beach using shovel testing on approximately 6.9 acres. Nineteen shovel tests were excavated, no artifacts were collected. AmaTerra concluded that no further archeological work was necessary and that construction could proceed. The survey was approved by the GLO and THC. No additional study or permitting was required.

The County participates in the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative and used Buy Board, a trusted and experienced cooperative purchasing source, to select Kraftsman to design, manufacture and install the pavilions. Final designs were approved by the GLO and permission was given to begin construction.

### **Task 2: Construction and Sign Installation**

The County will install two (2) pavilions along North Ocean Drive in the Millers Point area between Magnolia Beach and Indianola Beach. A 100' x 50' general-use pavilion will be built at least 300' from the water for community events and a 25' hexagonal pavilion will be constructed

near Indianola Beach. The pavilions will be installed on concrete slabs. County personnel will install approximately 3,000 feet of gravel along North Ocean Drive near the pavilions to provide additional parking, and approximately 600 feet of bollard fencing to protect the beach and grassy areas near the pavilions. County personnel will also build and install wooden benches in the hexagonal pavilion. The construction must comply with ADA requirements. A Registered Accessibility Specialist must certify the construction as compliant with Texas Accessibility Standards.

Kraftsman constructed and installed a 100' x 50' general-use pavilion and a 25' hexagonal pavilion on concrete slabs. Once construction was completed, county personnel improved approximately 3,000 feet of gravel along North Ocean Drive to provide additional visitor parking for pavilion and beach access. Approximately 600 feet of bollards were installed to protect the beach and grassy areas. County personnel also built and installed three wooden benches in the hexagonal pavilion.

All construction complied with ADA requirements. The pavilions were certified by a Registered Accessibility Specialist as compliant with Texas Accessibility Standards.

### **Task 3: Signage Installation**

The County will work with the Calhoun County Museum and Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) to design educational stand-alone signage/kiosks to be placed near the hexagonal pavilion and an existing boardwalk. The signs will be manufactured by a qualified vendor and installed by county personnel. Conceptual designs and draft layout text of educational signage must be submitted and approved by the GLO prior to installation. The County will install temporary CMP signage at the site during construction. The GLO will provide permanent CMP signage, which the County will install at the project site following construction.

The County was unable to find available personnel at the Museum and TPWD who could help design the signs. A committee was formed of knowledgeable local residents to determine what information should be put on the signs. Outburst Advertising, a local vendor, was selected to design and manufacture six signs based on input from the committee. Designs were approved by the GLO before manufacturing began. The best arrangement for the signs was determined to be inside the pavilion. The six signs were manufactured. County personnel constructed sign frames and three wooden benches. The signs and benches were installed inside the pavilion. Although not part of the project, the County will place CR codes on the signs in the near future that will allow visitors to find additional environmental information on the Calhoun County Parks website.

The County installed temporary and permanent CMP signage at the entrance of both pavilions. A GLO Adopt Beach Cleanup in September 2023 was the first event held at the large pavilion.

**LARGE PAVILION CONSTRUCTION**

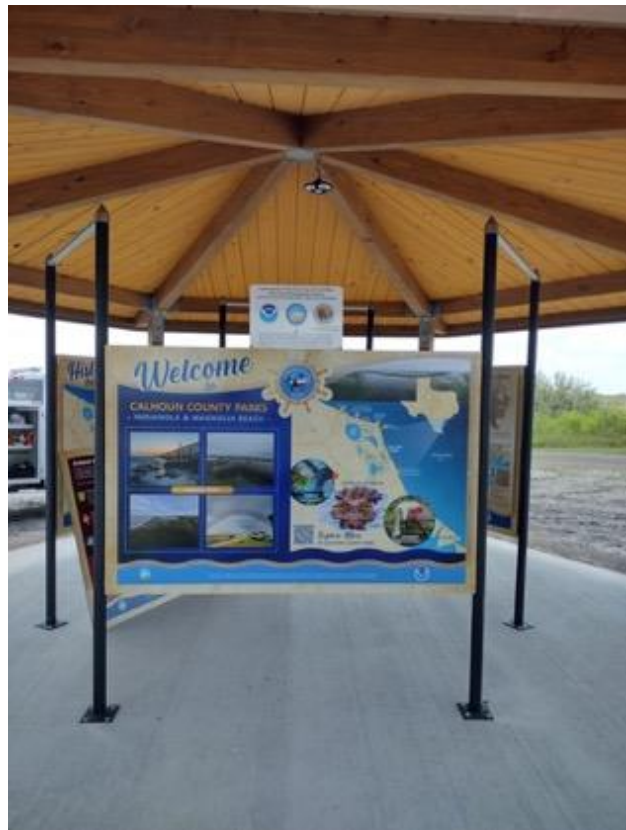






## SMALL PAVILION CONSTRUCTION















# History of INDIANOLA



## Indianola, Texas QUEEN CITY OF THE WEST



Though mostly gone today, Indianola, Texas, was once one of the most important towns along the Gulf of Mexico. Established in 1846 by Sam Houston, Walter and William M. Clark, the first settlement was called Indian Point. At the western end of the southern Chihuahua Trail, the military road to San Antonio, Austin, and Chihuahua, Texas, as well as the road to San Diego, the town was destined to grow quickly. Single-story wooden buildings surrounded the site and began selling out in 1846, and a year later a post office was opened in September 1847.

Very close to Indian Point stood on a small German settlement founded in 1844 called Calhoun. German immigrant Johann Schmitt built the first house in 1845. Disagreements between the two settlements in 1849 as Indian Point became firmly established as a larger major port. Soon, it became the chief port through which European and American immigrants flowed into western Texas.

As Indian Point grew and merged with the nearby settlement of Calhoun, the two towns became one and changed their name to Indianola in February 1850 by combining the word Indian with "ola." The Spanish word for water, "ola" in rapid growth, the town was renamed. The name "Indianola" was chosen to honor the American Indian who lived on the site for the settlement of Chiriquia. Now the town's identity lies in the name of Chiriquia.

In 1852, Indianola was made the Calhoun County seat, and the first newspaper called the Indianola Bulletin was established by John Henry Brown. Other newspapers soon followed, including the Courier and Times, and the Indianola, in 1875. The town was officially incorporated, and a new hospital was established called the City Hospital.

### The Indianola Bulletin.

CALHOUN COUNTY MUSEUM  
101 South Main Street  
Indianola, TX 77753

### THE GREAT CAMEL EXPERIMENT



The experiment, aiming to introduce camels to the United States as a source of meat, as well as for their use in the military, began in 1858 and 1859. The camels were brought to Indianola by the U.S. Army and were used to transport military supplies through the southern part of Texas. Congress approved the military experiment in 1858.

After an introduction report from the experimenters, the military ordered the camels to be sold in May 1862 and sent to the coast at Indianola. Thirty-four camels, ranging from five-year-old to nearly twenty, and a female camel between the two, were sold. Many camels of Indianola would be the subject of the camel story told through the years.

In February 1862, a second government shipment of fifty-one camels arrived in Indianola. Military camel caravans carrying supplies became a common sight in the West. In 1862, the camels were used to transport supplies to the coast. The camels, along with traditional pack animals, were used in the summer of 1867 to survey the Great Mague Road between Austin and California, now known as Route 90. The camels were also used in 1869 and 1880 for reconnaissance in West Texas, carrying supplies to the U.S. Army. In 1891, they were used to transport supplies to the U.S. Army. In 1913, they were used to transport supplies to the U.S. Army. In 1913, they were used to transport supplies to the U.S. Army.

Now Indianola, that a truly a place on the coast where the history of the camel has lived on its land and found its home in the west. Brian Burns - "Indianola"

### INDIANOLA, TEXAS LINDSAYGRAPH BY HELMUTH HOLZ, 1880



In 1880, the port town, which had quickly gained a reputation for its 15,000 people. Though its economy was not based on the plantation culture and the slaves were part of the settlement, the industry relied on a large majority for their work on the coast of the Gulf. The Calhoun County settlement became part of the Texas Navy of the Confederacy Army. Officers from the area joined the Indianola Navy of the Texas Navy, which became part of Company A of the South Texas Infantry.

A general target for the Union, Indianola was bombarded by Union gunboats on October 20, 1862. Afterward, it was looted and occupied for a month before the Union forces withdrew. However, they returned in November 1862 and seized the city again, where they remained until 1865.

In 1870, over 1,000 people remained in the port city as Indianola grew to incorporate as a military port and became the second largest port in Texas. Federal troops from California to the interior began in 1871, and by 1875, Indianola supported a population of more than 3,000 people.



# History of INDIANOLA

Indianola was at the peak of the prosperity when the first hurricane struck the port city in 1876. The town was highly vulnerable to tropical storms, and on September 14, 1876, it was hit by 125-mile-an-hour winds which blew the town away. Though much of the town was rebuilt, its damage and economic would never quite recover.



The population began to decline, and by 1880 less than 2,000 people remained. A natural hurricane struck on August 16, 1886, that was even more destructive than the first. After this second disaster, the town was not rebuilt. In 1912, the city was still and just one other was named by their family. The population of Indianola suffered, many of them also moving to Port Lavaca.

In 1876 the Southern Pacific Railroad bought out the property of the Morgan Lines, which had been headquartered at Indianola since the 1850s, and in 1887 acquired the new railroad terminal. This development and the growth of other railroads across the new railroad Port Lavaca from a major region in a busy center.

Today, Indianola is called home to only a little more than 150 people. Indianola is located in Calhoun County on the State Gulf Coast, about 100 miles from Port Lavaca on Highway 716.

### LA SALLE MONUMENT



On May 21, 1900, nearly 2,000 individuals gathered at the beach in Indianola to dedicate a granite monument of the French explorer Rene Robert La Salle. Approximately 100 cannons of 1857 Indianola and other descendants were at the dedication. The statue is located on the eastern shore of Matagorda Bay between Indianola and Indianola.

Now the Indianola cemetery, you can find a pair of bones that are all that are left of the original statue of La Salle from 1900. The statue was made of an inferior concrete and deteriorated as a result of corrosion and the weather conditions that followed its construction.



**NEW BOLLARDS AND ROAD PARKING**



# GLO ADOPT BEACH CLEANUP



**OVERHEAD VIEWS OF GLO EVENT**

