

## **Tampa Bay Oil Spill**

**Sand Replacement/ Dune Restoration Projects:** These projects were undertaken to address and/or compensate for the physical loss of beach sand that was incident to the spill and response activities. Sand renourishment directly replaces sand while the dune restoration projects will prevent further sand loss caused by erosion and promote natural sand accretion and development of dunes over time.

**Project:** Sand renourishment

**Location:** Upham Beach

**Funding:** \$200,000 and funds from Florida DEP

**Year of Completion:** Mid-1990's

This project replaced the volume of beach sand equivalent to that removed during the response to the spill by augmenting a local, permitted beach renourishment project. The renourishment project used offshore sources of dredged sand and elevated the beach profile, increasing storm and erosion protection on land. The Trustees selected this project based on expert opinion that the erosional nature of Upham Beach would not result in natural replacement of sand to restore the injured beaches to pre-spill conditions.

**Project:** Dune vegetation restoration

**Location:** Treasure Island

**Funding:** \$53,550 (Tampa Bay Oil Spill settlement)

**Year of Completion:** 2005

The Treasure Island dune vegetation project will be implemented on city-owned property approximately 150 yards south of the Sunset Vista Trailhead Park. Approximately one acre of dunes will be shaped with heavy machinery and planted with native dune vegetation (sea oats). Some sand will also be added to the site initially for use in dune shaping. Once the sea oats become established, they will promote natural dune development and accumulate additional sand over time. The dunes will also provide erosion protection. This project will be located in an area that is currently experiencing heavy pedestrian traffic and recreational use with no present chance of experiencing natural sand accretion. To deter future pedestrian traffic over the dunes, this project also incorporates a four-foot wide dune walkover.

**Project:** Dune walkovers for dune restoration

**Location:** Fort DeSoto Park

**Funding:** \$144,000

**Year of Completion:** 2006.

Fort DeSoto Park is an 1,136-acre coastal park located at the extreme southern end of Pinellas County, near St. Petersburg, Florida. High pedestrian traffic in the park has resulted in degraded dune habitats. Pinellas County will implement this project to restore nearly two acres of dune habitat by focusing foot traffic over two new dune walkovers designed to allow natural sand accretion below and around the structures. With decreased human impact on the dunes, dune vegetation will be able to stabilize the dunes and allow for dune growth.