

Tampa Bay Oil Spill

Dune Walkover, Walkway, and Boardwalk Restoration Projects: These projects were designed to compensate the public for the loss of recreational use of area beaches as well as surrounding natural resources.

Project: Walkway extension

Location: Gulfway Beach in Passe-a-Grille

Funding: \$349,618 (from Tampa Bay Oil Spill settlement)

Year of Completion: 2004

The Gulf Way Beach Walkway project in Passe-a-Grille ties into an existing beach walkway system and extends the existing walkway system to the north from 9th Avenue to 23rd Avenue by approximately 3,400 feet. The concrete walkway is similar in design and width to the existing walkway. It enhances public access to the beach and provides greater opportunity for passive and active use of the beach.

Project: Boardwalk construction

Location: Indian Rocks Beach

Funding: \$183,426 (from Tampa Bay Oil Spill settlement)

Year of Completion: 2002

The boardwalk constructed through Indian Rocks Beach Nature Trail, owned by the City of Indian Rocks Beach, meanders through mangrove habitat and terminates on the open water of the Intracoastal Waterway. The boardwalk is over 1,000 feet long with connecting loops and several benches along its length. The project creates recreational access to preserved habitats and provides an educational experience to people who visit the Nature Preserve.

Project: Dune walkover construction

Location: Indian Rocks Beach

Funding: \$18,244 (from Tampa Bay Oil Spill settlement)

Year of Completion: 2003

This new walkover was constructed at the existing beach access point at Central Avenue in the City of Indian Rocks Beach as a means of enhancing pedestrian and emergency vehicle beach access at this location. A new concrete walkway was constructed to connect the existing parking lot to the dune walkover. The improved access for emergency vehicles benefits public beach goers throughout Indian Rocks Beach, including those using other public beach access points. Marine sensitive lighting was also included in the project to decrease impact on nesting sea turtles.

Project: Dune walkover construction

Location: Redington Beach

Funding: \$66,571 (from Tampa Bay Oil Spill settlement)

Year of Completion: 2002

This project replaced three public beach access boardwalks leading from Gulf Boulevard to the beach in the Town of Redington Beach. These beach accesses are located at 163rd Avenue, 162nd Avenue, and 158th Avenue. The previously existing boardwalks were warped and buckled, making access for the physically disabled difficult. Replacement of the boardwalks enhances pedestrian recreational access to the beach. The new boardwalks are elevated to allow for formation of protective dune habitat. They were constructed with lumber made of recycled plastic.

Project: Dune crossover construction

Location: Indian Shores

Funding: \$46,350 (from Tampa Bay Oil Spill settlement)

Year of Completion: 2004

Three dune crossover boardwalks were replaced and improved at the following sites to enhance public beach access: 197th Avenue, 198th Avenue, and 199th Avenue. Previously existing dune crossovers (in need of repair or replacement) were removed, and newer, higher and wider crossovers were constructed. The higher crossovers will allow for the formation of more stable, protective dune habitat. Replacement of the degraded boardwalks creates a safer access point for pedestrians, including those with physical disabilities. Two parking spots were also added near the boardwalk at 199th Avenue.