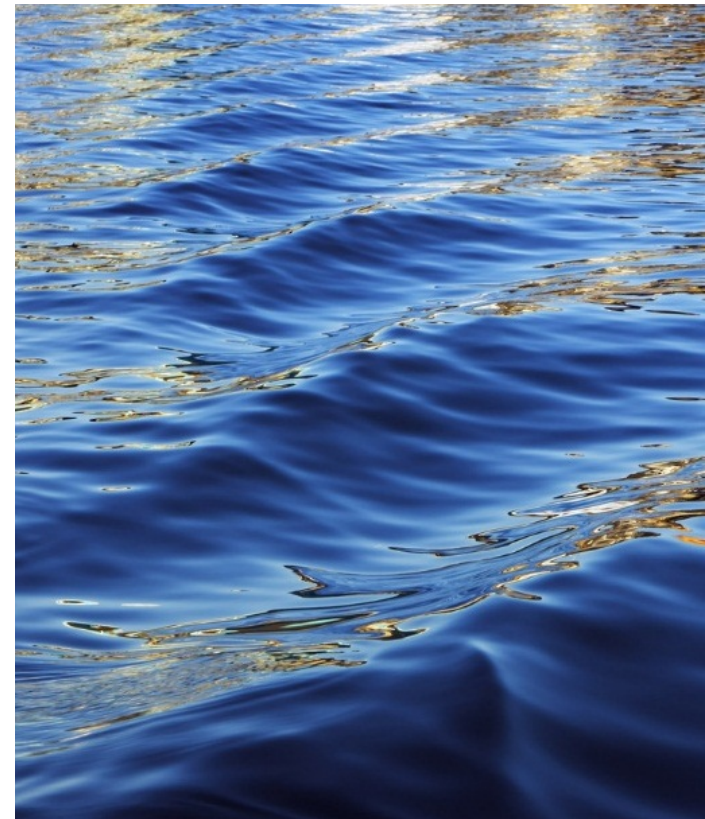




Coastal Partnership Initiative Program - Access to Coastal Resources

Bagdad Mill Site Passive Park and Trail Loop,
Sheila Fitzgerald (Santa Rosa County)



Coastal Partnership Initiative Program

- Overview of Access to Coastal Resources Category
- Overview of the Coastal Resource – Bagdad Mill Site Park
- Overview of the Access – “The Project”

Access to Coastal Resources

- Public access to cultural, historical and natural areas along the coast
- Protection of fragile ecosystems and coastal environments
- Can include planning activities or small capital projects that enhance public access
- Project must be on publicly owned land or property that is leased in perpetuity for the public's use.

Bagdad Mill Site Park – The Resource

- 21 acre property located in the historic Village of Bagdad (outside of Milton and near Pensacola in the Northwest Panhandle)
- Located at the confluence of the Blackwater River and Pond Creek
- Originally the home of the Bagdad Saw Mill which was in operation from 1840 to 1939
- More recently, operations included a prestressed concrete plant and an asphalt plant operation until 1999 resulting in substantial impacts to the property's natural characteristics
- Was donated to the State of Florida in 2000 to be used as a park

Bagdad Mill Site – Photos



Bagdad Mill Site Park – The Resource

- The property was leased to Santa Rosa County in 2004 with the specific purpose for the conservation and protection of natural and historical resources and for resource based public outdoor recreation
- Obstacles to development included:
 - Concrete buildings and structures
 - Site covered in dirt fill, sand, gravel and asphalt
 - Concrete and other debris buried several feet
 - Lack of funding for development
 - Navigating through environmental and historical approval process
- Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership, Inc. served as “Citizen Support Organization” for park development

Access to Coastal Resources – Good Fit!

- ✓ Public access to cultural, historical and natural areas along the coast
- ✓ Protection of fragile ecosystems and coastal environments
- ✓ Can include planning activities or small capital projects that enhance public access
- ✓ Project must be on publicly owned land or property that is leased in perpetuity for the public's use.

Application for Planning Assistance

- An initial application including demolition and construction was submitted in October 2008 for FY 2009-2010
- The project was initially approved for funding; however, was removed as demolition activities were determined ineligible under the Coastal Zone Management Act
- In the following application cycle, a different approach was taken and a request for planning assistance to undertake design and permitting was submitted in October 2009 for FY 2010-2011
- The project was approved and awarded in July, 2010
- Specific deliverables included design, plans and specifications, and permit package submittals

Bagdad Mill Site Passive Park & Trail Loop: Phase I Design & Permitting

- Included selection of a design firm
- Directive to use “green design” principles and to the extent practical, low maintenance features and economical construction methods and materials and consider historical and environmental resources
- Involved a vigorous public input process including workshops which were well attended by the community and county staff
- Coordination with the Office of Greenways and Trails and County staff
- Preliminary design plans including probable construction estimates were instrumental in developing a phased plan for park development
- Conceptual site plan helped share the vision and create excitement for development of the park

Bagdad Mill Site – Site Plan



Bagdad Mill Site Passive Park & Trail Loop: Phase II Construction

- An application for construction to construct a fishing pier and trail amenities was submitted in February 2012 for FY 2012-2013
- The project was awarded in August 2012
- Deliverables included a fishing pier, picnic tables and grills, benches, bike racks, water fountain and trash cans
- Several extensions were requested and granted related to permit approval delays
- Fishing Pier was completed in November 2014 and provided coastal access
- Due to the cost of the pier exceeding available grant funding, a modification was requested and approved to apply funding solely to the pier

Bagdad Mill Site – Fishing Pier



In closing

- The Coastal Partnership Initiative Grants awarded to Santa Rosa County for this park were instrumental in moving development forward and creating excitement for the park
- The goal of providing access to coastal resources while protecting the property's natural and ecological resources was achieved
- As with any grant, communication and coordination are key to a successful grant
- Coordination with all stakeholders is important for the success of the project
- If at first you don't succeed, try again



The Bagdad Mill Site Park's grand opening will be held May 16, 2016 at 10:00 am. All are invited to attend. For details, visit www.santarosa.fl.gov.

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