

ALABAMA STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN (SEP)

Project #18: Fort Morgan Parkway Trail Extension

Project Description/Summary

- a) This project proposes to extend, and ultimately complete, the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail from Fort Morgan Historical Park to Gulf State Park and includes engineering and design and the construction of a midzone to provide parking, restroom facilities, and interpretive signage. When completed, the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail will provide approximately 30 miles of recreation trail from Fort Morgan to Orange Beach and will connect with numerous trail spurs and loops along the way. Following completion of this trail, increased usage of the Fort Morgan Historical Park and Gulf State Park is anticipated, along with improved access and an enhanced visitor experience.

Activities will also include the comprehensive administration of this grant, including, but not limited to, project development and oversight, contracting, and monitoring.

- a. **Need** - The funds provided by this grant will be used to design and construct the final segment of the long-awaited Fort Morgan Parkway Recreational Trail. Completion of this 15-mile segment will enable Alabama's citizens and guests to travel approximately 30 miles, from Fort Morgan Historical Park (the western most terminus); eastward to the existing parkway trail within the boundaries of the City of Gulf Shores; continuing eastward into Gulf State Park and connecting with the Back Country Trail, providing trail users with a route all the way to Perdido Bay via the Alabama Coastal Connection, a designated Alabama Scenic Byway.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to complete the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail from the Fort Morgan Historical Park in the west to Gulf State Park and the Hugh Branyon Back Country Trail in the east. Currently, a 15-mile gap exists between Fort Morgan and Peninsula Boulevard. The proposed extension will complement the existing ten-foot-wide concrete trail. When completed, the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail will provide approximately 30 miles of recreation trail from Fort Morgan to Orange Beach and will connect with numerous trail spurs and loops along the way. A "midzone" trail head facility within the Parkway will provide parking spaces, restrooms, vending machines, interpretive signage, and informational kiosks.

Objectives: The objectives of the project include:

- Complete engineering and design;
- Develop a baseline in 2018 to establish number of trail users and monitor increases over time; and
- Complete construction of the Fort Morgan Trail and a mid-zone with amenities to enhance trail user opportunities.

- b. This activity is located in the Gulf Coast region and will be carried out on the Fort

ALABAMA STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN (SEP)

Morgan Peninsula in Baldwin County, Alabama.

- c. This project is anticipated to begin on 7/1/19 and end 6/30/2021 (2 years).
 - d. This project will be implemented by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Parks Division.
- b) This project directly benefits two Alabama State Parks (Fort Morgan Historical State Park, Gulf State Park) by connecting them together as well as with other trails, trail spurs, trail loops, and sidewalks. This project will contribute to the restoration of the Gulf Coast economy by promoting natural resource stewardship efforts and enhancing the visitors' experience in south Baldwin County.

Eligibility and Statutory Requirements

This activity is located in the Gulf Coast Region and is eligible for Spill Impact Component funding under Category #5 – Improvements to or on State Parks located in coastal areas affected by the DWH oil spill (primary). Secondary activities include Category #3 - Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring; Category #6 - Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure; and Category #10 - Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing.

Comprehensive Plan Goals and Objectives

This project is consistent with the following Comprehensive Plan goals:

- Goal 5: Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy – Enhance the sustainability and resiliency of the Gulf economy.

This project supports the following Comprehensive Plan objectives:

- Objective 6. Promote Natural Resource Stewardship and Environmental Education – Promote and enhance natural resource stewardship efforts that include formal and informal educational opportunities, professional development and training, communication, and actions for all ages.

Major Milestones:

- a) Milestone 1: Procure grant manager
- b) Milestone 2: Procure engineering & design firm
- c) Milestone 3: Complete engineering & design
- d) Milestone 4: Environmental permitting
- e) Milestone 5: Complete construction

ALABAMA STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN (SEP)

Success Criteria/Metrics/Outcomes

The anticipated outcome of the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail Extension will be:

- Design and construction of a 15-mile trail and construction of “mid-zone” trail head facilities (parking, restrooms, vending machines, interpretive signage, and kiosks)

Table 19. Proposed Projects Success Criteria/Metrics/Outcomes

| Activity | Anticipated Project Success Criteria/Metrics | Short-term outcome | Long-term outcome |
|--|--|--|---|
| Design and construct trail and trail head facilities | Complete 15-mile trail Complete trail head facilities Increase number of trail users by 15% Increase website traffic by 25% Increase social media followers by 15% | 30 continuous miles of recreational trail from Ft. Morgan Historical Park to Gulf State Park | Increased usage of the trail by local citizens and tourists with enhanced stewardship opportunities |

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Submission of final E&D to ADCNR for review and approval
- Provide evidence to ADCNR that all required permits were obtained
- Submit copy of results of procurement/bid process to ADCNR prior to awarding contracts
- ADCNR will conduct periodic onsite reviews
- Submission of quarterly and final reports
- Post construction monitoring as required

Best Available Science

A Best Available Science (BAS) review is required for programs and activities that would restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, coastal wetlands, and economy of the Gulf Coast. The primary focus

ALABAMA STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN (SEP)

of this project is to construct a trail and trail head facilities along the Fort Morgan Parkway; therefore, BAS does not apply.

However, Best Management Practices will be employed in the design and development of this project. Where possible, ADCNR plans to use composite materials instead of treated lumber; permeable or semi-permeable parking and trail surfaces; renewable sources such as solar energy; and energy conserving fixtures and products such as LED lighting.

In addition, this project is consistent with the values and recommendations set forth in the MBNEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan 2013-2018, available on the MBNEP [website](#):

Budget/Funding

- a) Estimated cost of the project and amount to be requested from Spill Impact Component Funds: \$4,566,608 (25-35% - Planning, 75-65% - Implementation). While it is noted that funding available under a grant award cannot exceed the amount described in the SEP for this project, the percentages listed in this section are estimated and will be more clearly cultivated in the grant application.
- b) No other funding sources are anticipated at this time.

Partnerships/Collaboration (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

Leveraged Resources (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

Funds Used As Non-Federal Match (if applicable)

Not applicable at this time.

Other

Not applicable at this time.

ALABAMA STATE EXPENDITURE PLAN (SEP)



Figure 18. The Fort Morgan Parkway Trail Extension project will be implemented along the Fort Morgan Peninsula in Baldwin County, Alabama.