

Bill,

December 2, 2016

The DOI Deepwater Horizon Case Management Office is working through various environmental compliance consultations on post-settlement proposed restoration alternatives in Alabama. First, we would like to thank you for all your efforts in the ESA Section 7 consultations your office has conducted for the Early Restoration projects. We are now working on the Coastal Barrier Resources Act consistency determinations for proposed alternatives. There are eight proposed alternatives that could occur in Alabama that are being evaluated by the Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) as potential restoration projects. The alternatives will be proposed in a draft restoration plan that will be released for public review and comment later this month. If the Trustees select these project alternatives, or any combination of alternatives, after consideration of public comment, the restoration projects would be implemented by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR).

We used the Coastal Barrier Resources System mapper – Beta

(<http://www.fws.gov/cbra/Maps/Mapper.html> [accessed November 29, 2016]) to determine if proposed alternatives were located within an Otherwise Protected Area or within a System Unit. If the proposed alternatives would occur in an Otherwise Protected Area or outside of a System Unit, no additional analysis was developed.

The table below summarizes the eight proposed alternatives and our CBRA Consistency Determinations. These alternatives are briefly described below, and shown in Figures 1-9.

Proposed Alternatives	CBRA Consistency Determination
Gulf State Park Lodge and Associated Public Access Amenities (GSP Project)	Occurs entirely within AL-02P. CBRA does not apply.
Fort Morgan Pier Rehabilitation	Occurs entirely within Q01P. CBRA does not apply.
Fort Morgan Peninsula Public Access Improvements	Does not occur within any CBRS Unit.
Laguna Cove Little Lagoon Natural Resource Protection	Does not occur within any CBRS Unit.
Bayfront Park Restoration and Improvement	Does not occur within any CBRS Unit.
Dauphin Island Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education	Does not occur within any CBRS Unit.
Mid Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements (Parcels A, B, and C)	Does not occur within any CBRS Unit.
Mid Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements (Parcels B and C)	Does not occur within any CBRS Unit.

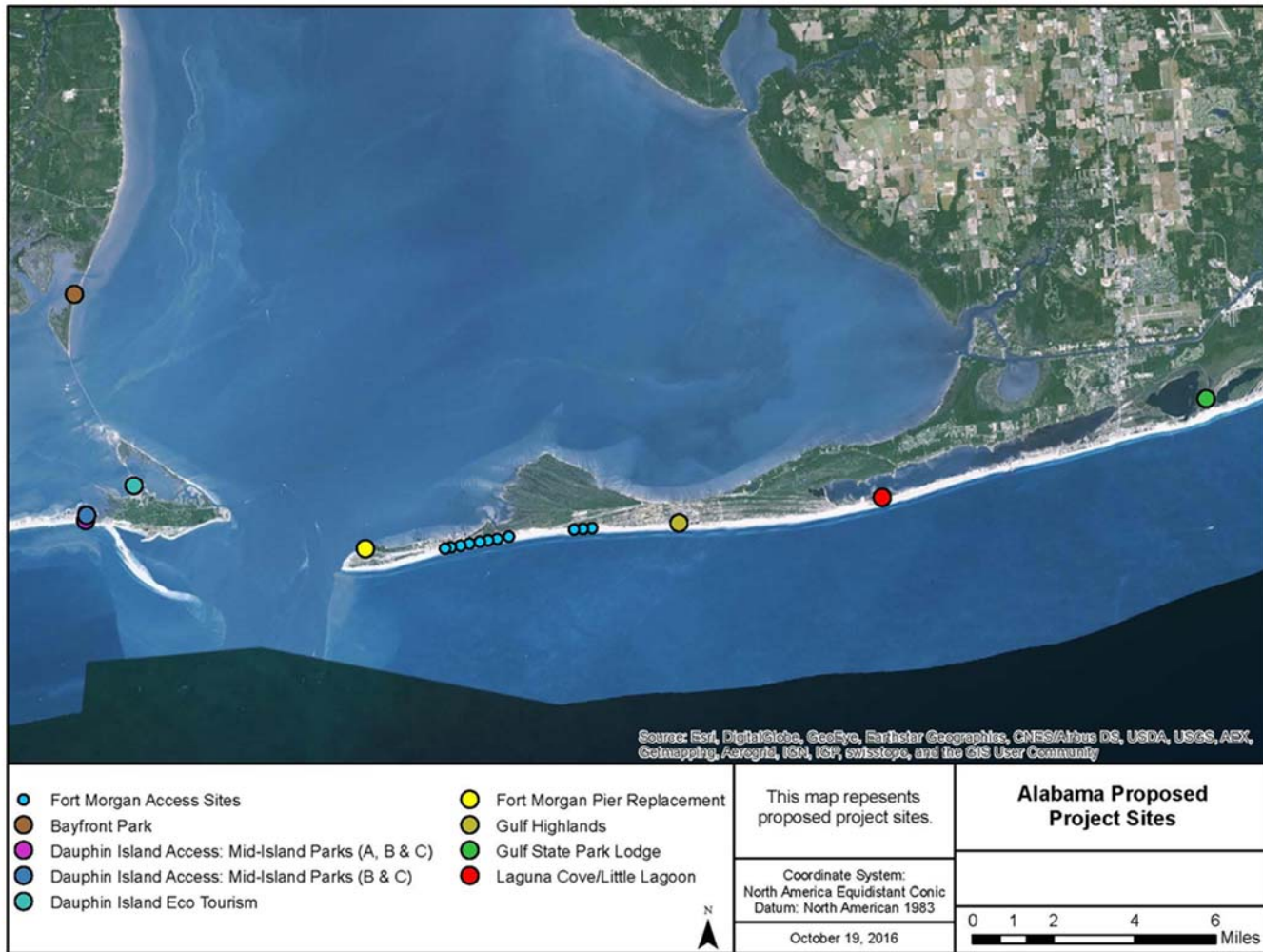


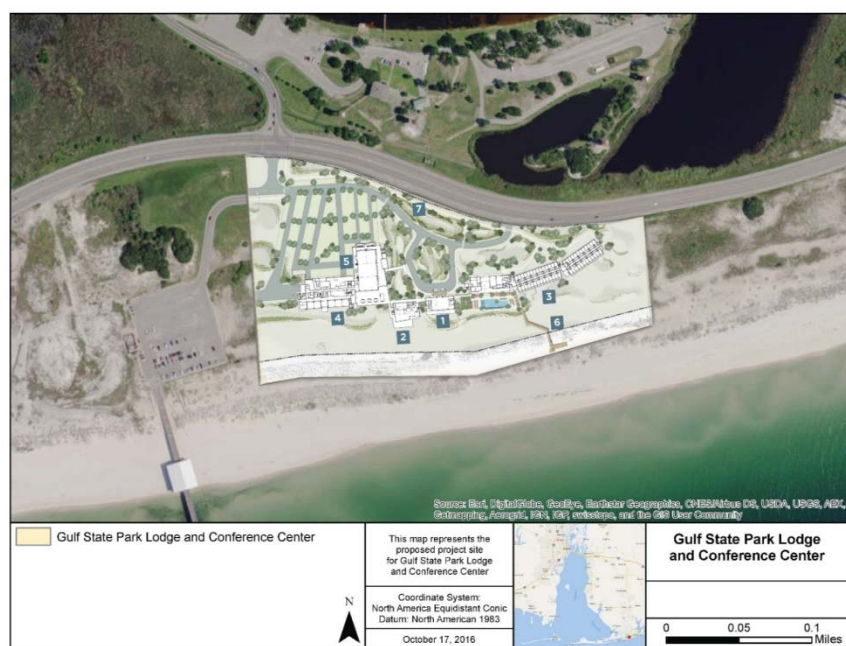
Figure 1. Location of proposed alternatives, Baldwin and Mobile counties, Alabama.

1. The Gulf State Park Lodge and Associated Public Access Amenities Project

The Gulf State Park Lodge and Associated Public Access Amenities Project would provide partial funding to rebuild the Gulf State Park (GSP) Lodge, which was destroyed in 2004 by Hurricane Ivan, and add associated visitor enhancements and amenities. The project would provide park visitors with an educational/interpretive lobby, public education programs, expansive viewing porches, public beach access, public restrooms and post-beach shower facilities, a restaurant, café, a bike share program, a public tram system, free public Wi-Fi, and overnight accommodations. The GSP Lodge would be rebuilt as a “green” overnight stay facility. The new lodge would provide overnight accommodations and ecologically based amenities in a natural environment. The lodge would be open to all GSP visitors and would offer amenities similar to those at existing lodges in the National Park System. The lobby and other public spaces in and around the lodge would serve as focal points for environmental education, with exhibits and programs addressing coastal Alabama ecosystems and sustainable development practices in the coastal zone.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed alternative occurs entirely within AL-02P. We have determined that CBRA does not apply because this is an Otherwise Protected Area and the only prohibition is Federal Flood Insurance. If there is anything else we need to capture for CBRA please let me know.



This alternative would fund the rehabilitation of a fishing pier located on the Fort Morgan Peninsula in extreme southwestern Baldwin County, Alabama. The existing pier is approximately 500 feet long and is located at the Fort Morgan State Historic Site. Until recently, the Fort Morgan fishing pier was heavily used by recreational fisherman. However, the pier, which is over 40 years old, fell into disrepair, and in 2014 the Alabama Historical Commission closed the pier for safety reasons. The proposed alternative would rehabilitate the pier on its existing foundations, increasing publicly available opportunities for pier-based fishing in Baldwin County

The proposed alternative occurs entirely within Q01P. We have determined that CBRA does not apply because this is an Otherwise Protected Area and the only prohibition is Federal Flood Insurance. If there is anything else we need to capture for CBRA please let me know.



3. Fort Morgan Peninsula Public Access Improvements

This alternative would fund Gulf beach access improvements on the Fort Morgan Peninsula in southwest Baldwin County, Alabama. The proposed alternative would construct parking and dune walkovers at 11 existing Baldwin County- and state-owned sites. These sites mainly consist of narrow (50 to 100 feet wide) county-owned sites at the end of county-owned rights-of-way. The sites are currently accessible by the public but lack parking, beach access amenities such as showers and bathrooms, and/or dune walkovers. Access would be improved for beach visits and other beach-based recreational activities by providing parking, beach access amenities, and dune walkovers to enhance recreational use and protect resources.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed alternative is not within any designated System Unit and is therefore not subject to CBRA.

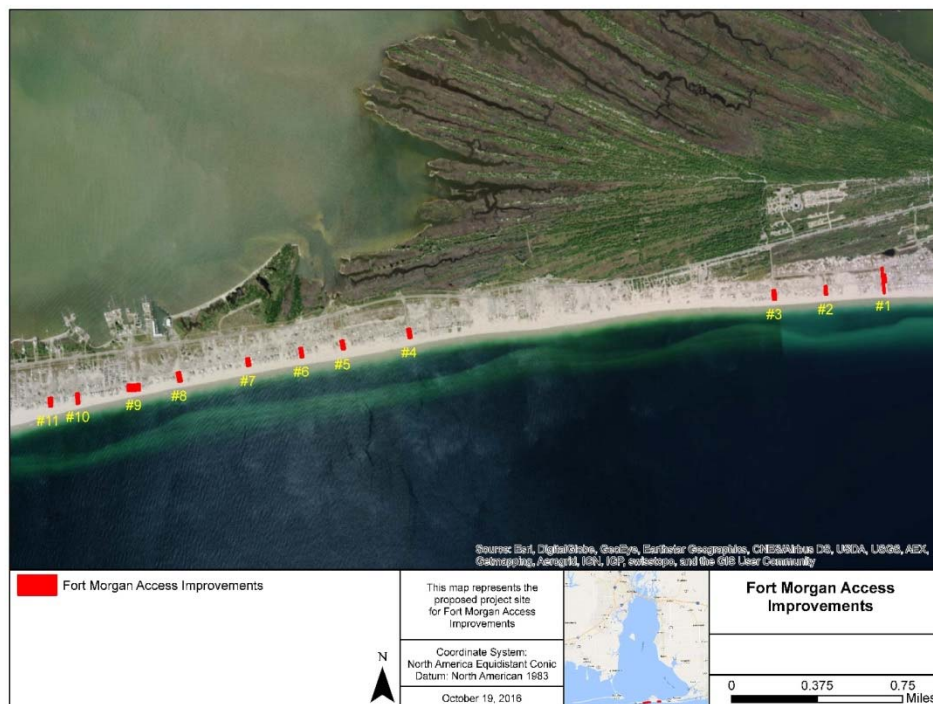


Figure 4. Location of Fort Morgan Access Improvements proposed alternative.

4. Laguna Cove Little Lagoon Natural Resource Protection

The State of Alabama would acquire two undeveloped tracts of land, totaling approximately 53 acres near Little Lagoon in Gulf Shores, Alabama. The tracts contain coastal wetlands and include portions of shoreline along Little Lagoon. This alternative would protect one of the largest undeveloped tracts of land on Little Lagoon, preserving habitat and ensuring that the land would remain in the public domain for enjoyment by future generations. In addition to land acquisition, several improvements are proposed to provide recreational access to the site, including a boardwalk, kayak launch, parking, and restrooms.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed alternative is not within any designated System Unit and is therefore not subject to CBRA.

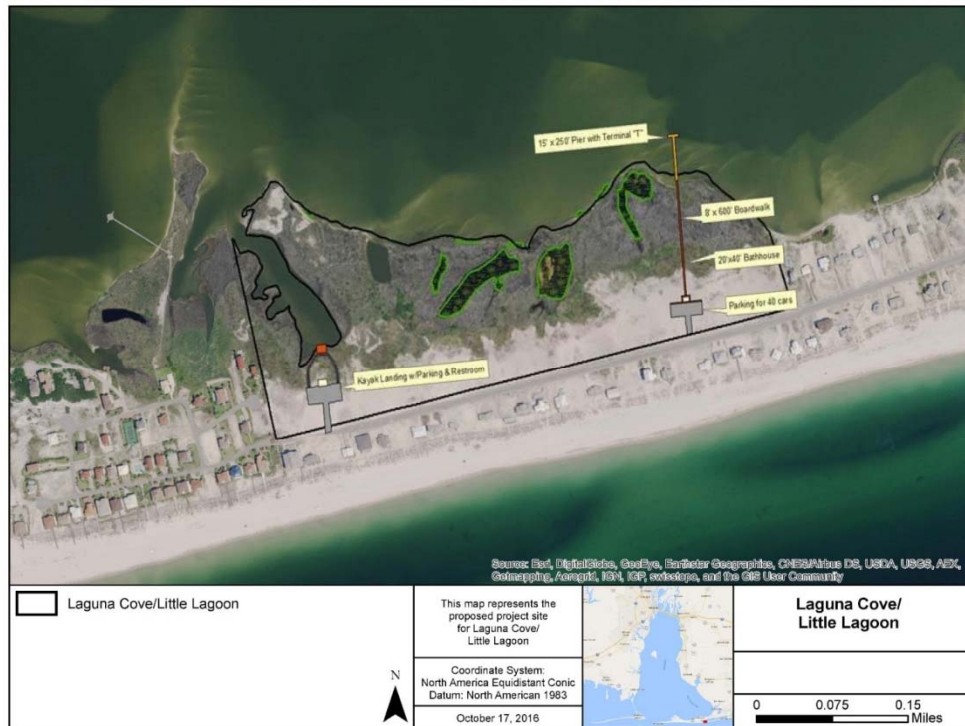


Figure 5. Location of Laguna Cove Little Lagoon proposed alternative.

5. Bayfront Park Restoration and Improvement

This alternative is proposed for a phased approach to restoration planning. The plan evaluates engineering and design activities to examine restoring Bayfront Park and providing additional improvements to the area on land owned by Mobile County. If this project were selected for implementation, additional NEPA analysis to address project implementation (construction and operation of the project) would occur at that time. Bayfront Park is located in Mobile County, on Dauphin Island Parkway near the Alabama Port community. This alternative would provide enhanced public access and infrastructure protection at Bayfront Park. As part of the project, a public access plan to promote support and stewardship would be developed.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed alternative is not within any designated System Unit and is therefore not subject to CBRA.

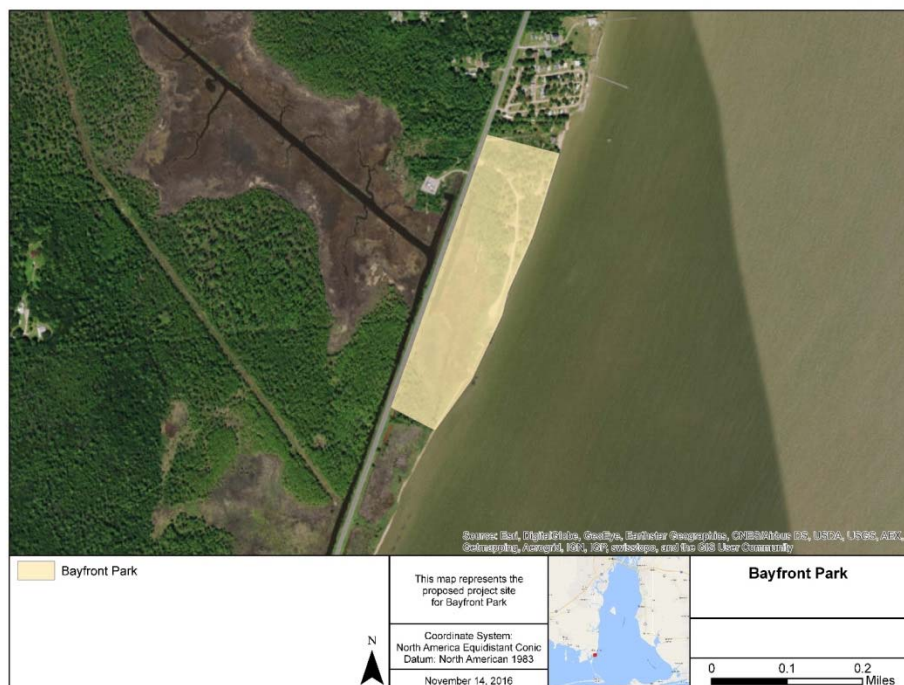


Figure 6. Location of Bayfront Park proposed alternative.

6. Dauphin Island Eco-Tourism and Environmental Education

Approximately 100 acres of land would be acquired, owned, and managed by the Town of Dauphin Island. The alternative would include developing a parking area and visitor amenities, including boardwalks, a gazebo, and public restrooms. Boardwalks would be placed above wetland habitat to allow visitors access to these habitats while minimizing environmental impacts. Educational signage would be placed at strategic locations to improve public awareness of environmental resources and enhance learning opportunities. This alternative would increase public access to wetland habitats adjacent to Aloe Bay, where very little public access currently exists.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed alternative is not within any designated System Unit and is therefore not subject to CBRA.



Figure 7. Location of Dauphin Island Eco Tourism proposed alternative.

7. Mid Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements (Parcels A, B, and C)

This alternative involves the acquisition of a total of approximately 10 acres and construction of access improvements on three separate parcels of land that would collectively offer visitors to Dauphin Island an expanded public beach area, improved access to the existing beach, additional public parking, and restroom/shower facilities. Once acquired, the Town of Dauphin Island would manage the land. These acquisitions and improvements would create new public access though visitor use amenities to the shoreline and enhance the quality of the experiences for visitors who currently use Dauphin Island's public beach.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed alternative is not within any designated System Unit and is therefore not subject to CBRA.

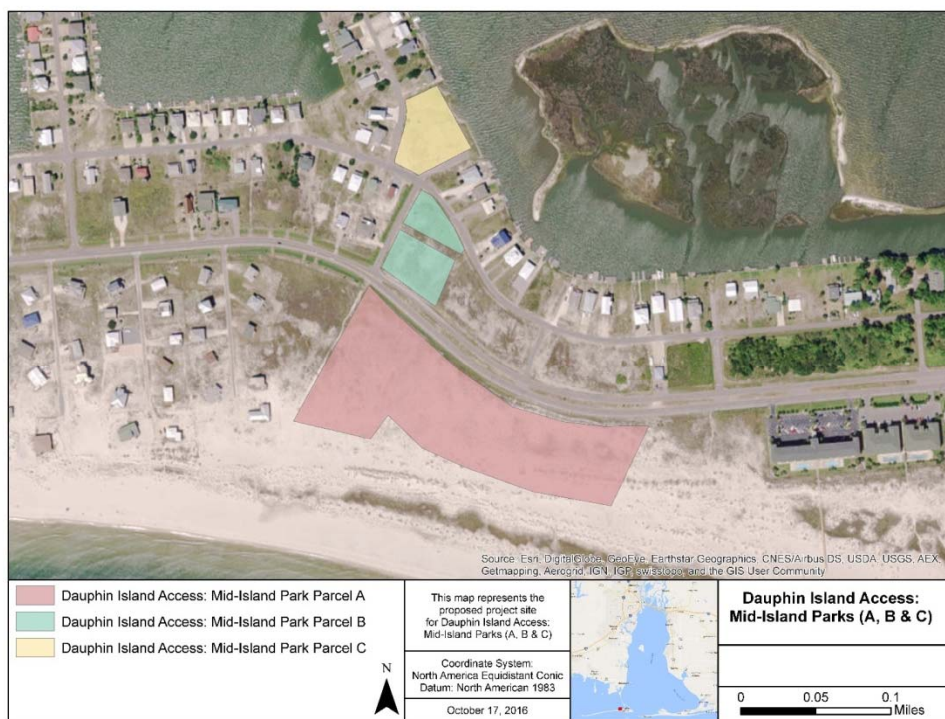


Figure 8. Location of Mid Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements (Parcels A, B, C) proposed alternative.

8. Mid Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements (Parcels B and C)

This alternative involves the acquisition and construction of access improvements on two separate parcels of property to collectively offer public parking and restroom/shower facilities at Dauphin Island. Once acquired, the Town of Dauphin Island would manage the land. This proposed alternative is designed to enhance access to the Gulf. Added parking and restroom/shower facilities would increase public access and enhance the quality of visitor experiences.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed alternative is not within any designated System Unit and is therefore not subject to CBRA.

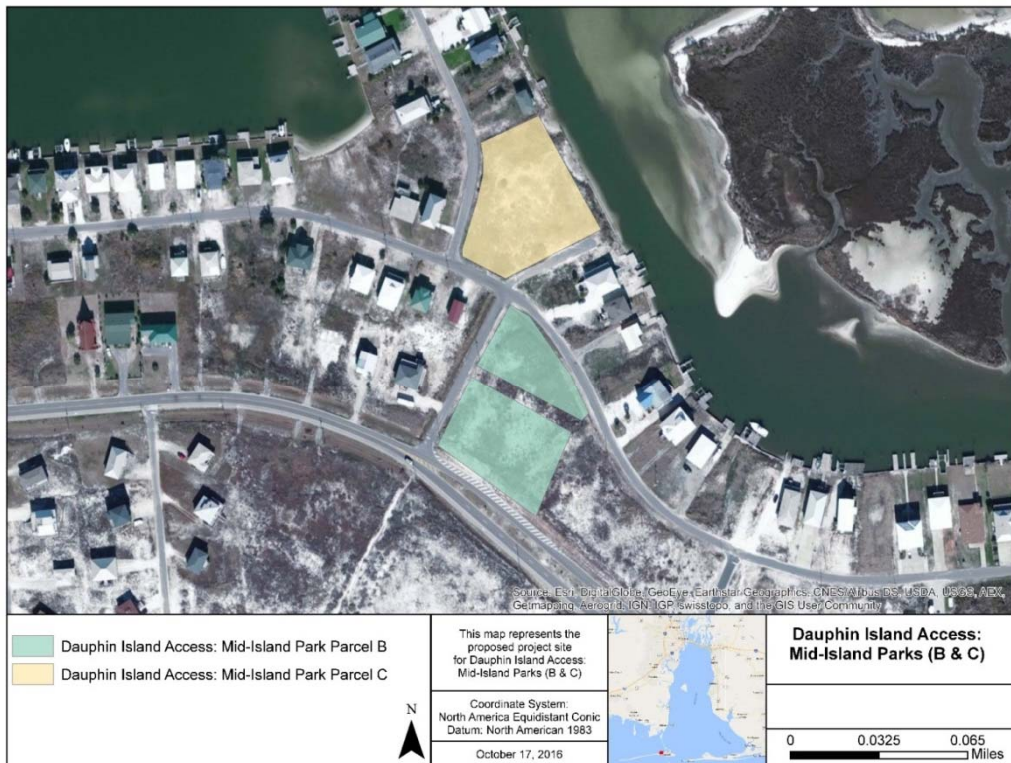


Figure 9. Location of Mid Island Parks and Public Beach Improvements (Parcels B, C) proposed alternative.