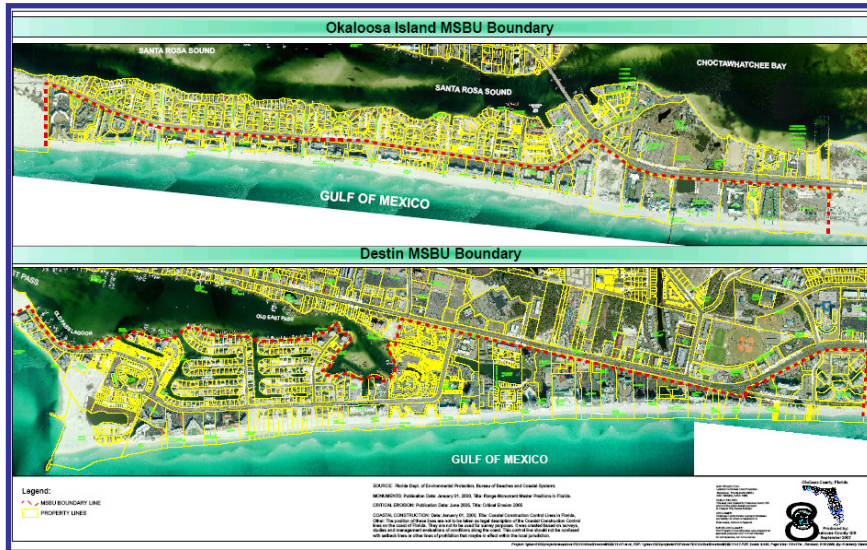


OKALOOSA COUNTY FUNDING FEASIBILITY STUDY

Client: Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council



Key Elements

- Public Outreach
- Funding Alternatives
- Public Input
- Property Database
- Funding Feasibility Study

Date: 2007

Cost: \$64,844

Contact:

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Beach Projects Manager
Okaloosa County TDC
1540 Miracle Strip Parkway SE
Fort Walton Beach, FL
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For those communities seeking to formulate and implement beach erosion control activities including beach restoration, it is the practice of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to authorize the use of State funds for a feasibility study to encourage the development of locally preferred beach restoration alternatives, and promote long-term planning for beach management. However, state cost share funds are generally not available for development of local funding plans.

Coastal Tech was contracted by the Okaloosa County Tourist Development Council to investigate funding options and develop a recommended funding plan for future beach restoration activities necessary to address critically eroded shorelines in Okaloosa County.

Coastal Tech identified conceptual federal, state and local funding alternatives for the County's beach restoration program; organized and hosted kick-off Charettes; integrated the use of a Tourist Development Tax ("Bed Tax"); evaluated the use of a Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU); and prepared and presented a *Funding Feasibility Study Report*.

The Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed the \$26 million beach financing plan which included two new MSBU units and imposition of a new 5th cent TDC assessment dedicated to the beach project.



Enhancing Coastal Life.