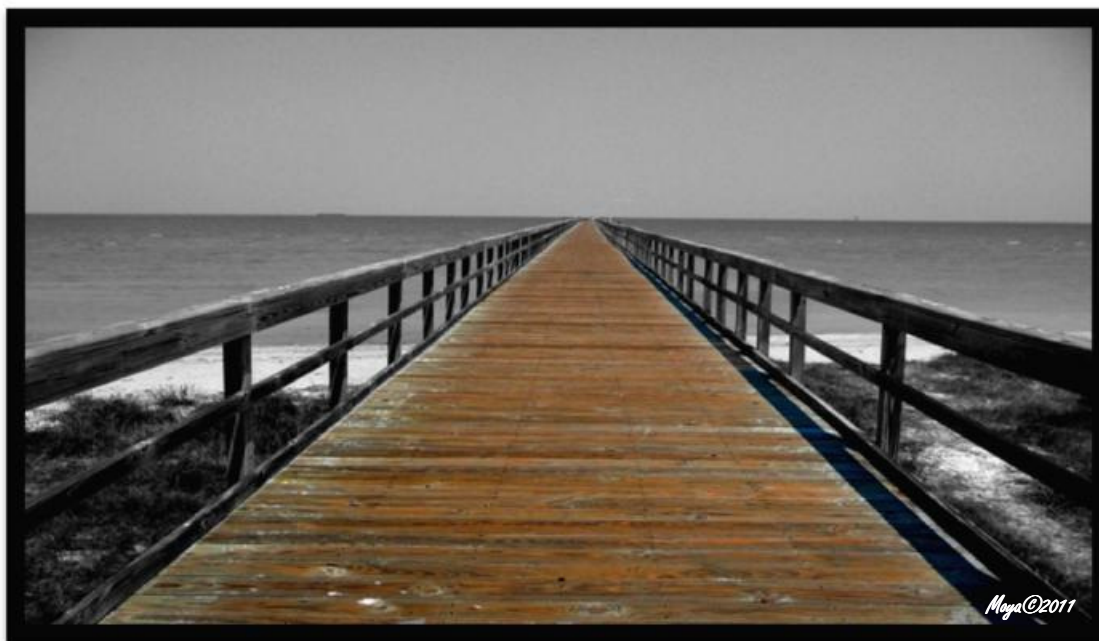


## Calhoun County Preliminary Inventory (Update) of Shoreline Access Infrastructure

### TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM-Appendix A



**Atkins Coastal Planning and Restoration Group**

Atkins Job No. 100023672

THIS TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM WAS PREPARED FOR THE COASTAL COORDINATION COUNCIL PURSUANT TO NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION AWARD NO. NA10NOS4190207.

December 2011



## Contents

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	Page
1. Introduction .....	1
2. Methodology .....	2
3. Inventory Update .....	7
4. Results.....	7
- Zone A: San Antonio Bay and West Calhoun County .....	9
- Zone B: Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).....	21
- Zone C: South Lavaca Bay .....	32
- Zone D: North Lavaca Bay.....	52
- Zone E: East Calhoun County.....	74
5. References .....	81

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**\*Front page photo: King Fisher Park Fishing Pier at Port O'Connor**

## 1. Introduction

With the population growth and the privatization of the shorelines, a large portion of the Texas coast is receiving high pressures on its public shoreline access and the recreational activities that go with it. The growth in visitation and population in Calhoun County (County) is just one example of these coastal trends. Public access for recreation, public safety and other uses has been an increasing problem for the County in the last 20 years. As a response to these problems the County is developing this Calhoun County Shoreline Access Master Plan in order to have a long-term approach to the problems and potential solutions associated with the access to the shorelines in Calhoun County. This document is a preliminary inventory of the conditions of existing shoreline access points and it provides suggestions for site improvements.

A Comprehensive Recreation, Conservation and Access Master Plan was prepared in 2006 for the West Side Calhoun County Navigation District (Public Management Inc., 2006). The study served as a planning document to assist the navigation district in improving conditions for its citizens, but it also covered some of the shoreline infrastructure needed for the County to respond to the visitation, population and economic growth. The report developed an inventory of recreational facilities and locations associated with various shoreline areas, such as boat ramps, piers, pavilions, beach areas, camping, fishing, bicycling, hunting, wildlife viewing and bird watching.

Based on the conclusions of the Public Management report and the regional needs to resolve the shoreline access issues related to comprehensive solutions, Atkins has prepared the update of the shoreline access points as the first step to identify alternatives and solutions to public access.

This preliminary assessment and evaluation of currently mapped county coastal access locations includes an inventory of the available infrastructure at each location ,potential expansion or revitalization, and the potential for multi-use recreational activities such as beach areas, camping, fishing, bird watching, etc. At the request of the County, Atkins specifically addressed three main topics:

**1. Boat Ramps.** Identification of the general conditions of the available boat ramps and potential areas for future development of new single- or multi-use boat ramps.

**2. Fishing Piers.** Identification of the general conditions of the available fishing piers and potential areas for future development of new single- or multi-use fishing piers.

**3. Paddling Trails or Areas.** Identification of the general conditions of the available paddling trails and kayaking access points and potential areas for future development of new single- or multi-use paddling trails and kayaking access.

The county is surrounded by four bays (Figure 1): Lavaca and Matagorda Bays on the east side, Espiritu Santo Bay on the south side, and San Antonio Bay on the west side. The county is also in contact with the Gulf of Mexico through Matagorda Island, which is south of the Espiritu Santo Bay. The county has a total land area of about 1,032 sq mi (2,673 km<sup>2</sup>). The total area of county waters is about 520 sq mi (1,347 km<sup>2</sup>). The shorelines in these bays have excellent conditions for public shoreline infrastructure.

## **2. Methodology**

Atkins analyzed the available inventory of existing bay and estuary access points and their available infrastructure as presented in the Texas Beach and Bay Access Guide (Guide) developed by the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) which is available at:

[http://www.glo.state.tx.us/OC/Beach\\_Access/pdf/04-GoldenCrescent.pdf](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/OC/Beach_Access/pdf/04-GoldenCrescent.pdf).

The guide was designed to help coastal visitors locate a variety of public access sites, National Wildlife Refuges, and Wildlife Management Areas along the Texas coast ( see Figure 2). As mentioned in the guide, public access sites may provide either direct or indirect access to the coast or bay. A brief description of primary recreational activities was provided. The guide included location maps showing available marinas, county/state/federal parks, boat ramps, and areas of recreational interest.







Figure 1. Bays in contact with Calhoun County.



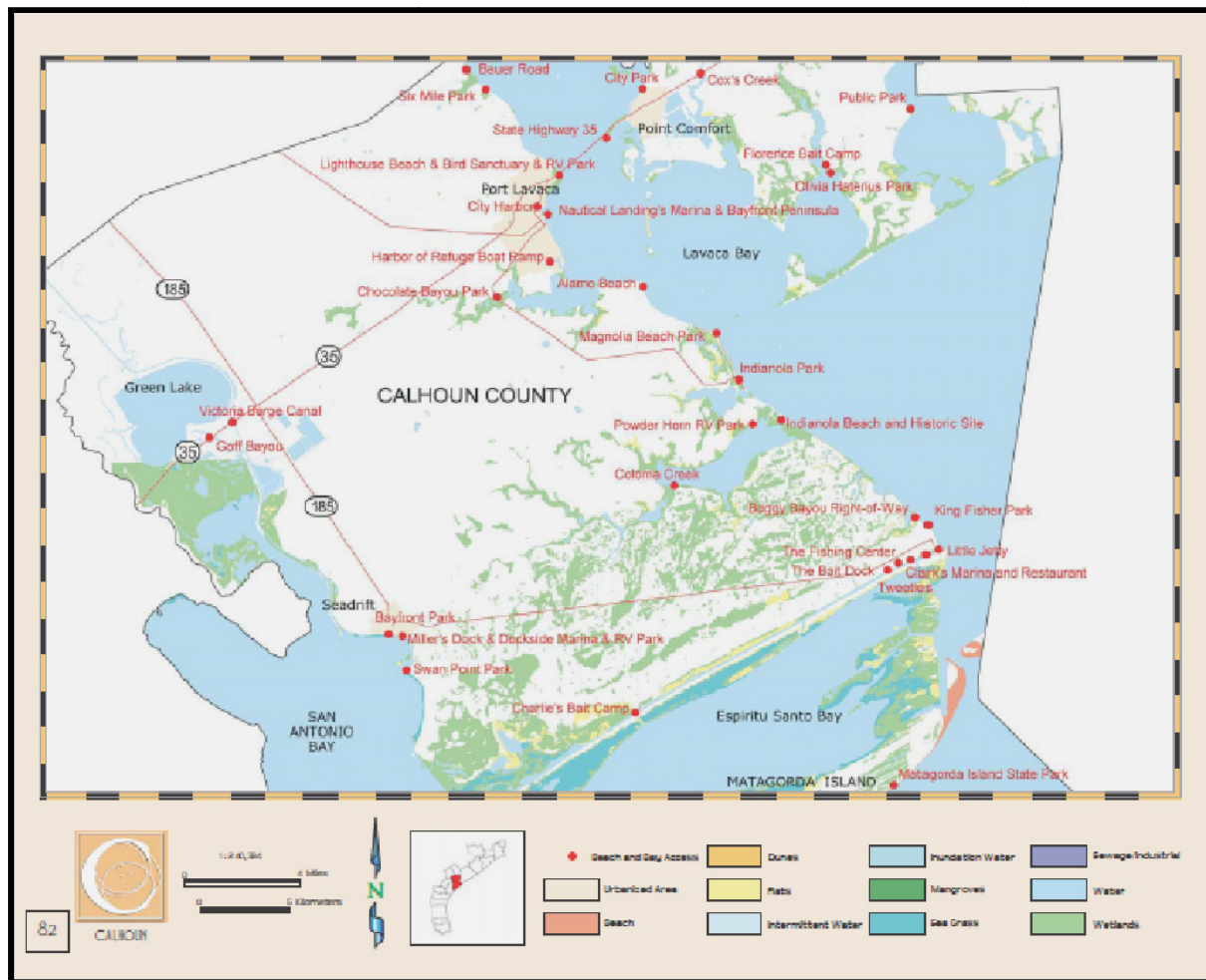


Figure 2. Location of the bay existing access points (Source: TGLO).

The guide provides information about available activities such as fishing, swimming, wildlife viewing, picnicking, camping, and windsurfing, along with available public infrastructure such as boat ramps, boat docks, piers, restrooms, showers, electricity and lighting, fresh water, concessions, fees, access for the mobility impaired, Gulf access, and access to bays, rivers, and lakes (Figure 3).



CALHOUN COUNTY		Fishing	Swimming	Hogare Fishing	Piercing	Camping	Windsurfing	Boat Ramp	Boat Dock	Pier	Restroom	Shower	Electric City Lighting	Fresh Water	Concession	Entrance Parking Fee	Access for the Mobility Impaired	Golf Access	Boat/Launch Access
Site/Area	Location (includes nearest city/town)																		
Alamo Beach	Carrigan Avenue, Alamo Beach	●						●	●										●
Bauer Road	End of Bauer Road northwest of Port Lavaca	●		●															●
Bayfront Park	Bay Avenue, Seadrift	●		●	●					●	●		●	●			●		●
Boggy Bayou Right-of-Way	North end of 2nd Street Port O'Connor	●		●															●
Charlie's Bait Camp	Lane Road, Seadrift 361-785-3023	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●
Chocolate Bayou Park	FM 238 at Chocolate Bayou Port Lavaca	●		●				●	●								●		●
City Harbor	Highway 238 & Harbor Street Port Lavaca	●			●			●	●						●				●
City Park	End of Lamar Street, Point Comfort	●		●	●			●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●		●
Clark's Marina & Restaurant	7th & Maple, Port O'Connor 361-983-4388			●				●	●	●	●				●		●		●
Coloma Creek	Highway 1289 & Powderhorn Lake Indianola	●		●				●											●
County Park	Bayshore Drive, Port Alto	●		●															●
Cox's Creek	Highway 35, 2 miles northeast of FM 1603, Point Comfort	●		●															●
Florence Bait Camp	End of Second Street, Olmita	●		●				●	●	●						●			●
Golf Bayou	State Highway 35, Seadrift	●		●															●
Harbor of Refuge Boat Ramp	Off of Alcoa Road (FM 1090) South of Port Lavaca	●		●				●	●								●		●
Indianola Beach & Historic Site	Omaha & Channel Drive Indianola	●		●	●														●
Indianola Park	North Ocean Drive & FM 316, Indianola	●		●	●					●	●						●		●
State Highway 35	North end of State Highway 35 & causeway, Point Comfort	●		●															●

































  

CALHOUN COUNTY		Fishing	Swimming	Hogare Fishing	Piercing	Camping	Windsurfing	Boat Ramp	Boat Dock	Pier	Restroom	Shower	Electric City Lighting	Fresh Water	Concession	Entrance Parking Fee	Access for the Mobility Impaired	Golf Access	Boat/Launch Access
Site/Area	Location (includes nearest city/town)																		
King Fisher Park	Tyler & Washington, Port O'Connor	●	●	●	●		●			●	●	●					●		●
Lighthouse Beach & Bird Sanctuary & RV Park	700 Lighthouse Beach Drive, Port Lavaca, 361-552-5311	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●		●
Little Jetty	Northeast end of Maple Avenue Port O'Connor	●	●	●													●		●
Magnolia Beach Park	Margo Towner Road & North Ocean Drive Magnolia Beach	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●						●		●
Matagorda Island State Park	Matagorda Island 361-983-2215	●	●	●	●	●	●				●	●				●		●	●
Miller's Dock & Dockside Marina & RV Park	100 Bay Avenue, Seadrift	●				●		●	●		●		●	●	●	●			●
Nautical Landings Marina & Bayfront Peninsula	106 Commerce Street, Port Lavaca, 361-553-7041	●		●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●					●
Olivia Haterius Park	End of Highway 172, Olmita	●		●	●			●	●								●		●
Powderhorn RV Park	601 Powderhorn Lane, Port Lavaca 361-552-7481	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●			●
Six Mile Park	End of Royal at Lavaca Bay Port Lavaca	●	●	●	●			●			●		●				●		●
Swan Point Park	End of Swan Point Road, Seadrift	●		●				●											●
The Bait Dock	Byers & Maple Street, Port O'Connor 361-983-4466	●		●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●		●		●
The Fishing Center	13th & Intracoastal Canal Port O'Connor, 361-983-4440			●	●			●	●		●				●		●		●
Tweeties	Located off of Maple Street Port O'Connor							●	●	●	●				●	●			●
Victoria Barge Canal	State Highway 35 southwest of Port Lavaca	●		●															●

● Boat Launch Fee

Figure 3. Information available on activities and infrastructure on the shoreline access points in Calhoun County, Texas (Source: TGLO)

Illustration signs were used in this memorandum to represent public infrastructure available at each access point, based on the descriptions provided in the TGLO Guide. Atkins followed the illustration format used by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for public parks. A few illustrations were also created to include local conditions. The list of signs is as follow:

 Hiking Trails	 Picnic Tables
 Nature/Interpretive Trails	 Exhibit/Interpretive Center
 Biking Trails	 Historic Site/Museum
 Equestrian Trails	 Primitive/Walk-in Campsites
 Golf	 Tent Campsites
 Fishing	 Water and Electric Campsites
 Fishing Pier	 Water, Electric and Sewer Sites
 Fish Cleaning Shelters	 Motel/Lodging
 Swimming	 Playground
 Restaurant	 Boat Ramp
 Restrooms	 Wildlife Viewing
 Showers	 Shoreline Access
 Wheelchair Accessible	 Wind Surfing
 Open Beach	 Electricity/Lighting
 User's Fee	 Fresh Water
 Swimming Pool	 Kayaking



### **3. Inventory Update**

Atkins used publically available spatial data (e.g., Google Earth, the TGLO's Shoreline Access Guide) to locate the shoreline access points. Once spatial data was collected, Atkins performed a field verification effort on all of the access points. Various amenities were noted, representative photographs were taken, and other features or issues (e.g., erosion evidence) were documented. In addition to the coastal access locations listed in the Guide, other unmapped or "unauthorized" potential access locations were also evaluated. These areas include access points that are either not listed or mapped in the TGLO Guide or are unauthorized but well used by the general public. Potential additional uses at each location were also considered.

### **4. Results**

Atkins performed a field verification of 33 coastal shoreline access locations that were listed in the TGLO Guide. Of the 33 sites, two sites were non-existent, and several had limited amenities, despite the fact that the TGLO Guide listed several or numerous significant amenities. Some locations existed, but were inaccurately listed as public access. Access on Coloma Creek is one such example. The access is actually a Texas Department of Transportation Right of Way, but the map indicates a much larger tract, with actual access location depicted on potential private property.

As part of the inventory, the area of study was analyzed by location. The analysis was divided in five areas (See Figure 4):

Zone A: San Antonio Bay and West Calhoun County

Zone B: Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW)

Zone C: South Lavaca Bay

Zone D: North Lavaca Bay

Zone E: East Calhoun County

The inventory presented in this preliminary report will serve as the first step in the development of a Shoreline Access Master Plan.



Figure 4. Shoreline Access Zones used in this inventory: Zone A--San Antonio Bay and West Calhoun County; Zone B--Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW); Zone C--South Lavaca Bay; Zone D--North Lavaca Bay; and Zone E--East Calhoun County.









**Zone A: San Antonio Bay and West Calhoun County**





**Area Name: Goff (Hog) Bayou (South of Green Lake)**



 Fishing	 Wildlife Viewing
 Swimming	 Shoreline Access
 Boat Ramp	 Kayaking





**Area Name: Goff (Hog) Bayou (South of Green Lake)**

Location: Highway 35 and Goff Bayou

Activity/Amenity	Infrastructure /Facilities	Comments
Fishing	X	
Swimming	X	
Wildlife Viewing	X	
Picnicking		
Camping		
Windsurfing		
Boat Ramp	X	
Boat Dock		
Pier		
Restroom		
Shower		
Electricity/Lighting		
Fresh Water		
Concession		
Entrance/Parking Fee		
Access for the Mobility Impaired		
Gulf Access		
Bay/River/Lake Access	X	
Other Comments:	The site is accessed from State Highway 35. Needs access to the shorelines for mobility impaired. Users mentioned that it really needs water and lights. It has great potential for kayaking.	