



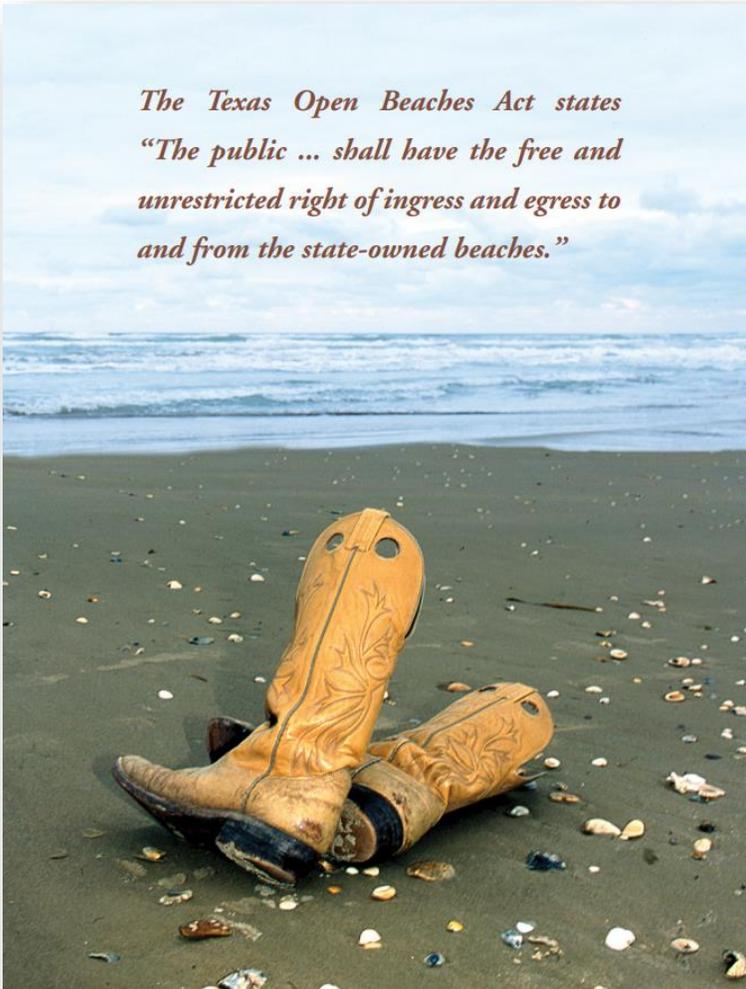
# Beach Access & Dune Protection Plan Review Ad Hoc Committee

Progress Report to City Council  
December 13, 2018

# Texas Open Beaches Act (OBA)

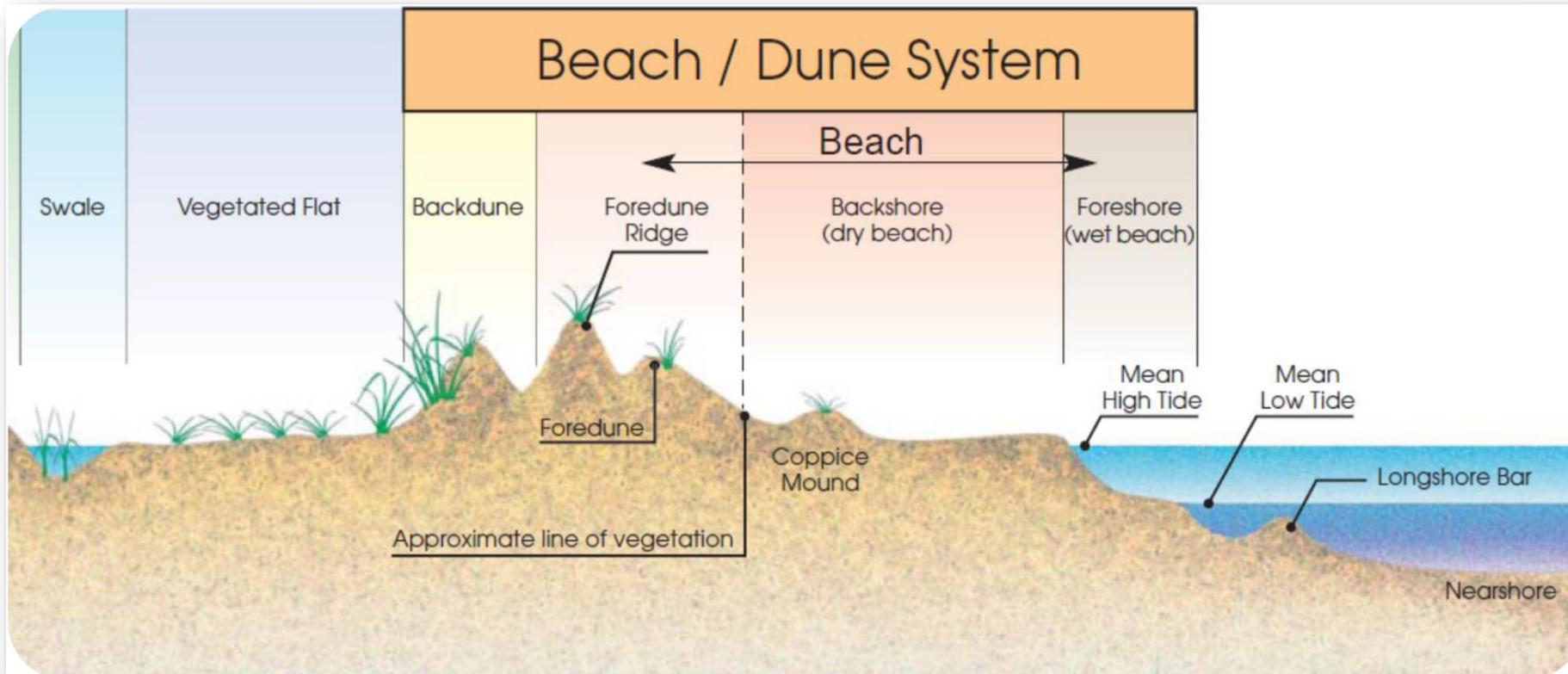


*The Texas Open Beaches Act states  
"The public ... shall have the free and  
unrestricted right of ingress and egress to  
and from the state-owned beaches."*



- Passed by the Texas Legislature in 1959.
- The common law right of the public to have free and unrestricted access to the public beach.
- “Public beach” extends from the line of mean low tide to the line of vegetation. ([Chapter 61 of the Texas Natural Resources Code](#))
- Unlawful to prevent or impede access to/use of the public beach.

# Typical Cross Section of a Texas Barrier Island



# Beach Access: Considerations



**State considers vehicular access as primary means of access to most Texas beaches.**

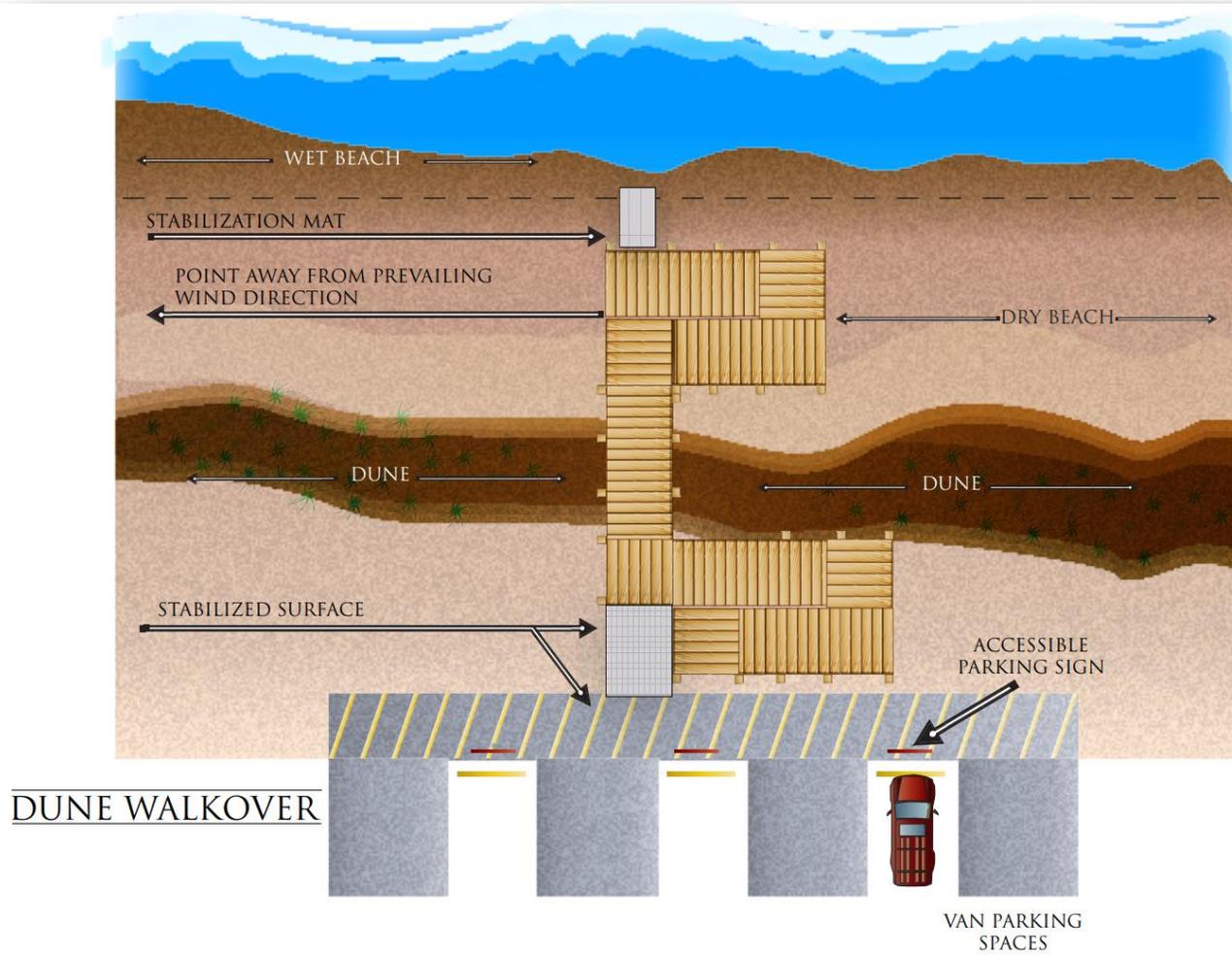
- Recognized as an acceptable option for providing access for persons with disabilities (ADA).

## **Where vehicles are prohibited from the beach:**

- Ingress/Egress ways must be no farther apart than 1/2-mile.
- An “equal or greater” means of access must be provided.
  - Including maintaining accessible (ADA) paths to the beach.
- Easily recognizable through use of conspicuous signage.



# Alternative to On-Beach Vehicle Access/Parking



# Background

City's Beach Access and Dune Protection Plan was last comprehensively reviewed and updated between July 2001 and February 2004:

- 47 hours of public meetings.
- 114 hours of meetings with subdivisions and neighborhoods.
- 1,064 hours of staff time preparing for meetings, research, plan development.



# Ad Hoc Committee

## Mission:

- Review the City of Galveston's Beach Access and Dune Protection Plan.
- Provide recommendations to Planning Commission and City Council on possible amendments.

## Membership:

- Seven residents appointed by City Council.
- Two Planning Commission representatives.

## To Date:

- 11 committee meetings (27.5 hours)

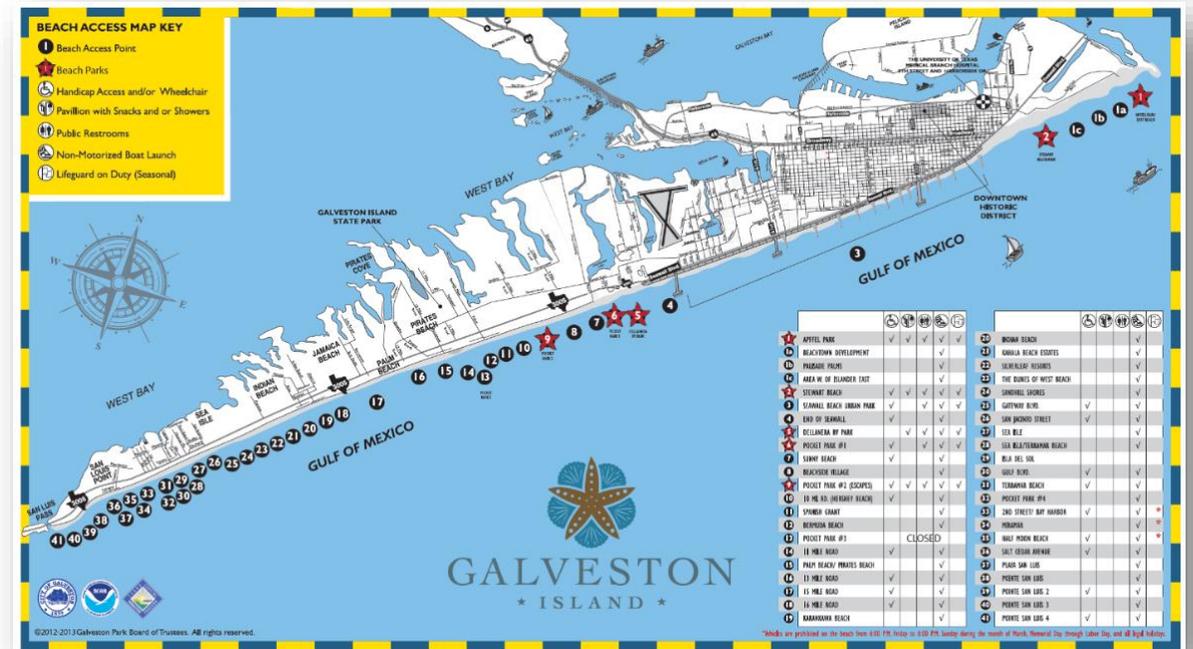


*(left to right)* Paul Sivon, Barbara Railey, Bruce Reinhart, Reuben Trevino, Carol Hollaway, Rhonda Gregg-Hirsch, Jerry Mohn, Joanie Steinhaus. Chula Ross-Sanchez *(not pictured)*

# Guiding Principles

Developed by the committee to drive consistent recommendations for improving beach access, which address the following areas of interest:

- Vehicular Access and Parking
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Improvement of Access Points
- Restoration & Preservation of Natural Resources



# Challenges



## Location of Existing Access Points:

- Are sometimes located across private property (via easement).
  - Presents a possible challenge for **funding**.
- Are sometimes located off of a private street.
- May be shared by other uses (vehicular access, drainage, etc.).
- Erosion and Accretion of beach areas make providing and maintaining ADA-compliant access a challenge.



# Challenges

## Directional Signage and Wayfinding

- Better signage needed to better direct public to parking, access paths, amenities.
- Disappearing signage.
- Unofficial signage.



# Opportunities



## Pocket Parks (Improve and Enhance)

- Opportunity to create model access points by improving amenities.
  - Encourage visitors to utilize these parks and enhanced amenities.

## Improve Access (by Improving Drainage)

- Coordination with other City departments.

## Public/Private Partnerships

- Develop partnerships with private sector to improve public access.
- Improve Communication.



# Draft Plan Preparation & Review



1. Begin Review of Beach Access Plan, provide recommendations on possible future amendments to plan.
- 2. Progress Report to City Council, Gather Input & Direction.**
3. Beach Access Town Hall Meeting(s) in early 2019.
4. Consider and Incorporate Input from City Council and other Stakeholders.



# Draft Plan Preparation & Review



5. Complete Review of Beach Access Plan.
6. Staff prepare a Draft Plan and Present it to Committee for Review & Comment.
7. Revise and Refine, Prepare Final Draft of Plan.
  - Final Draft to include an Implementation Plan, to prioritize recommendations.
8. Present Final Draft of Plan to Planning Commission, City Council.
9. Begin work on Review & Recommendations on Dune Protection Standards.

# Next Steps...



## Ad Hoc Committee Meetings:

City Hall, Room 100 – 2:30pm – 5:00pm

- December 19, 2018
- January 9, 2019
- January 16, 2019
- February 6, 2019
- February 20, 2019
- Future meeting dates TBD...

## Town Hall Meeting:

(Location & Time is TBD)

- January 24, 2019



# Questions?

## Coastal Resources Division

- Dustin Henry AICP, Manager
- Virginia Greb, Assistant Manager



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