

**Willacy County Fred Stone Park Amenities Enhancements
22-045-015-D112**

**Final Report
June 2024**

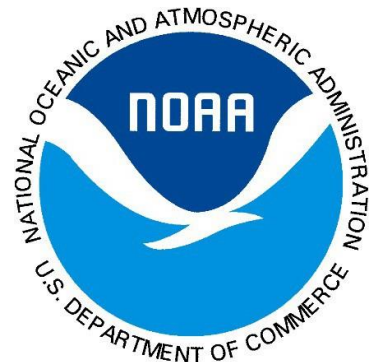
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GLO CONTRACT NO. 22-045-015-D112



Project Background:

Fred Stone Park is in Port Mansfield Texas on the shores of the Lower Laguna Madre. The park is enjoyed by the local public and tourists alike. The Fred Stone Park Pier is one of the few public fishing piers that allows access the Lower Laguna Madre. Due to the age of the park and impacts from major storm surges and severe weather events, the park has been in need of improvements and upgrades to provide better public access.

Currently, the park has no designated parking limiting use and access. The site currently has no restroom facilities as well since the existing restroom have fallen into disrepair and are no longer functional. The current access road has been washed out due to storm surge and wear/tear from traffic. The park is also poorly lit and does not include garbage cans. These proposed amenities will improve the quality of life and prosperity in the community while also protecting, preserving, and restoring the quality and diversity of coastal natural resources in the area. This Project is part of larger Fred Stone Park enhancement efforts to restore the access and recreational facilities that have fallen into disrepair. The previous phase of work included reconstruction of the pier to increase fishing and recreational access.

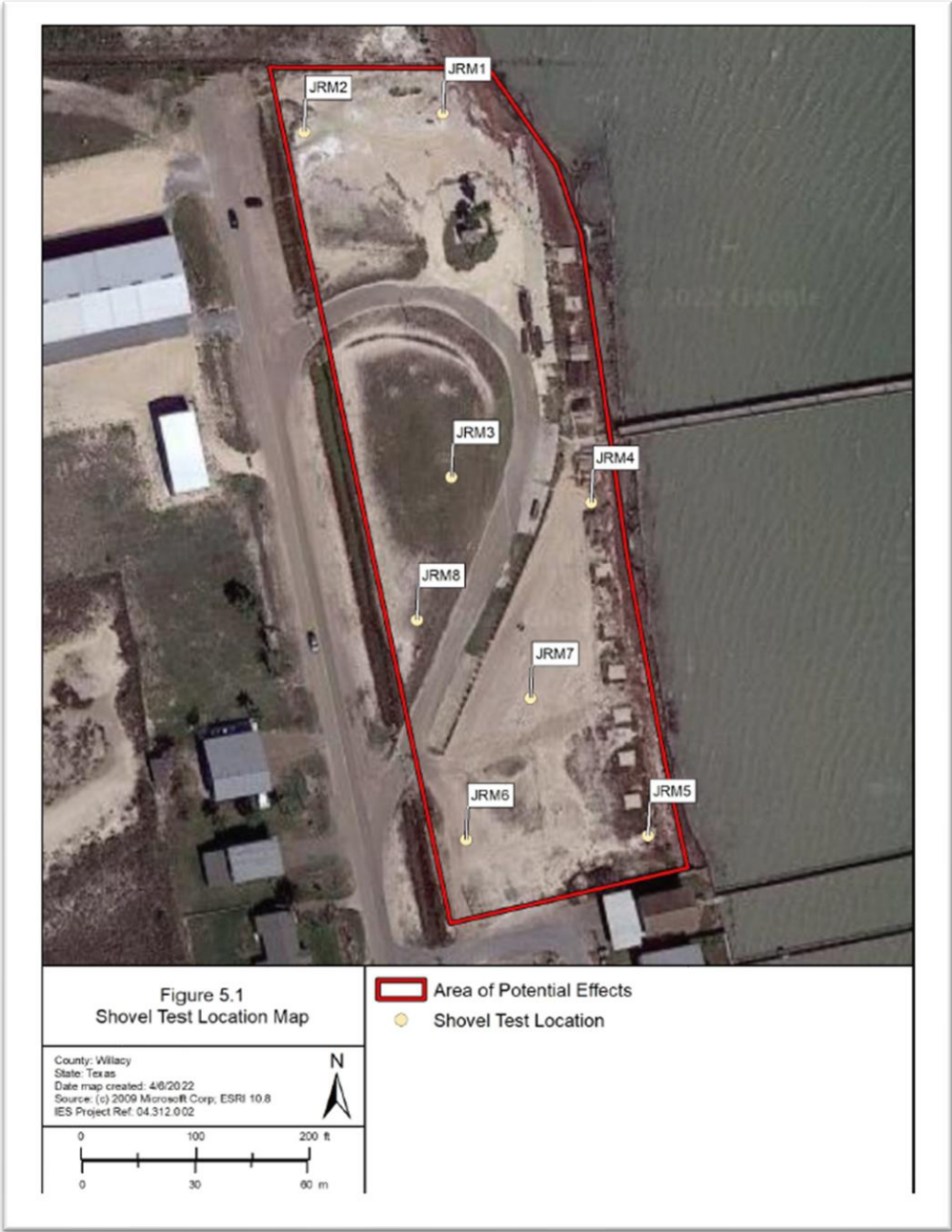
The current phase under this project included creating final design plans for an ADA restroom facility with a rinse station, roadway reconstruction, parking lot with ADA parking spaces, ADA compliant nature trail, appropriate safety lighting, and waste receptacles. In making these improvements, the Subrecipient hopes to provide safe public access and attract more people to the park and is currently securing funding for the construction of the park improvements designed in this project.



Current conditions of Fred Stone Park, with the pier completed in previous project phases

Task 1: Grant Administration and Archaeological Survey

GrantWorks was procured by Willacy County as the grant administration consultant to oversee the project's grant compliance and reporting efforts. GrantWorks has a long-standing relationship with Willacy County and has provided grant administration, environmental review, and labor compliance oversight services to the County for multiple Federal and State grants for 20+ years. GrantWorks also assisted in procuring the required archeological survey consultants as a subcontractor under their contract. The archeologists procured were Integrated Environmental Solutions. The archeological survey resulted in no findings and clearance and permits from the Texas Historical Commission were granted on June 14, 2022.



Shovel test locations of the archeological survey

Task 2: Engineering, Design, Permitting

Engineering and design efforts initially proved challenging under this project. Fulcrum Engineering was originally procured and contracted for both design and construction engineering of the amenities under this project. They fell significantly behind schedule and were not in the end successful in delivering final plans for the project. Several rounds of final plans were submitted to GLO for review between September 2022 and March 2023. Those documents were found to be deficient of the information needed for construction drawings and also included several rounds of incorrect amenities that did not match the project scope. Unfortunately, the engineers originally procured were terminated for their inability to provide the required deliverables under their contract and to sufficiently respond to GLO requests for revision.

In June 2023, GLO staff took the opportunity to offer alternative approaches to using the grant funds available and proposed restructuring the project and extending the grant timeline to accommodate the design setbacks. The revised grant end date was June 30, 2024. The project was re-structured to devote the remainder of the project’s time and funds to procuring a new engineer and designing the requested park enhancements. The final deliverable for this grant funding cycle would be the final

construction drawings and bid solicitation documents with bidding and construction planned for future funding rounds.

Mott MacDonald engineers were procured for the second design attempt and began work in May 2023. Mott MacDonald worked closely with the County to confirm structural and design elements for the restroom facility, parking, walking trails and other requested improvements. 30% plans were submitted in February 2024 and final plans submitted early June 2024. Minimal GLO comments were received and final plans and construction bid documents were submitted by the engineers and approved by the County.



Detail from final plans submitted by Mott MacDonald

Task 3: Project Monitoring and Reporting

Project monitoring and reporting were provided throughout the course of the project by the County's grant administrator, Shirley Rempe with GrantWorks.

Willacy County is pleased to report that all deliverables under the revised timeline and workplan were completed within the grant timeline, thanks in large part to the flexibility and creativity of the GLO CMP staff. The County is grateful for the opportunity to work towards bringing these highly anticipated enhancements to Fred Stone Park and looks forward to moving into future phases of the project to pursue constructing the elements designed under this funding cycle.