



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
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MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

JUN 05 2019
Suzanne VanParreren
Stewardship Coordinator
Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
Sapelo Island, Georgia

**Re: Letter of Permission (LOP) for Sapelo Island Nature Trail Footbridge Repairs, Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve, Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia.
GPS: (31.39479°N/-81.26983°W)**

Dear Ms. VanParreren:

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request dated April 18, 2017, to perform maintenance on the Sapelo Island Nature Trail Footbridge that crosses Dean Creek, on Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia.

According to the request, four cross-brace members will be replaced between pilings where the existing members are deteriorated. Four additional 10-inch diameter wood piles will be installed to support the footbridge where the creek has eroded leaving 84 ft. of unsupported span. Equipment needed to complete the work includes the use of a 10' aluminum boat to guide the piles, a 3-inch pump, a pulley, and hand tools. There will be no changes to the current footprint of this existing footbridge. The project will begin no sooner than 15 days from the date of this letter and must be completed within six (6) months from the date of this letter.

The Department authorizes the repairs and maintenance of the footbridge within Coastal Marshlands Protection Act jurisdiction as depicted in the attached description(s). Debris and sediment must be disposed of at an appropriate upland area. No unauthorized equipment, materials, or debris may be placed, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas. Any incidental damage to coastal marshlands will require restoration to be coordinated through this office. This LOP is valid for the above referenced project. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office could result in the revocation of this permission and in the required removal of the related structures.

This LOP does not relieve you from obtaining any other federal, state, or local permits. If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this or any other projects, please feel free to contact Amy Flowers at (912) 262-3109.

Sincerely,

Jill Andrews
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: Description
File: LOP20190068
CC: Project Description

Boardwalk emergency repair on Sapelo Island

Suzanne VanParreren

Stewardship Program Coordinator

Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve

INTRODUCTION

In 1995 The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve build a new interpretive nature trail system on the south end of the island. The nature trail is 1.93 miles in length and encompasses five barrier island ecological systems, including upland maritime forest, tidal salt marsh, oak and cedar hammock zones, ancient and primary dunes and beach systems. The trail includes a 120 feet aluminum gangway over a tidal creek, named Dean Creek. The flow of the tidal waters of this creek has increased over the past 10 years after a narrow culvert was replaced by a 50 feet expansion bridge, approximately 1000 feet down the creek. This increased flow has significantly influenced the sediment accretion rate in the surrounding marsh as well as the erosion rate along the north bank of the creek underneath the gangway.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The north bend of the creek has eroded significantly, and the creek is considerably wider than when the initial support beams were placed for the gangway. This has compromised the stability of the gangway on the distal side of the trail by creating 84 feet of unsupported span. In addition, four sets of the cross-brace members between the pilings are severely rotten and need to be replaced. One of the current support beams houses one of our SWMP sonde units and this is a frequently used trail by many visitors and their safety is our immediate concern.

METHODS

The Reserve will contract with a local builder from the McIntosh County community to make the repairs to the cross-braces and install the additional supports. The local contractors in this

area have vast experience of low-impact repairs in the marine and estuarine environs. We will file the appropriate permits to conduct this work and post appropriate safety notices. We have received assessments and estimates for the repairs and would like to start the work by this summer.

POTENTIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Listed species

ESA USFWS Threatened (T) or Endangered (E) species that might overlap in the range of our study include:

T	Knot, red (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)
T	Manatee, West Indian (<i>Trichechus manatus</i>)
T	Plover, piping (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)
T	Salamander, frosted flatwoods (<i>Ambystoma cinquatum</i>)
E	Sawfish, smalltooth (<i>Pristis pectinata</i>)
E	Sea turtle, hawksbill (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>)
E	Sea turtle, Kemp's ridley (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>)
E	Sea turtle, leatherback (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)
T	Sea turtle, loggerhead (<i>Caretta caretta</i>)
T	Snake, eastern indigo (<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>)
T	Stork, wood (<i>Mycteria americana</i>)
E	Sturgeon, shortnose (<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>)
E	Whale, finback (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>)
E	Whale, North Atlantic Right (<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>)
E	Woodpecker, red-cockaded (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)

This project will take place in the original area without expansions. It will have no anticipated effects on USFWS Threatened and Endangered species as listed on the Federal Register under the Endangered Species Act. The project will neither occur in nesting habitat nor during

breeding or fledging season of the red knot, red-cockaded woodpecker, piping plover, or wood stork. There are no records of eastern indigo snake on the barrier islands of Georgia, and our project sites will not occur in their preferred habitat. The marine and estuarine species will not be found in this area at this time either and no sightings have been documented.

IMAGES OF NATURE TRAIL, DEAN CREEK AND REPAIRS NEEDED.



○ Gangway

○ Bridge over Dean Creek











Support needed.

Tasciotti, Beth

From: Flowers, Amy
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 3:04 PM
To: VanParreren, Suzanne
Subject: RE: Permission for urgent repairs

Thank you.

Amy Flowers
Coastal Permit Coordinator
Coastal Resources Division
(912) 262-3109 | M: (912) 266-0642
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From: VanParreren, Suzanne <Suzanne.VanParreren@dnr.ga.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Flowers, Amy <amy.flowers@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: RE: Permission for urgent repairs

Two pairs, 4 piles total.
Yes, 10-inch diameter.

Thanks!

Suzanne

From: Flowers, Amy
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 2:49 PM
To: VanParreren, Suzanne <Suzanne.VanParreren@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: RE: Permission for urgent repairs

Just to double check, will four pairs of piles be installed (e.g. 8 piles) or will 2 pairs (e.g. 4 piles) be installed?
Also, the piles are 10-inch diameter wood piles, correct?

Thanks.

Amy Flowers
Coastal Permit Coordinator
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From: VanParreren, Suzanne <Suzanne.VanParreren@dnr.ga.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Flowers, Amy <amy.flowers@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: RE: Permission for urgent repairs

You are welcome.

Four piles will be installed under the exiting gangway and we will be replacing four sets of the cross-brace members, correct.

No other repairs are needed at this time.

Thank you.

Suzanne

Suzanne VanParreren
Stewardship Coordinator

Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
Sapelo Island, Georgia
(912) 485-2251

www.sapelonerr.org

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From: Flowers, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 3:19 PM
To: VanParreren, Suzanne <Suzanne.VanParreren@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: RE: Permission for urgent repairs

Ms. VanParreren,

Thank you for your quick response.

How many 10-inch diameter piles are going to be installed under the existing gangway?

In addition, you will be replacing four-sets of the cross-brace members between the pilings, correct?

Will there be any other repairs other than what is stated?

Thank you.

Amy Flowers
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Coastal Resources Division
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From: VanParreren, Suzanne <Suzanne.VanParreren@dnr.ga.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 1:25 PM
To: Flowers, Amy <amy.flowers@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: RE: Permission for urgent repairs

Thank you, Ms. Flowers.

We will be working off the existing gangway and will have a small 10" aluminum boat in the water to guide the piles in adjacent locations. We will be jetting the piles in and that will be with a 3 inch pump as well as a pulley and hand tools. That's the heaviest of the machinery. There will be no impact to the existing foot print other than the 10 inch diameter piles that are installed under the existing gang-way.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Kindly,

Suzanne

Suzanne VanParreren
Stewardship Coordinator
Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
Sapelo Island, Georgia
(912) 485-2251

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From: Flowers, Amy
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 8:51 AM
To: VanParreren, Suzanne <Suzanne.VanParreren@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: RE: Permission for urgent repairs

Good Morning Ms. VanParreren,

I received your request for the Sapelo Island Nature Trail repairs. I need some additional information about the repair methodology in order to continue to process your request.

1. Will the repairs be completed from the upland or from in the marsh?
 - a. If in the marsh, how will the repairs be completed (e.g. by boat, kayak, on foot?)
2. What equipment will be used in the repairs (e.g., hand tools, heavy machinery? Be specific.)
3. Will the repairs change the footprint in any way?

Thank you and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Amy Flowers
Coastal Permit Coordinator
Coastal Resources Division
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From: VanParreren, Suzanne
Sent: Thursday, April 25, 2019 12:16 PM
To: Noble, Josh <Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov>
Subject: Permission for urgent repairs

Good afternoon, Josh.

The support beams under the gangway bridge of the nature trail is failing.
I would like to request permission or a LOA to make the repairs please.

I have attached an impact statement, map and photos for the planned repairs.

Please let me know if there is anything else you need.

Kindly,

Suzanne VanParreren
Stewardship Coordinator
Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
Sapelo Island, Georgia
(912) 485-2251

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