

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

JUN 16 2021

Suzanne VanParreren, Stewardship Coordinator
Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
1 Longtabby Lane
Sapelo Island, GA 31305

Re: Letter of Permission (LOP) and Revocable License (RL) for the Construction of a Temporary Ramp, Dean Creek Nature Trail, Sapelo Island, McIntosh County, Georgia (GPS: 31.394652N, -81.270022W)

Dear Ms. VanParreren,

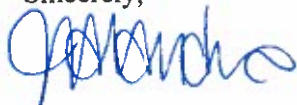
This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request, received April 19, 2021, on behalf of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR), for the construction of a temporary ramp for safer access to the Dean Creek gangway/bridge, at the location specified in the request. The entirety of the project area falls under the jurisdiction of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA). The area where the existing 120ft. aluminum gangway spans Dean Creek has experienced significant erosion along the northern bank approach and has created a gap that serves as a safety risk for the many students and visitors that use the trail crossing. In order to temporarily make the approach safer SINERR has proposed placement of a preconstructed 12ft. x 6ft. (72 sq.ft.) ramp that will be bolted to the existing gangway. Work will be done using hand tools and materials will be delivered to the site by an all-terrain vehicle via the existing trailway through coastal marshlands. The project may begin within 15 days of the date of this letter and must be completed within six (6) months.

The Department authorizes the placement of the ramp within jurisdiction of the CMPA as described in the attached description and has no objection to the action. All debris must be disposed of at an appropriate upland location. No unauthorized equipment, materials or debris may be placed, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas.

Please find enclosed a fully executed Revocable License (RL) for the project described above. This license serves as an authorization to utilize state owned tidal water bottoms for your 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 revocation of this permission and in the required removal of the related structures. Tidal water bottoms and marshlands of coastal Georgia are public trust lands controlled by the State, except for such lands where a validated Crown Grant or State Grant exists.

This authorization 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 Paul Tobler at (912) 262-3134.

Sincerely,



Jill Andrews
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: Project Description, Photos, and Drawings
File: LOP20210084

REVOCABLE LICENSE REQUEST FOR THE USE OF TIDAL WATERBOTTOMS

Date: JUN 16 2021

Temporary gangway approach for nature trail 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 gangway was placed. Four sets of the cross-brace members between the pilings were rotten and have been replaced in 2019. The gangway approach has also settled creating a gap between the trail and aluminum gangway, creating a significant public safety hazard. The gangway houses one of our system wide monitoring sondes and this trail is used often by many visitors and students and their safety is our immediate concern when stepping on to the gangway.

METHODS

The Reserve will place a preconstructed approach (see Appendix A) temporarily in front of the gangway for public safety of the trail users such as recreationists, researchers and students. The temporary approach will be secured with bolts to the existing gangway and the contractor will follow the engineered plan (Appendix A) for the construction of the access approach. We will omit the installation of the posts for this temporary approach and install them after the proper CMP has been obtained. Wood for the project will be cut off site. The wood will be brought on site with a side by side cart (mule). We will post appropriate safety notices during the preparation and installation phases of the project. We have received assessments and estimates for the repair and would like to start the work this spring.

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 cinqlatum</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

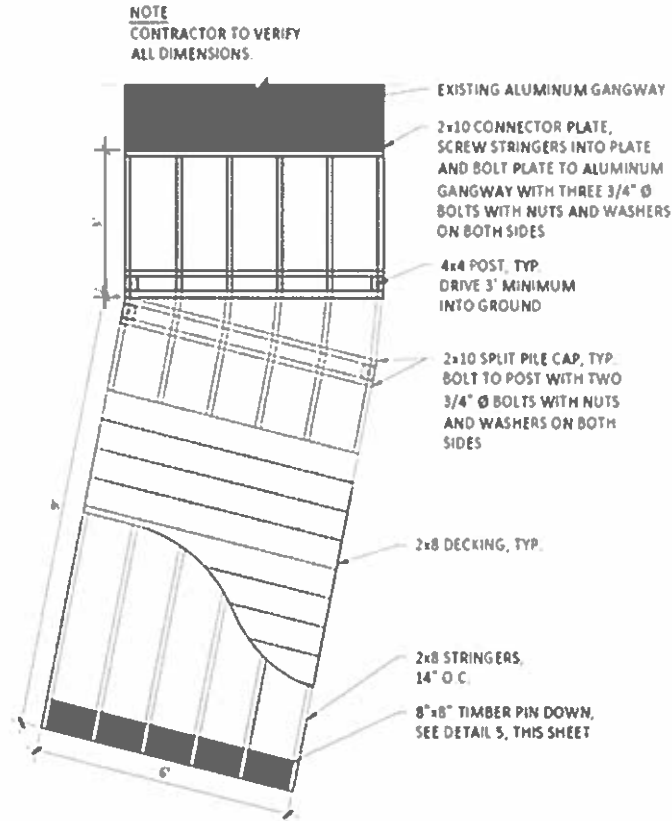
 Trailhead





Appendix A

EVEL



6

GANGWAY APPROACH DETAIL

1" = 1'-0"

SAPELO ISLAND NATURE TRAIL UPG

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
#2 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE
ATLANTA, GA 30334

Revisions

NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION

Sheet Title

**CONSTRUCTION
DETAILS**

Sheet No

C-8