

Mobile

## Fourteen months after the devastating downpour, Baldwin County moving forward with permanent road fixes



By John Sharp | [jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)

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on July 07, 2015 at 1:27 PM, updated July 07, 2015 at 3:42 PM

It's been more than 14 months, but the lingering issues of the late April 2014 downpours in South Alabama has had its effect on Baldwin County officials and in the taxpayer's wallet.

More than 120 roads were washed out during a spring storm that swamped Mobile and Baldwin counties, and it's been a time consuming process in getting them fixed.

The first of the restoration contracts going before the Baldwin County Commission was approved Tuesday. Commissioners voted unanimously to endorse a \$560,568 contract with Gillis Construction Inc. to repair four different sections of heavily damaged Baldwin County 99 south of Lillian.

"It's one of the biggest storms we had to deal with," Baldwin County Engineer Cal Markert said Tuesday. "We had well over 100 roads that washed out.

He added, "When a hurricane comes, you clean up debris. You know what that it is. This time, we had a hundred different places in which we had to do something different with design and getting it repairs."

The lengthy delay in getting the projects prepared and ready for construction is related to the bureaucratic requirements through the federal grant process.

Markert said since federal aid became available about a year ago, project designs needed approval and environmental assessments need to be completed before construction could commence.

The Gillis contract, which requires the Baldwin County 99 repairs completed within 110 days, is the first of what Markert said will be a handful coming before the commission in the coming months. The total amount of projects is expected to cost \$16 million.

Next week, he said he'll pitch three more contracts to Baldwin County officials to address damaged roads within the central part of the county, just south of Interstate 10.

The projects are a "permanent repair," Markert said, to areas that received a "temporary" fix following the storm that washed out roads, culverts and ditches.

"Some of them are dangerous hazards out there," Commissioner Chairman Charles "Skip" Gruber said.

The rain event swamped Baldwin County with between **20-26 inches of rain during a two-day period from April 29-30, 2014.**

Damage was widespread and pronounced. A federal disaster declaration was declared statewide for storms that lingered through May 5, 2014, affecting northern areas of the state.

**The total declaration was around \$43 million.**

Overall, the federal grants going to Alabama covered sites in unincorporated Baldwin County and five of its municipalities -- Daphne, Fairhope, Magnolia Springs, Spanish Fort and Robertsdale to repair flood damage.

Some cities have already addressed their projects, including Daphne, where the popular Gator Alley required \$150,000 in repairs that were paid for primarily through federal assistance.

Richard Johnson, director of public works in Daphne, said of the city's 24-25 storm-related projects, only a few remain to be completed including a drainage repair along Main Street that just recently started.

Commissioner Tucker Dorsey called the FEMA process "burdensome," while acknowledging that the federal assistance significantly lessens the impact on the county's budget.

"This is a very beneficial to the county citizens because this is (mostly) being reimbursed by FEMA and the Federal Highway Department," Markert said.

Most of the projects will be paid for through 80 percent coverage via the Federal Highway Department or the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The county will pay for the balance.

Markert said the county's appropriations will bump back other projects that were slated to be resurfaced this summer. He said the forthcoming road repairs will lead to "a lot" of temporary road closures for construction in the coming months.

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## Goodbye to the tin can? Baldwin County explores mandatory cart program for garbage pick-up



By John Sharp | [jsharp@al.com](mailto:jsharp@al.com)  
Email the author | Follow on Twitter

on July 30, 2015 at 2:21 PM, updated July 30, 2015 at 3:44 PM

The days of hauling out the tin trash can could be coming to an end for rural and unincorporated Baldwin County residents as county officials explore a mandatory cart program to cut down on work place injuries and to save costs.

The program, introduced during a Baldwin County Commission work session Tuesday, calls for an approximately \$900,000 purchase of 15,000 to 20,000 green-colored, 96-gallon garbage carts that can be picked up by a mechanical device attached to a garbage truck for easy disposal.

"We're trying to provide more service to the citizens keeping it the lowest rate we can possibly keep it and to keep our workforce safe at the same time," Terri Graham, Development and Environmental Director with Baldwin County, said.

### Assessing costs

The carts wouldn't cost residents anything – currently, the county allows residents to rent one for \$3.75 a month – and would be distributed to those who do not have one.

Graham said about half of the county's 40,000 customers currently rent a cart from the county. Under the new program, the monthly rent would be waived, she said.

It's unclear exactly how much residential rates would be affected. The county's base residential garbage rate is \$14.95 a month, which could go up slightly under the new program, Graham said. For those who lease a garbage cart from the county, the cost is \$18.70 a month and that figure is likely to go down.

Graham said the average garbage collection rates among cities in Baldwin County are \$15.60 a month with the city of Gulf Shores charging the highest at \$18.40 a month.

Nearby Escambia County, Fla., charges residences \$19.26 a month for garbage pick-up, while Pensacola's fee is \$24.30 monthly. The city of Mobile does not charge residents for garbage pick-up.

### Concerns

There are some concerns about the proposed program. Commissioner Tucker Dorsey said he believes there will be an increased work load for existing employees, and more communications needed. He also said there might be a need to add extra employees to handle the new operation.

"You're talking about thousands of cans and wheels that need servicing," Dorsey said. "It will cost more."

Dorsey said he supports the concept, but that he wants to see firm numbers on how much the program will cost. Graham said she will discuss it in more detail during a budget session on Aug. 6. The county's budget runs from October to September.

For now, Graham said she doesn't believe the new program would require increasing personnel.

"I feel like we got the staff right now to handle it," she said. "If in the future, we needed a new cart delivery truck, I think that might be the only (new) thing."



The county has 16 garbage trucks that handle 64 routes every week.

"We have to purchase garbage trucks every year anyway," Graham said. "That's part of the normal business procedure."

Workman's compensation claims also are an issue, although no figures were immediately available on how much the county has paid in the last year since 23 new employees were added onto the county's payroll last year. Previously, those workers were contracted employees through the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, Graham said.

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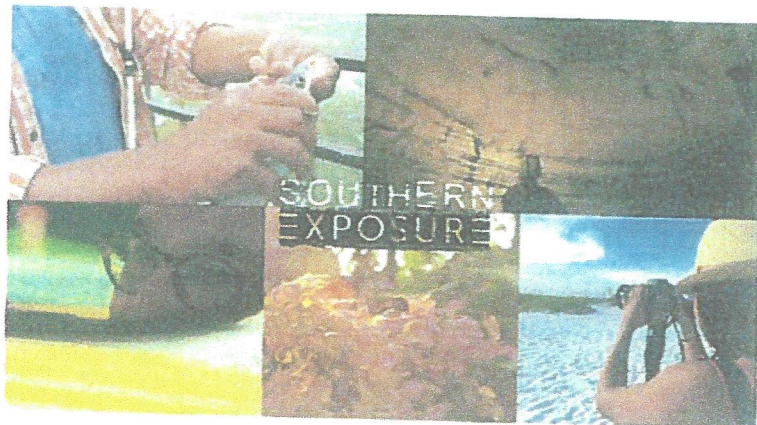
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Mobile

## Southern Exposure film series on environmental issues in Alabama announces screening dates



The 2015 Southern Exposure short film series highlighting environmental issues in Alabama will screen in Birmingham on Sept. 10, in Mobile on Sept. 23, and in Fairhope on Sept. 24.



By **Dennis Pillion** | [dpillion@al.com](mailto:dpillion@al.com)

[Email the author](#) | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on August 26, 2015 at 11:44 AM, updated August 26, 2015 at 1:51 PM

The Southern Exposure short films series highlighting environmental issues in Alabama has announced September screening dates in Birmingham, Mobile and Fairhope.

Each year, the series brings undergraduate and graduate film students from across the country to Birmingham for the summer months as they work to produce 8-minute documentary films about environmental issues in Alabama. This is the fourth year of the Southern Exposure film program, which is sponsored by the Southern Environmental Law Center.

The 2015 films explore a variety of issues Alabama currently faces, including the lingering environmental and economic impacts on the Gulf Coast's oyster industry five years after the BP oil spill, the policy barriers preventing Alabama from realizing its solar potential, and the ongoing conservation work to preserve more than 4,000 breathtaking caves in the state.

"We've learned that the old adage that 'a picture is worth a thousand words' is so true, and a well-done film is worth many thousands of words," said David Pope, director of the Southern Environmental Law Center's Alabama and Georgia offices in a news release. "Through these films, the fellows are able to bring life, real people and authentic stories of what's at stake into what might seem like a wonky, scientific subject on paper."

The films from previous fellowship years have spanned a variety of topics, from uplifting success stories like the **movement to reinstate the Forever Wild Land Trust**, to depicting the deep frustrations felt by the **Colbert County community up against industry interests in mining tar sands**.

"The opportunity to be immersed in the culture of Alabama, to go out and meet the people in these communities, and film in some of the most beautiful places on earth is an incredibly unique experience," said Katherine Gorringer, a former fellow and current program director for Southern Exposure. "Along with the guidance and expertise from our Alabama partner groups, the fellows collaborate and help each other throughout the filmmaking process, and having that robust support system is so important."

Numerous films from past fellowship years have been selected for screening in juried film festivals around the country.

**Southern Exposure's new website** includes more information about the films, the filmmakers, and action alerts for those seeking to get more hands-on with conservation work in Alabama.

"As the program has grown over the years, there continues to be more and more interest from people wanting to know how they can get involved in the issues they've just seen onscreen," Pope said. "Using this platform to share new knowledge, to raise awareness about what's happening throughout Alabama, and to inspire meaningful action as result is our ultimate mission."

The 2015 Southern Exposure films will premiere in Birmingham on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at the **Altamont School's Cabaniss-Kaul Center for the Arts**.

On Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m., the films will screen at the Gulf Coast Exploreum Theater in Mobile, and a screening will also be hosted by USA-Baldwin County in Fairhope on Thursday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. at the USA-Baldwin County Performance Center. All events are free and open to the public, and **an RSVP is required for the Fairhope screening**.

The 2015 Southern Exposure films are as follows:

**The Storm Downstream: Directed by Jesseca Simmons**

After Dr. Peter DeFranco began noticing that stormwater pollution was streaming from a nearby development into a neighborhood lake, he decided to take action by collecting water samples and documenting the visible environmental effects. This is the story of an individual trying to make a change in his own backyard, and the important role of citizen enforcement in reporting stormwater violations in the absence of action by state and local agencies.

**Fishermen's Right to Know: Directed by Natasha Raheja**

Just below the H. Neely Henry Dam on the Coosa River, Mr. Woods catches catfish to fry and eat. Like many lakes and rivers in Alabama, this spot has a fish consumption advisory, indicating that the fish may contain dangerous levels of mercury and other contaminants. The Alabama Department of Public Health suggests limiting or avoiding consumption of some fish species in certain locations--information found on the agency's website--but there is no legal requirement to post signs for fishermen. Where does that leave Mr. Woods and others who depend on fishing for sustenance?

**Oysterman: Directed by Sami Chan**

After 40 years of working in the oyster industry in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, the lasting environmental and economic impacts from the BP oil spill have put one man officially out of business, and have wreaked havoc on coastal communities whose livelihoods have been changed irreparably. Through his story, trace the effects of overfishing and environmental disaster on a once-prized industry in Alabama, as many questions remain for the next generation of commercial fishermen, shrimpers and oystermen.

**On the Horizon: Directed by Lauren Musgrove**

With an abundance of hot, sunny days, Alabama has an incredible solar resource. Yet most of Alabama remains in the dark, as neighboring states like Georgia surge ahead with investments in solar energy--and the job creation and environmental benefits that follow. Closer to home, the difference between solar-friendly TVA territory in northern Alabama and the rest of the state limits Alabamians' access to this fuel-free, cost-effective energy source. Learn about Alabama's vast solar potential, and the impediments and policy barriers that are holding back its solar success.

**Sharing the Secrets: Directed by Drew Perimutter**

After millions of years in the making, Alabama has over 4,000 caves that are explored and beloved by spelunkers from all over. With a diverse array of underground plants, animals and other organisms, conserving these massive underground formations and their delicate ecosystems is crucial. Follow some of the most enthusiastic and daring cavers into the breathtaking hidden treasures of northeast Alabama, an area that boasts one of the highest concentrations of caves in the U.S. and supports incredible cave biodiversity.

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## Alabama Coastal Cleanup is this weekend

Posted: Sep 16, 2016 4:13 AM CDT

Updated: Sep 16, 2016 7:10 AM CDT

By Steve Alexander, FOX10 News Reporter [CONNECT](#)

MOBILE, AL (WALA) - Saturday is the day to support Alabama's waterways.

The 29th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup <http://www.alabamacoastalcleanup.com/> is scheduled for from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

Volunteers are encouraged.

Organizers say in the 28year effort to clean up the coast, over 83,000 volunteers have removed more than 1.5 million pounds of trash from Alabama's coastline and waterways.

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## Participate in the 30th annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup!

Posted: Sep 13, 2017 10:26 AM CDT

Updated: Sep 13, 2017 10:30 AM CDT

By Chasity Byrd, FOX10 On-Air Personality

[CONNECT](#)

GULF COAST, AL (WALA) - You're asked to come out this weekend and help keep our coastlines beautiful. The Alabama Coastal Cleanup happens in September every year. Volunteers will come together in 30 cleanup zones throughout Mobile and Baldwin Counties. Here's how you can take part:

The Alabama Coastal Cleanup is part of the larger International Coastal Cleanup sponsored by the Ocean Conservancy. The Alabama Cleanup occurs the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of September each year and is coordinated through a partnership between the **Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources-Coastal Section** and **Alabama People Against a Littered State (ALPALS)**.

30<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup

September 16, 2017

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

**\*\*30 cleanup zones throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties**

Volunteers—involved citizens, community organizations, businesses, individuals, school groups and families—are needed to help with the Coastal Cleanup. Participants can find a cleanup zone near them at [www.AlabamaCoastalCleanup.com](http://www.AlabamaCoastalCleanup.com). All supplies are provided, and volunteers who come out early will receive a free t-shirt. And new this year, Alabama Coastal Cleanup is partnering with TerraCycle Company to recycle all rigid plastics at the cleanup sites.

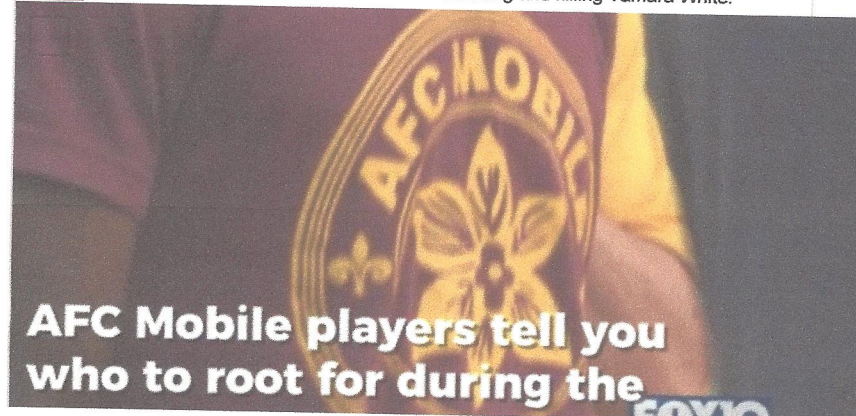
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Harold Wallace, Jr. is accused of shooting and killing Tamara White.



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Local News

## Christmas Tree Recycling Locations on the Gulf Coast

By:

Tara Dempsey (<http://www.wkrg.com/meet-the-team/tara-dempsey/866148058>)

✉ (<mailto:tdempsey@wkrg.com>)

Updated: Dec 26, 2017 03:50 PM CST

*This Jan. 14, 2013 photo shows Christmas trees and evergreens brought to Prospect Park, by local residents for use in a recycling program, in Brooklyn, N.Y. The program, run by the New York City Department of Sanitation and the New York City Parks...*

WKRG Staff - (WKRG) -- Now that Christmas is over, you may be looking for a way to recycle your trees.

Here's a list of locations and schedules in several Gulf Coast counties.

**MOBILE COUNTY:** You can drop off your tree from December 26, 2017 through January 14, 2018 at the following drop off locations:

- Lake Drive Tricentennial Park
- Springhill Recreation Center
- Baumhauer Park, Dog River Park
- Public Safety Memorial Park
- Medal of Honor Park and Langan Park

Each drop off site will be clearly designated with signage. All lights, stands, and decorations must be removed from the tree. The trees will be transported to Orange Grove Brush Holding Site and grinded into mulch on site rather than being transported to the landfill. The mulch is then used on landscaping projects in public right-of-ways, local parks and other public properties to beautify the community.

"I encourage everyone to recycle their tree this season," said Mayor Stimpson. "Together, we can enhance our parks, help the environment and transform our community. In the past, the City has simply not devoted enough resources or attention to recycling, but that is no longer the case. Our ultimate goal is to create a more robust recycling program while eliminating litter throughout our City."

The single stream recycling locations will also be open during the holidays every day except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day for all of those leftover gift boxes. The locations are near the Mobile Museum of Art in the parking lot of the City's Western Administrative Complex and behind Police Headquarters off Pinehill Drive. The hours of operation are from 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, and 7 am to 4 pm, Saturday through Sunday.

Accepted Recyclable Material include Glass, Newspaper & Inserts, Cardboard, Magazines & Catalogs, Junk Mail & Envelopes, Paper Bags & Phone Books, Colored Papers, Aluminum Cans & Lids, Tin/Steel Cans & Lids, Metal Pots & Pans, Pet Food Cans, Plastic Produce Clamshells, Plastic Milk Jugs, Cereal Boxes, Foil Baking Pans, Cardboard Egg cartons, Dry Pet Food Bags, Pizza Boxes, Tin Foil, Plastic Bottles and Plastics No. 1-7. All recyclable material can be placed in one container at each location and sorting of recyclable material will no longer be required.

The tree recycling program is the latest in a series of efforts to improve recycling in the City of Mobile. Last month, the City launched a free recycling app, Recycle Coach, now available for download from the iTunes Store or Google Play. In October, the City launched a new curbside recycling program for LODA businesses.

#### **BALDWIN COUNTY:**

- Bay Minette Transfer Station (42901 Nicholsville Rd. Bay Minette)
- Spanish Fort Volunteer Fire Department (7580 Spanish Fort Blvd. Spanish Fort)
- MacBride Landfill (14200 County Road 64 Loxley)
- Baldwin County Central Annex (22251 Palmer St. Robertsdale)
- Fairhope Satellite Courthouse (1100 Fairhope Ave. Fairhope)
- Magnolia Landfill (15140 County Road 49 Summerdale)
- Foley Satellite Courthouse (201 E. Section Ave. Foley)
- Perdido Beach Volunteer Fire Department (8450 Escambia Ave. Perdido Beach)

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY/ SANTA ROSA COUNTY:** Residents wishing to dispose of organic Christmas trees can do so by simply placing the tree curbside with all decorations, ornaments and any attached tree stands removed. Trees or segments of trees should not be more than six feet in length. Do not place Christmas trees in recycling or garbage containers.

City of Pensacola Sanitation will remove trees placed on the curb on the customer's regular trash collection day and ECUA will remove curbside trees on the customer's normally scheduled yard waste collection day. For more information, please contact your waste service provider.

Santa Rosa County's environmental department encourages residents to "treecycle!" Drop your Christmas tree off by Monday, January 15 to be repurposed as mulch through Keep Santa Rosa Beautiful (mulch availability date to be announced). Place trees in the designated area identified by signage. Real trees only, no artificial trees accepted.

- Clean Community System/Green-Up Nursery - 6758 Park Ave., Milton
- Jay Transfer Station - Transfer Station Road, Jay
- Pace Volunteer Fire Department - 4773 Pace Patriot Blvd, Pace
- Navarre Beach Boat Ramp Parking Lot Recycle Area - Gulf Blvd., Navarre Beach
- Tiger Point Recreation Area - Gulf Breeze, east of Walmart

For more information, contact the Santa Rosa County Environmental Department at (850) 981-7135.



**JACKSON COUNTY:** Jackson County's Solid Waste Department will again collect and recycle Christmas trees starting Tuesday, December 26 at five locations:

- Jackson County Landfill (10501 Seaman Rd., Vancleave)
- Vancleave Ballpark (Ballpark Rd., Vancleave)
- Jackson County East Road Barn (Hwy. 63, Escatawpa)
- Jackson County West Road Barn (Hwy. 609, St. Martin)
- Jackson County Fairgrounds: (2902 Shortcut Road, Pascagoula)
- East of Highway Patrol Office

Tree collection sites will be clearly marked. Residents are asked to remove trees from bags and take off all ornaments, lights, and stands before dropping off a tree. Flocked trees will be taken but artificial trees will not be accepted. Trees can also be placed curbside for regularly scheduled rubbish collection days in unincorporated areas.

This is the twelfth consecutive year the County has sponsored a tree recycling program. The drop-off sites will be open throughout January. For more information about all of the County's recycling programs and the rubbish collection day schedule, visit [www.co.jackson.ms.us/departments/solid-waste](http://www.co.jackson.ms.us/departments/solid-waste).

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## CALENDAR

### Calendar of events Feb. 28 – March 6, 2018

Posted by Lagniappe | Feb 28, 2018 | Calendar of Events | 0 |

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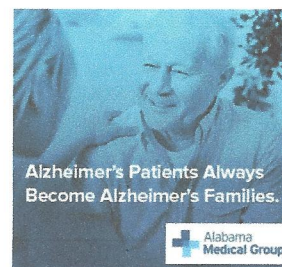
#### GENERAL INTEREST

##### Tour Pinta and Niña

On Friday, March 2, replicas of the Pinta and the Niña, two of Christopher Columbus' ships, open in Orange Beach. They will be docked at The Wharf Marina, 23101 Canal Road, until their departure Tuesday, March 6.

##### Mobile Boat Show

Running from Friday, March 2 at noon to Sunday,



March 4 at 8 p.m. at the Mobile Convention Center.  
New this year, "Kids Fishing 101." Call 251-478-7469.

#### Advertisements



#### **Mobile Chocolate Festival**

The 10th Annual Mobile Chocolate Festival will be held at The Grounds on Saturday, March 3, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds from the event benefit Penelope House! For tickets and info visit:  
<http://www.mobilechocolatefestival.com/>

#### **Living Stations of the Cross**

A passion play presented by the Christ the King Edge students Friday, March 2, 5 p.m., at Christ the King Catholic Church in Daphne.

#### **Baldwin County Clean Sweep**

Baldwin County residents can bring yard waste, Christmas trees, construction debris, cardboard, tires, electronics, furniture, appliances, scrap metal, carpet, paint, household hazardous waste and other non-putrescible waste free to the Magnolia Landfill, the MacBride Landfill and the Bay Minette Transfer Station on Saturday, March 3, a.m. to 3 p.m. No regular household garbage will be accepted. Visit [www.baldwincountyal.gov](http://www.baldwincountyal.gov).

#### **Fairhope Art Walk**

Friday, March 2 in downtown Fairhope, 6-8 p.m. Begins at Eastern Shore Art Center, stroll through downtown Fairhope visiting art galleries and

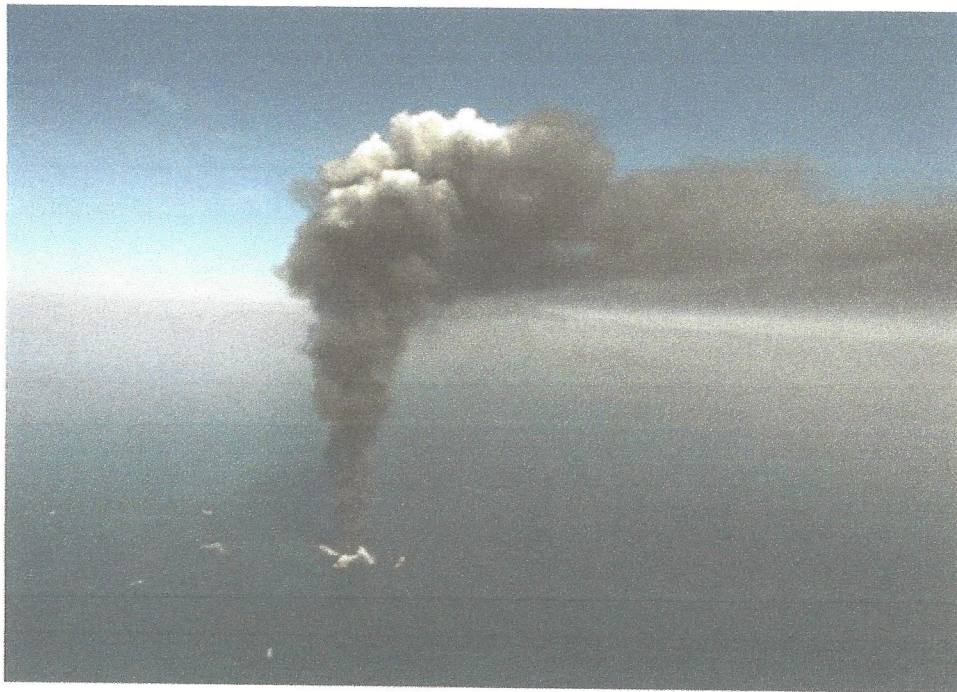


REAL-TIME NEWS FROM AL.COM

## \$315 million from RESTORE Act to fund projects in Mobile, Baldwin counties

Updated Mar 8, 2018;

Posted Mar 8, 2018



In this April 21, 2010 file photo, oil can be seen in the Gulf of Mexico, more than 50 miles southeast of Venice on Louisiana's tip, as a large plume of smoke rises from fires on BP's Deepwater Horizon offshore oil rig. (Gerald Herbert/The Associated Press)

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By Lawrence Specker, [lspecker@al.com](mailto:lspecker@al.com)

A whopping \$315 million is coming to infrastructure, environmental restoration and economic development projects in Mobile and Baldwin Counties, courtesy of the RESTORE Act and the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council.

It's funding nearly 50 projects, some of which have obvious potential to change life on the coast. The biggest include \$56 million for five major road expansion projects in Baldwin County, \$28 million for a new facility at the Port of Mobile, \$27 million for projects affecting Dauphin Island's Aloe Bay and \$21 million to redevelop the docks in Bayou La Batre. Tens of millions of dollars will go to projects to improve water-sewer systems and eliminate sewage overflows.

The money comes from penalties paid by companies involved in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The RESTORE Act established a trust fund to hold much of that money aside for "programs, projects, and activities that restore and protect the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast region."

Deciding where that money goes has been a complex multi-year, multi-agency process. On Wednesday, the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC) announced the first round of funding, which may be the largest -- but not the last.

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"There are some really great ones," Eliska Morgan, the council's executive director, said Thursday. "We've been working toward this end for some time."

Morgan said more than 400 projects were submitted by various organizations and governmental entities. Many that didn't make the cut for this round may be eligible for future consideration, she said.

"Key points" in an AGCRC presentation include a statement that "(t)he Council intends to distribute RESTORE Act funds between Baldwin and Mobile Counties on an equitable basis for projects deemed viable. While this equity may not be realized in the First Round, it will be achieved over time as amended plans are developed."

Mobile County had more requests, totaling nearly twice the money as Baldwin County requests, meaning more Mobile County projects were deferred until future rounds, according to the AGCRC presentation.

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An upcoming 45-day comment period will give the public a chance to weigh in on the selected projects. A list of projects for which funding has been committed follows, with basic details. Grants are listed alphabetically by project name.

## **BALDWIN COUNTY:**

**Alabama Point Seawall Repair (City of Orange Beach), \$2,488,000** -- "The purpose of this project is to rebuild the existing Alabama Point Seawall with a more resilient method of construction for the tidally-influenced marine environment and to protect the recent improvements on the upland portion of the area."

**Ambassadors of the Environment (City of Gulf Shores), \$9,748,254** -- "The City of Gulf Shores will construct a state-of-the-art facility, utilizing the latest green building technologies, on

11.86 acres of City-owned property located adjacent to Gulf State Park. The architecture will mimic functional natural cycles found in the many habitat types that are easily accessible in coastal Alabama. The purpose ... is to create a sustainably-

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designed ecotourism program where participants can learn about the ecology, biodiversity, sustainability, and resource management of the northern Gulf of Mexico."

**Baldwin Beach Express I-10 to I-65 Extension Right of Way Acquisition (Baldwin County), \$11,340,000** -- "This submittal seeks funding for Right of Way (ROW) property acquisition to accommodate the proposed 24.5 mile Baldwin Beach Express extension between I-10 and I-65. The objective is to acquire all right-of-way necessary to move to the construction phase. Regional economic recovery, tourism, industrial growth, and public safety are supported and enhanced through the completion of this project."

**Baldwin County ALDOT Capacity Improvements (Baldwin County), \$56,800,000** -- "The Alabama Department of Transportation, Baldwin County, and the cities of Spanish Fort, Daphne, Fairhope, Orange Beach, and Gulf Shores are cooperatively pursuing the completion of five major infrastructure projects long-needed in the Gulf Coast Region to reduce congestion and enhance access to and between the surrounding areas."

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**Canal Road Improvements East of State Road 161 (City of Orange Beach), \$1,848,270** -- "This project will promote community resilience and economic growth by addressing the hindrance of economic development on Canal Road east of and near the SR-161 intersection in Orange Beach. Growth of businesses and the tourism industry in Orange Beach have led to increased traffic volumes, resulting in a need to enhance capacity and efficiency."

**Eastern Shore Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) Prevention Plan (City of Fairhope), \$1,000,000** -- "The purpose of this project is to minimize, or eliminate altogether, sanitary sewer overflows on the Eastern Shore resulting from insufficient capacity and inflow and infiltration from excess stormwater. In addition, the project aims to improve the overall water quality of Mobile Bay by protecting runoff to the Bay from sanitary sewers and sediment from stormwater erosion."

**Environmental Restoration of Cotton Bayou & Terry Cove (City of Orange Beach), \$500,000** -- "This project will develop an ecological understanding of the environmental and ecological health of the Cotton Bayou/Terry Cove Systems with an outcome to understand what restoration activities would enhance the overall health of the system. This planning activity will provide engineering and design and a cost estimate for proposed restoration."

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**Expansion of the Orange Beach Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center (City of Orange Beach), \$183,500** -- "The purpose of this project is to expand the capacity and capabilities of the current rehabilitation facility to accommodate additional types of species. These improvements will also allow an upgrade from short and intermediate rehabilitation terms to long term rehabilitation resulting in less transfers and euthanasia outcomes."

**Fairhope Area Community-Based Comprehensive Land Use Plan (City of Fairhope), \$650,000** -- "This project involves the creation of a community-driven comprehensive land use plan for the City of Fairhope to address growth with an emphasis on environmental stewardship and a legal foundation for implementation."

**Fairhope Sewer Upgrade Phase I (City of Fairhope), \$10,000,000** -- "The project proposed in Phase I will address the most urgent needs within the sewer system by instituting major rehabilitation measures for the complete replacement of 4 main

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pump stations and rehabilitation of the major gravity outfall lines utilizing cost-effective and environmentally sensitive engineering solutions."

**Fort Morgan Parkway Trail Extension (ADCNR, State Parks),**

**\$4,433,600** -- "This project proposes to extend and ultimately complete the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail from Fort Morgan Historical Park to Gulf State Park and includes the construction of a midzone to provide parking, restroom facilities, and interpretive signage. When completed, the Fort Morgan Parkway Trail will provide approximately 30 miles of recreation trail from Fort Morgan to Orange Beach and will connect with numerous trial spurs and loops along the way."

**Gulf Coast Engineering Research Station (Auburn**

**University), \$9,000,000** -- "This project proposes the

construction of the GCERS facility in Orange Beach to support  
fundamental and applied engineering research for coastal issues

in Alabama, including water quality, restoration and protection of

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natural resources, and coastal emergency management. Additionally, this project includes two years' funding for operations and maintenance (O&M) of facility."

**Gulf Coast Wildlife Recovery and Interpretive Center: Feasibility, Planning & Preliminary Design (City of Orange Beach), \$275,000** -- "This project proposes planning and design to expand the Gulf Coast Wildlife Recovery and Interpretive Center in Orange Beach. Once implemented, this facility would provide rehabilitation services for a variety of species as well as tourism and stewardship opportunities."

**Lillian Park Beach Habitat and Shoreline Protection (Baldwin County), \$626,460** -- "Implementation of this project will establish a stable sand beach shoreline to improve public safety while mitigating wave energy contributions to beach erosion and habitat loss along Perdido Bay."

**Little Lagoon Restoration Project (City of Gulf Shores), \$5,995,686** -- "This project will restore and improve approximately 2,500 acres of habitat within Little Lagoon by creating 1,000 feet of living shorelines, improving hydrologic connectivity of the existing canal system, converting approximately 200 septic systems, restoring shellfish and marsh/seagrass, and conducting ecological research and long-term monitoring."

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**Longevity, Stability & Water Quality Improvements, Bon Secour DMDA (Baldwin County), \$340,744** -- "This submittal seeks funding to replace an aging and structurally failing weir structure at the Bon Secour Dredge Material Disposal Area (DMDA) used by the US Corps of Engineers to dispose of dredged material from the Bon Secour River."

**Meaher Park Improvements (ADCNR, State Parks), \$3,450,000** -- "This project will add 156 full service campsites, as well as parking, bath houses, a fishing pier, and utility infrastructure to Meaher Park in Spanish Fort. In addition, 10 RV park model cabins will be installed along with appropriate skirting, decking, steps, and/or ramps."

**New Stream-Gaging Station on Fish River at Co Rd 32 (Baldwin County), \$87,250** -- "This submittal seeks funding for a new stream-gaging station on Fish River at Baldwin County Road 32 to assist authorities in flood forecasting and flood alert efforts. Additional river stage and streamflow data for Fish River will improve managers' ability to predict the timing and

magnitude of flood events, thereby helping protect property and <sup>1</sup> lives."   
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**Orange Beach North Sewer Force Main Upgrade (City of Orange Beach), \$5,195,000** -- "This project consists of the replacement of approximately 8 miles of sewer force main from a point on Highway 180 in Orange Beach to an existing lift station on County Road 12. The area benefitted by this upgrade will include areas north and east of Wolf Bay to Josephine as well as areas directly served by the force main."

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**Working Waterfront and Greenspace Restoration Project (City of Fairhope), \$6,200,000** -- "This project will include improvements to the Fairhope Municipal Pier, Pier Landing, and South Beach Park to insure resiliency, sustainability, and human interaction of the City of Fairhope's most precious resource: its waterfront."

#### **MOBILE COUNTY:**

**AL State Port Authority Automotive Logistics/RO-RO Terminal (AL State Port Authority), \$28,767,710** -- "This

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project will convert a derelict former Bulk Handling Facility into a state-of-the-art Roll On-Roll Off (Ro-Ro)/Mobile Vehicle





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# Earth Day Mobile Bay April 21 at Fairhope Pier

By *Mullet Wrapper* on April 10, 2018

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## Earth Day Mobile Bay April 21 at Fairhope Pier

Earth Day Mobile Bay returns for its 29th year with an all-day event at the Fairhope Pier Park on Saturday, April 21. Exhibits will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Live music is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Alabama's largest Earth Day celebration, Earth Day Mobile Bay is again expected to attract over 6,000 participants there for the free event celebrating the environment and the earth.

Earth Day Mobile Bay will feature local vendors of green and earth-friendly solutions including windmills, efficient heating and cooling systems including solar, geothermal, insulation, green building, and local and naturally healthy food sources, Hybrid cars and Electric Cars.

Catch the Free Shuttle at the Big Lots parking lot in the Eastern Shore Shopping Center. This is also the parking lot for Fairhope Health Foods and Sunflower Café. BRATS trolley shuttle buses will run from parking to Pier Park beginning at 10 a.m. Trips are free. For more info, email [info@earthdaymobilebay.org](mailto:info@earthdaymobilebay.org) or call 251-990-8662 or visit [EarthDayMobileBay.org](http://EarthDayMobileBay.org) or Facebook.

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