

Project Summary for Public Comment

Application for Funding for the Currituck Banks Reserve Boardwalk - Replacement of Decking Boards by the Division of Coastal Management

Purpose

The Division of Coastal Management's (Division) N.C. Coastal Reserve and National Estuarine Research Reserve is seeking public comment on its application for funding of the Currituck Banks Reserve Boardwalk – Replacement of Decking Boards by the N.C. Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Grant Program for the 2020-21 grant cycle. A virtual public meeting and public comment period are being held to satisfy the requirements of the access grant program. Details on the public meeting and how to submit comments at the meeting or in writing are available below and here (insert link to press release).

Project Description

The Currituck Banks Reserve (Figure 1) is one of 10 sites in the [N.C. Coastal Reserve & National Estuarine Research Reserve](#), protected for research, education and compatible recreation. The boardwalk at the Currituck Banks Reserve was constructed in 2002 and provides access for walking, photography, and nature observation. The boardwalk winds through maritime forest and swamp before ending at a deck offering views of the Currituck Sound, and also provides access to the trailhead of the Maritime Forest Trail at the site (Figures 2 and 3).

The proposed project will replace the aging decking boards, seat boards on current benches, railings, and side guards of the existing boardwalk. The structural components of the boardwalk (i.e., joists and pilings) will be replaced as needed depending on current condition. All work will take place within the current footprint of the existing boardwalk. These replacements have been identified as a facility need in the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve's 2020-2025 Management Plan.

Project Budget and Timeline

The requested total budget for the project is \$122,329 with \$116,504 in materials and labor and a 5% project contingency at \$5,825.

The project timeline, if funded, will cover 18 months which will include requesting bids for the project per state purchasing requirements, award of the contract to the selected bid, pre-construction tasks, construction, and final inspection. The Division will plan construction to occur outside of the busy summer season to minimize impacts to visitation at the Currituck Banks Reserve during the project and the public will be notified of potential changes in access during that time.

N.C. Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program

Per the program's [website](#),

The N. C. Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program is a matching grant program administered by the Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Coastal Management. Guiding rules and policies for the access program are provided in Title 15A, Subchapter 7M .0300 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. Land acquisition, site improvements, and amenities for public access to the coastal waters are funded through this grant program.

Applicants will receive notification of selected projects in October 2020. The Division estimates approximately \$1 million in funding will be available for access projects for the 2020-2021 grant cycle, provided by the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund.

How to Participate in the Public Meeting and Submit Public Comments

Public Meeting Details

Event title: Public Meeting for Currituck Banks Reserve Boardwalk

Date and Time: July 23, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Phone: US TOLL +1-415-655-0003, Access code: 161 705 8680

WebEx Link: Click [here](#)

Event Password: 1234

MEETING MATERIALS:

A project summary can be found [here](#).

TO SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Members of the public are invited to comment to the Coastal Resources Commission on this project for a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to final funding decisions.

If you wish to speak at the public meeting, you must register by 4:00 p.m. on July 22, 2020. To register, please click [here](#). Written comments will be accepted through September 13, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Comments may be submitted via email to DCMcomments@ncdenr.gov (please include "Currituck Banks Reserve Boardwalk" in the subject line), or by mail to:

Division of Coastal Management

Attn: Braxton Davis

400 Commerce Avenue

Morehead City, N.C. 28557

Figure 1. Map of the Currituck Banks Reserve.

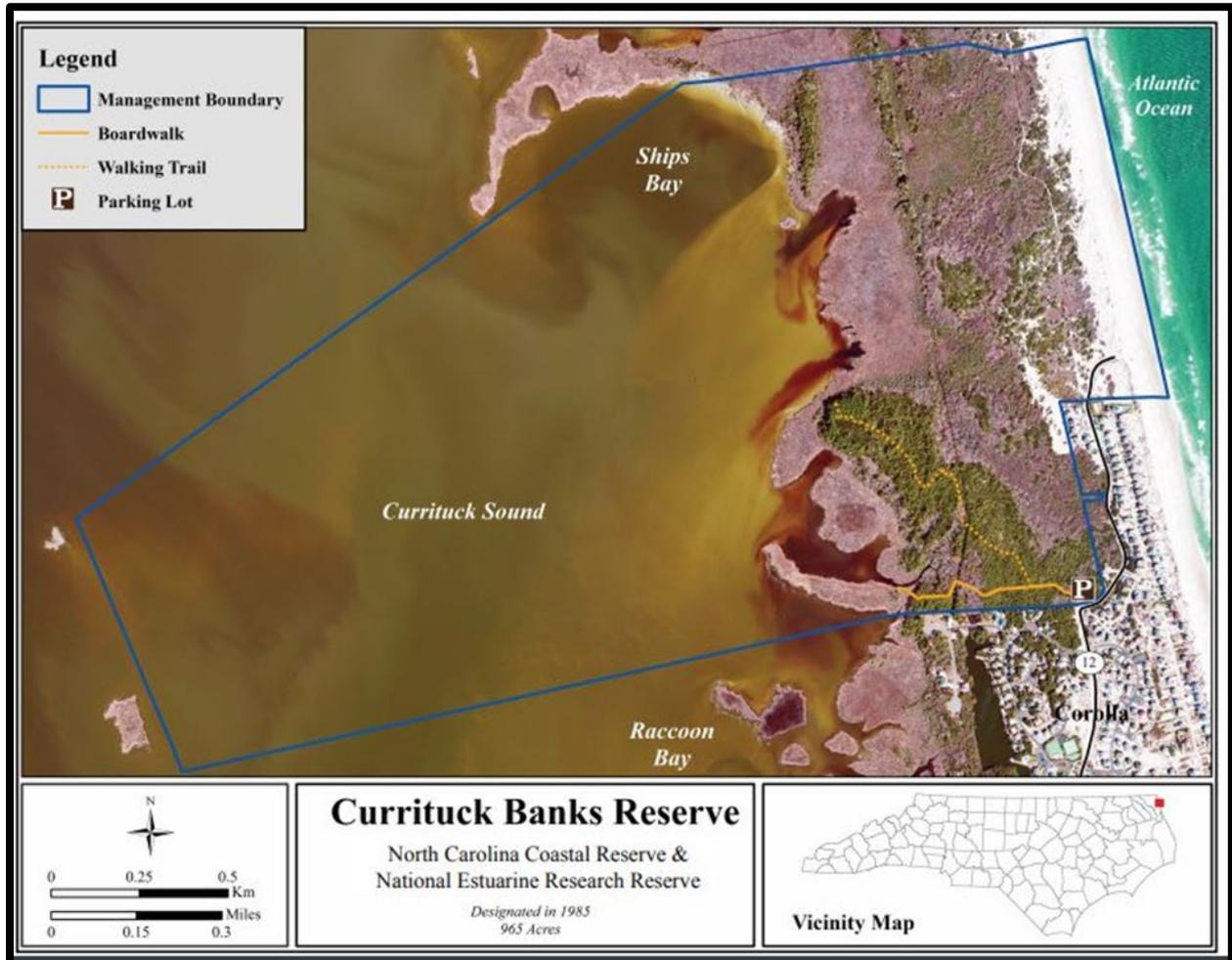


Figure 2. Detailed Map of the Currituck Banks Reserve Boardwalk.

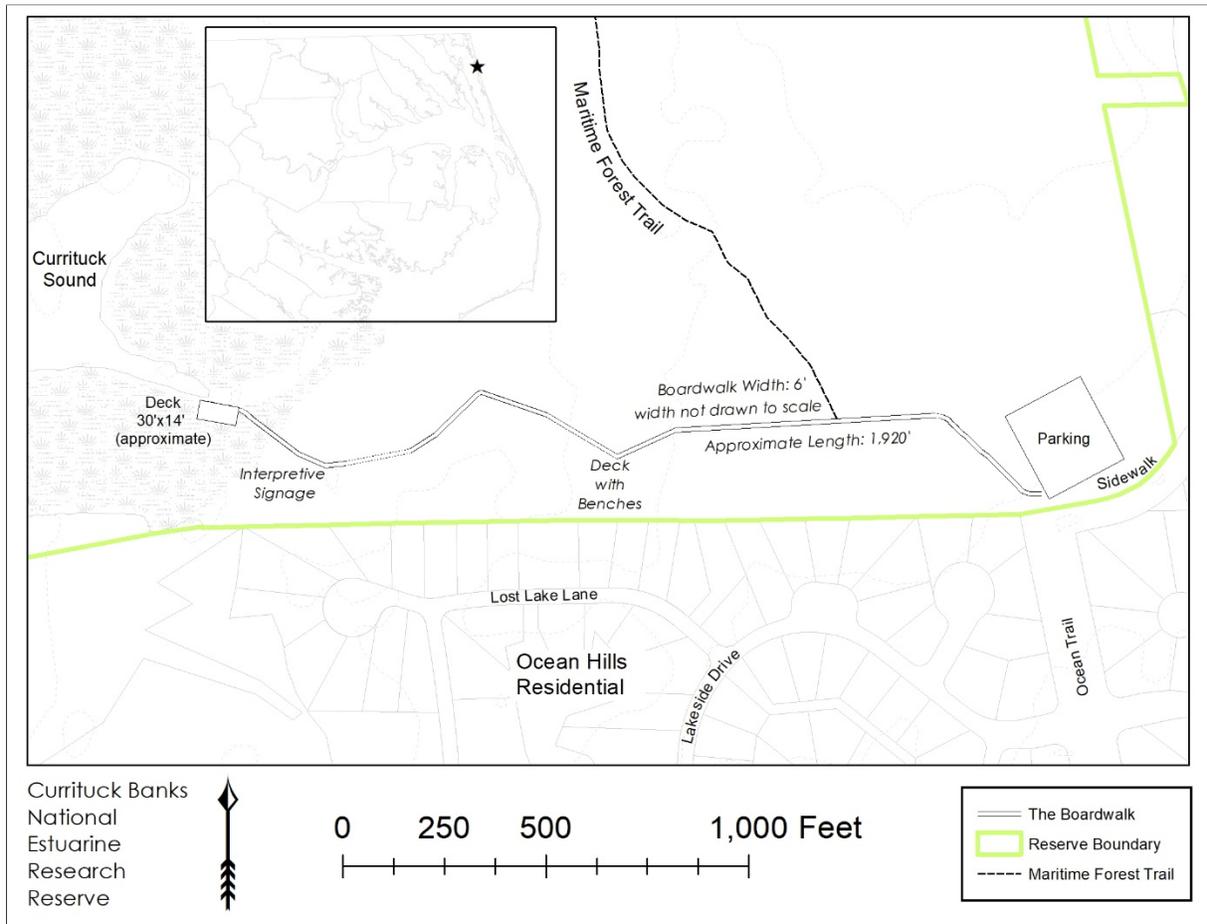


Figure 3. Photograph of a section of the Currituck Banks Boardwalk.

