

Louisiana Restoration Area

Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment For the Elmer's Island Access Project Modification



RATIONALE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL RESTORATION PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

In response to public comments received on the December 2017 Draft Recreational Use Plan, the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group proposes modifications to the Elmer's Island Access Project. We are proposing modifications to the access feature of the Project from a proposed boardwalk to a beach shuttle service on Elmer's Island.

PREFERRED MODIFICATION TO PROJECT SCOPE

The originally proposed Elmer's Island Access Project in the Draft Recreational Use Plan proposed a suite of features on the Island, including features to provide access to Caminada Beach (Figure 1). This factsheet provides information on the Project modification, which includes removing the proposed boardwalk feature and associated small boat launch and parking area, and instead, proposing a shuttle service on the Island (Figure 2). All other features remain unchanged.

The preferred access alternative would be a beach shuttle service and would include the following features:

- Develop a shuttle service using vehicles modified for passenger transport with a utility trailer to provide enhanced access for visitors and their gear to points along the Elmer's Island beachfront.
- Shuttle service would be executed through contractual services, and as such would not require any permanent infrastructure.
- Shuttle service frequency would be scaled to meet the needs of increased public usage during peak visitation times, while being adaptive to environmental conditions.
- Shuttle service would provide free-of-charge rides from the main parking area to any point along the beachfront (from Caminada Pass to the westernmost extent of Elmer's Island Refuge), as well as return trips to the parking area.
- Total cost for this shuttle service would be approximately \$2,000,000 which would span approximately 15 years.



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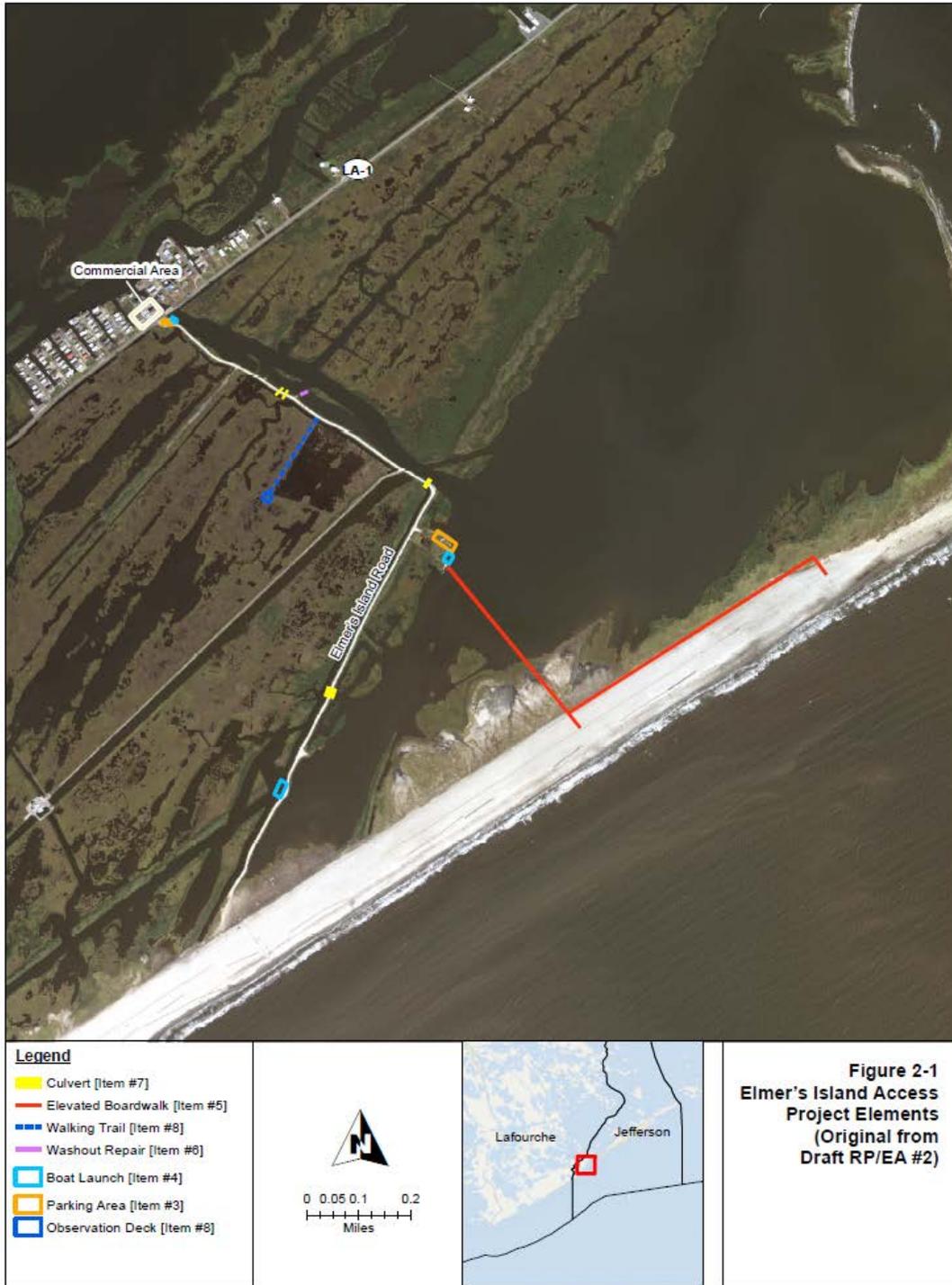


Figure 1. Elmer's Island Access Project Original Elements

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Figure 2. Preferred Modification to Project Scope (Shuttle Service)