

# Project Universal Access



## OVERALL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

According to the latest U.S. Census data, there are 56.7 million people in the United States with a disability. Project Universal Access will evaluate public infrastructure in Escambia County for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards and enhancement opportunities to meet the needs and desires of the public with disabilities. An evaluation of public access locations will include public parks, trails, and landings on Pensacola Beach, Perdido Key and other coastal parks in Escambia County. Subsequently, a needs assessment will be produced resulting from the evaluation and input from stakeholders in the community. Citizens, specifically disabled citizens, will provide input to identify amenities and priorities to include in the needs assessment and future implementation by Escambia County and partner community organizations. The needs assessment will identify priorities where enhanced amenities can be included in existing public infrastructure to enable marketing Escambia County as a destination for disabled tourists. Example amenities include multisensory educational kiosks, dune walkovers with observation decks and beach mat access to the Gulf of Mexico, chemical sensory standards, and ADA restroom/parking facilities.

## PROJECT DETAILS

### 2016-17 MYIP ACTIVITIES - \$360,000 *Evaluation & Plan*

- ADA Evaluation of Public Access Points on Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key
- Accessibility Evaluation of beach access points, trails, parking lots, sidewalks, and restrooms
- Produce a Needs Assessment for persons with disabilities

**Primary Eligible Activity:** Planning Activities

**Secondary Eligible Activity:** Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy.

### \*FUTURE ACTIVITIES - \$3,500,000 *Design, Construction, & Monitoring*

- Strategic Design- Retrofits, Improvements, and Location Identification
- Disabled Community Input
- Construction
- Monitoring

**Total Project Cost: \$3,860,000**

\*Future activities are not funded by the 2016-17 MYIP but could be funded in future multi-year plans.



**Overall Project Benefits:**

- Increased Tourism
- Attract New Group of Tourists
- Identify Community Needs
- Construct/ Enhance ADA Trails/ Walkovers
- Provide ADA Connectivity
- Enhance Educational Signage (Multi-Sensory)
- Improve Recreational Opportunities for Disabled Residents (estimated 54,000 persons) and Visitors

**Best Available Science:**

Current ADA Parks Evaluation does not include coastal parks (See reference Page)

Visit Pensacola identifies how an increase in visitors can enhance the economy (See reference Page)

Pensacola Beach currently undergoing some ADA access retrofits which complement this project