

For Immediate Release
April 29, 2016
Contact: Joe E. Vega, Parks Director

Cameron County Parks & Recreation Department to Begin the Development of a Dune Walkover at Cameron County Beach Access No. 4

Cameron County Parks & Recreation will begin the development of a Dune Walkover at Cameron County Beach Access No. 4 located approximately one-half mile north of the City limits of South Padre Island. This access area provides free public parking and beach access, and is exceedingly utilized by visitors from all over the Rio Grande Valley and the State of Texas. Many of these visitors enjoy this gulf access area for swimming, fishing, picnicking, sunbathing, or just strolling along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico.

The construction of the Dune Walkover which will cost \$160,000 with \$96,000 funded through a grant from the Texas General Land Office Coastal Management Program Cycle 19 and the Cameron County Parks & Recreation Department will match the remaining funds of \$64,000. The dune walkover will be approximately 240' x 8'5" and will be wheel chair accessible. Interpretive signs educating the public about the functions of dunes and the importance of vegetation in preserving the dune system will be placed along the walkway. Currently, beach visitors walk across the dunes on an unstable path of sand to access the beach, making it practically impossible for handicap visitors to use this public access area. The dune walkover will also keep visitors from disturbing the dunes which in turn would allow the vegetation to reestablish, creating a more sustainable dune system.

County Judge Pete Sepulveda stated, *"Just recently I was with Commissioner George P. Bush on South Padre Island. I know he is committed to this project and to continuing the great partnership between the Texas General Land Office and Cameron County on many other issues we are working on along the coast. We will continue to work together to improve our facilities, to enhance our landscape, and to provide amenities the public can utilize and easily access for years to come."*

Commissioner Sofia Benavides, Cameron County Commissioner Pct. 1. stated, *"The Dune Walkover Enhancements at Cameron County Public Beach Access No.4 will improve public accessibility to our beach visitors thus providing Economic Development opportunities to Cameron County by attracting more visitors to our area and most importantly it will help preserve and protect the dune system by reducing impacts to the dunes and vegetation."*

Cameron County Parks Director Joe E. Vega further stated, *"I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to the Texas General Land Office for their partnership on this great project. Partnerships like this allow us to continue improving the quality of life for all who visit and live in Cameron County."*