

**Administration**  
1769 E. Moody Blvd Bldg 2  
Bunnell, FL 32110



[www.flaglercounty.org](http://www.flaglercounty.org)

Phone: (386)313-4001

Fax: (386)313-4101

Julie Murphy  
Flagler County  
Public Information Officer  
(386) 313-4039  
Email [jmurphy@flaglercounty.org](mailto:jmurphy@flaglercounty.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Flagler County dunes restoration project to begin January 22

**January 19, 2018** – Flagler County crews will begin working on the dunes restoration project on Monday, January 22.

“We are very excited to begin working on the dunes, which will start at Washington Oaks State Park,” said County Engineer Faith Alkhatib, who will oversee the \$25 million (or more) projects. “It will be a measured start to the project.”

The initial project segment will run from Washington Oaks State Park southward to Bay Drive Park. The next segments scheduled will be the remainder of Washington Oaks State Park followed by the segment between Bay Drive Park and MalaCompra Road.

Future segments will be announced about two weeks in advance of the work beginning in a new area.

Funding sources for all of the projects include the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and local funding from private and public sources. The amount of sand used to fortify the dunes will vary depending on the specific segment, totaling more than 750,000 tons of sand for all projects.

“Everyone is anxious to bolster the dunes for the protection of our community,” said Commission Chair Greg Hansen. “It has been great to experience all the cooperation we have had from the state DEP, FEMA, and local residents as well.”

The general goal for progress throughout the dunes restoration project is at least a “mile a month” when taking into account that both the timing of the high tides, limited daylight, and the weather will affect the length of the workday.

Additionally, Flagler County is required to follow the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and federal rules and regulations – that include measures to protect sea turtles as work will be completed during nesting season.

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**Charles Ericksen, Jr.**  
District 1

**Greg Hansen**  
District 2

**David Sullivan**  
District 3

**Nate McLaughlin**  
District 4

**Donald O’Brien, Jr.**  
District 5

The sand is coming from upland sources, so convoys of dump trucks will be delivering sand to the beach. Another six to nine “track trucks” will be on the beach placing the sand. Areas of the beach will be closed to the public while the work is underway.

To keep the public informed, Flagler County will post pictures and weekly updates at [www.flaglercounty.org/dunes\\_project](http://www.flaglercounty.org/dunes_project). Residents will be able to tell where work is ongoing, and where the next segment of work will take place.

Residents with questions can either send them to [dunesproject@flaglercounty.org](mailto:dunesproject@flaglercounty.org), or call dunes project phone number at 386-313-4038 to leave a voicemail message that will be returned within 24 hours on weekdays.

“This is a very large project that is of great importance to all of Flagler County,” County Administrator Craig Coffey said. “We appreciate the public’s patience during this process, and will be seeking the public’s help in protecting the dunes after completion.”

To cultivate an awareness of the importance of the care of our dunes, the county tourism office created a ‘Dodge the Dunes’ campaign – [www.dodgethedunes.com](http://www.dodgethedunes.com).

Residents are invited to attend a ceremonial ground-breaking at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 27, 2018 at MalaCompra Park – 115 MalaCompra Road. Equipment that will be used during the project will be staged there during the event.

Flagler County’s Legislative Delegation, who provided assistance to secure project funding, will be in attendance. Other invitations to the Governor, FDEP, and others are pending.

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