



Source: Zhinguo Chen

**Condominium Development** The development of condominiums is occurring along US Highway 90 in Biloxi and in a number of other locations along the roadway. The location of high density of residential development will result in demand for more amenities and improved access to the beach. The Policy Plan and Physical Plan call for providing increased access to the beach in high activity areas.

## Chapter 3. Vision and Goals

This chapter presents the vision and goals for the *Sand Beach Master Plan*. The vision has been developed based on the input from the County residents, stakeholders, and from beachgoers. The vision and goals are designed to serve as a guide for the County, the Sand Beach Authority, municipalities, state and federal governments, and other stakeholders.

### VISION STATEMENT

To create a premier tourism destination that provides high quality amenities and unique experiences while embracing design that is resistant to natural disasters.

### GOALS

This Plan addresses key concerns and potential opportunities through the goals and strategies for the County's management of the beach. This Plan is a statement of what the County would like to achieve as Sand Beach develops over the next 20 years. Detailed action steps and a timeline for implementation can be found in the Policy Plan chapter.

#### Goal 1: Respect Existing Land Use Patterns

This goal addresses the diversity of existing uses connected to the Sand Beach. A healthy balance of residential, commercial, and industrial uses are currently found adjacent to the beach.

As a guiding principle, Goal 1 ensures that proposals contained in this Plan respect the current uses found adjacent to the beach. The beach improvements recommended in following chapters are programmed in accordance with these existing uses and with what future development is expected to occur as Sand Beach develops over the next 20 years.

#### Goal 2: Create Diverse Destinations

This goal calls for additional beach amenities that help meet the recreation needs of active, moderate, and passive beach areas, as established by Goal 1. Creation of a wayfinding system to help users locate beach areas and amenities is encouraged. New amenities can be located near existing landmarks and historic sites to promote the cultural heritage of the region. New amenities should also be constructed at locations where intense beach use is expected. The County is encouraged to develop partnerships with local municipalities and business organizations to help facilitate the construction of new amenities.

#### Goal 3: Support improved beach access for residents, visitors, and tourists.

This goal addresses the need to provide improved access to the beach. Improvements to pedestrian crossings, the boardwalk, bus stops, and additional parking areas are proposed. Harrison County is encouraged to site these facilities near beach amenities. Central to the *Plan* is a proposal to create a recreational path that extends the length of the Sand Beach.

#### Goal 4: Commit to stewardship that will protect and conserve the coastline.

This goal recognizes that the primary purpose of the beach and seawall is coastline protection. Improvements to the beach should complement this priority while facilitating the management of wind-blown sand erosion. Ecologically sustainable development practices should be encouraged including the creation of sand dunes and facilities that minimize maintenance.



Source: Zhinguo Chen

**Courthouse Road** At the intersection of the beach and Courthouse Road, there is a parking lot that allows visitors to arrive by car and then walk to the beach and water.

Improvements to the Sand Beach should be completed in a way that allows for all four goals to be simultaneously achieved through well designed facilities and landscape enhancements. These changes should to minimally add to the maintenance requirements on the Sand Beach Authority and, when possible, be designed in such a way to reduce maintenance. The following chapter presents the physical improvements proposed for the beach, as well as design guidelines for beach development. The Policy Plan Chapter provides details on the specific strategies and actions that can result in the achievement of the goals.



Source: Jennifer Cowley

**Land Use** Goal 1 of the plan calls for respecting existing land uses. Historically the areas close to the beach were primarily single family houses and low density commercial uses. While redevelopment will increase density in some areas, the Plan calls for respecting the low density character of others. For example, the *Community Plan for Henderson Point-Pass Christian Isles* calls for preserving the single-family residential character of much of the community. As homes are rebuilt, the Sand Beach should serve as an amenity with a passive activity level.



Source: Eric Lowry

**Stewardship** Goal 4 is a commitment to stewardship to protect and conserve the coastline. The formation of sand dunes, such as the one shown above, is an important part of the effort to preserve the coastline and protect the coast from storm damage.



Source: Ryan Pilewski

**Parking Facilities** Goal 3 supports improving beach access for residents and tourists. Locations for parking, such as this one in Pass Christian, are important to make sure that visitors have convenient access to the beach. The Policy Plan supports the addition of parking spaces along the Sand Beach.