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Revitalized Pier and Viewing Platform at the Aransas Pass Aquatic Center Complete

Aransas Pass, TX – Behind the spartina and mangroves thriving in their coastal context along southern Redfish Bay, lies a popular place where the Aransas Pass community can spend time enjoying fresh air and natural landscapes looking out over the bay. The Aransas Pass Aquatic Center features more than its namesake, providing a waterpark with a splash-pad, kiddie pool, and slides, as well as baseball fields, a dog park, and a newly renovated pier and viewing platforms that offer an outlook over tidal flats, mangroves, and wading coastal birds.

Public access to coastal spaces is more than a convenience, it's a cornerstone of how communities connect with and develop a sense of stewardship for those natural resources. Efforts to preserve and restore local habitats go hand in hand with ensuring that people can experience these places firsthand. With habitats across the state being lost to development, keeping existing public access opportunities intact and operational is a high priority. The newly renovated pier at the Aransas Pass Aquatic Center reflects that commitment, focusing on rebuilding a well-used boardwalk to improve both accessibility and safety for the public.



The process started by removing the existing timber boardwalk structure in its entirety, including aged framing and piles that have been weathered by the tough conditions of coastal south Texas. The updated design follows the original footprint and alignment of the structure, utilizing 10-inch square timber piles to support the system, paired with structural-grade reinforced high-density polyethylene framing members and polymer decking. These materials were specifically selected for their durability in coastal conditions, offering resistance to moisture, salt exposure, and long-term wear while maintaining a stable and safe walking surface for visitors.

While the design emphasizes strength and longevity, it also prioritizes environmental sensitivity. Construction included the careful removal and offsite disposal of all the old materials, along with measures to protect the nearby vegetation that provides important habitat value. By maintaining the familiar layout of the boardwalk, the project preserves the experience visitors have come to expect, while subtly upgrading the structural integrity beneath their feet.

Construction was completed in April and is now open once again, ensuring that this community space continues to provide reliable, accessible entry into the Coastal Bend's natural landscape for years to come. Improvements like these serve a broader purpose beyond maintaining infrastructure. Safe, accessible walkways invite visitors of all ages and abilities to explore coastal ecosystems, observe wildlife, and gain a deeper appreciation for the region's natural beauty. That connection often translates into stronger community support for conservation, creating a cycle where access fuels awareness, and awareness fuels stewardship.

The improved boardwalk will continue to serve as a gateway for residents and visitors alike by offering a place to walk, learn, and experience the Coastal Bend up close, while reinforcing the importance of maintaining public access to these shared natural spaces.



The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring bays and estuaries in the 12-county region of Texas Coastal Bend. For more information about the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, contact Quinn Hendrick,

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