

MEDIA ADVISORY: April 12, 2010

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**NORTH PENINSULA STATE PARK TO BEGIN SALT MARSH RESTORATION
WORK ALONG JOHN ANDERSON DRIVE**

--Restoration to begin on phase three of ongoing project--

ORMOND BY THE SEA – Phase three of an ongoing salt marsh restoration project at the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) North Peninsula State Park is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks. This new phase of work will take place along the west side of John Anderson Drive south of Highbridge Road in Volusia County. The project will restore and enhance 23 acres of historic salt marsh that was filled with spoil material during the dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway in the early 1900s.

DEP’s North Peninsula State Park, in partnership with the St. John’s River Water Management District, the Floridan Resource Conservation and Development Council, and Volusia County Environmental Management continues to complete work on phase one and two of the project that began in September 2009. Phase one and two are located along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway north of Highbridge Road and west of A1A.

The goal of this restoration project is to create a healthy, productive saltmarsh habitat which will be connected to open water, benefiting an extremely wide range of plants and animals. Additional benefits include increased recreational opportunities including scenic overlooks for hikers, increased recreational fishing opportunities, birding opportunities, and educational opportunities for local students.

During the project, heavy equipment will be brought in to clear existing vegetation and assist in the removal of spoil material. Once the area is graded to match elevations in adjacent marshes, revegetation will begin and native vegetation will be reintroduced into the restoration area.

Salt marsh is a natural community that is vital in maintaining thriving aquatic habitats. Often called nurseries of the sea, saltmarsh provides a vital nesting and feeding habitat for many aquatic plants and animals.

For more information, visit www.FloridaStateParks.org.