



GULF COAST CENTER FOR
**ECOTOURISM &
SUSTAINABILITY**



Who? What?

Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism & Sustainability

Why? Where? A new 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation started in Gulf Shores

Serving a growing need for environmental and outdoor programs

Helping facilitate access to new resources and facilities

Supporting the development of sustainable tourism

mission statement

The mission of
the Gulf Coast Center for
Ecotourism & Sustainability is

to promote sustainable tourism
raise environmental awareness
encourage the stewardship of
our natural resources
increase community resilience
strengthen the coastal economy
enhance the quality of life for the
residents and visitors of the
Gulf Coast Region

our team

Board of Directors

One Employee

Community

Partners

Naturalists

Inquisitive Youth

Inspired Adults

Chickens

Our Programs



Environmental
Leadership
Camp Programs

Local and
Visiting School
Groups



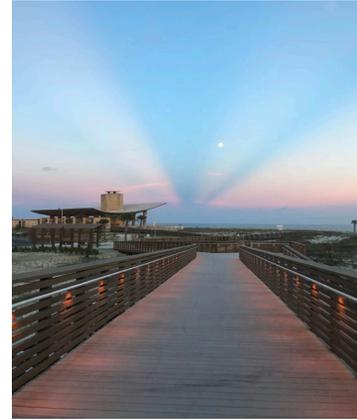
Hands-on,
Experiential, and
Project-based

Day and
Overnight
Programs



Summer Arts
and Ecology
Camp

Celebrate and
Connect Art with
Nature

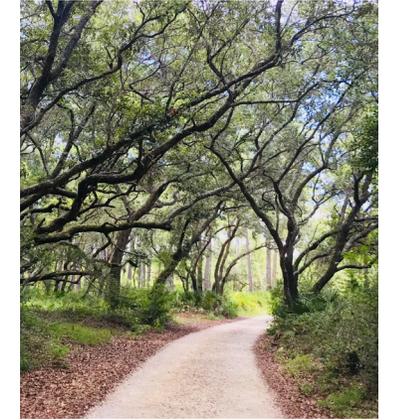


Photography
Performance
Painting
Ceramics
Cooking
Kayaking
Gardening



Community
Programs and
Initiatives

Coastal and
Marine
Protection



Habitat
Restoration and
Service-Learning

Gardening,
Composting and
Green-Living

Ambassadors of the Environment

Ambassadors of the Environment
Founded by Jean-Michel Cousteau's
Ocean Society, the organization provides opportunities for people
to explore the world's oceans through film, photography, and education.
Help people fall in love with nature
and understand how the natural world works.
because people love what they love.
— understanding of how the
natural world works.

Ambassadors of the Environment

Ambassadors partners with:

camps



hotels and resorts



THE RITZ-CARLTON

schools



other non-profits



GULF COAST CENTER FOR
ECOTOURISM &
SUSTAINABILITY



Night Hikes

Star-gazing

Campfires, Songs
and Storytelling

Immersive Nature Experiences

Kayaking

Hiking

Beach Ecology

Biking

Microscope Labs

Boardwalking ??

Field Studies

Wildlife Monitoring



Gaining Lifelong Skills

Teambuilding

Problem-solving

Community Service

Sustainable Living

Stewardship

Self confidence



Make Connections

Within Oneself

The Community

Between Actions and
Consequences

Between the Past,
Present and Future

Clean Land, Clean Water

Think Global, Act Local

Everything Runs on Energy

There is No Waste in Nature

Biodiversity is Key

Everything is Connected



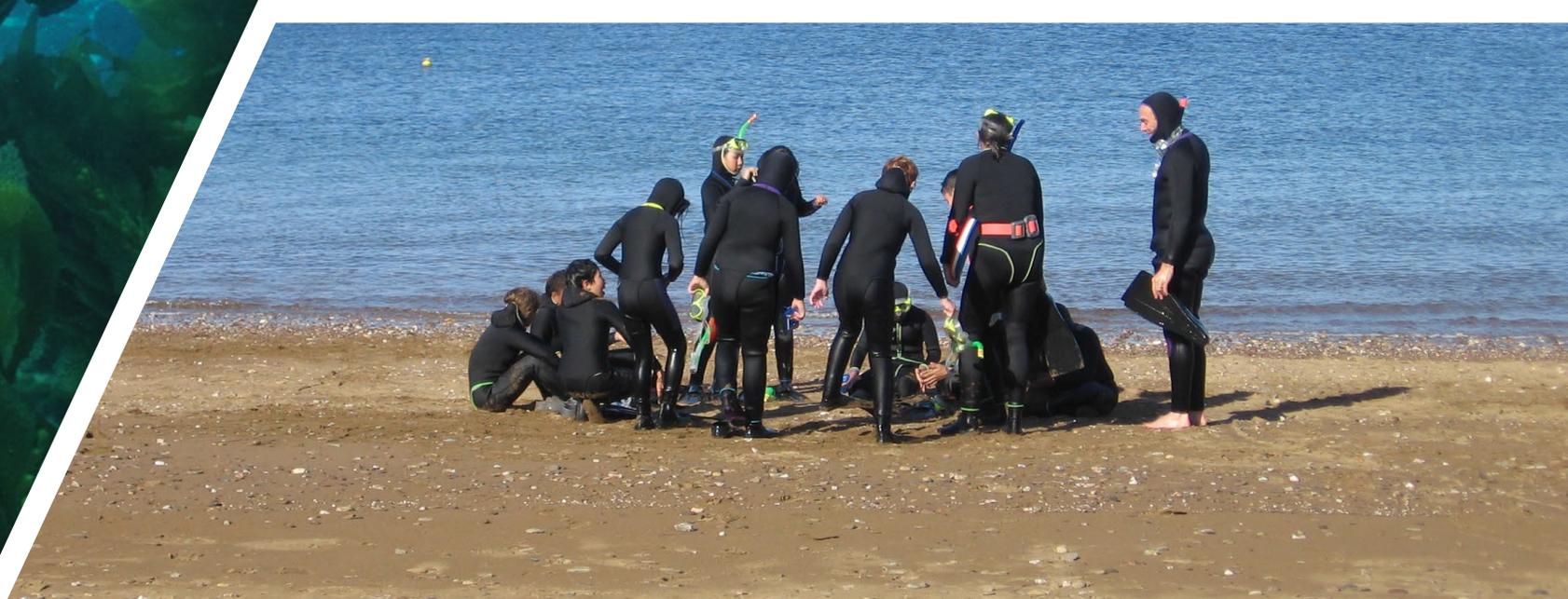
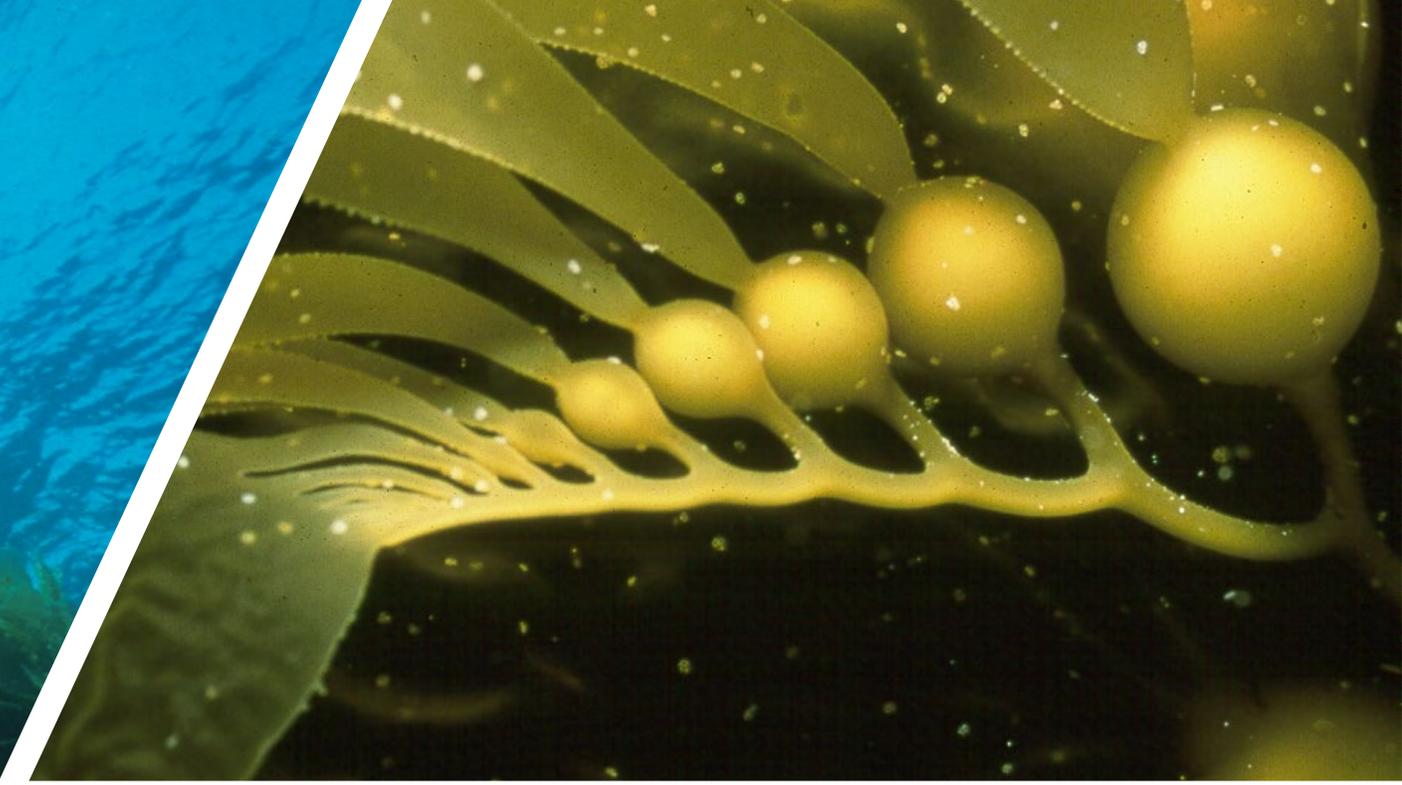
Everything is Connected

The Catalina Island Ambassadors of the Environment Program hosted a delegation from Alabama.



To LEARN, EXPERIENCE and OBSERVE an environmental leadership program in action.









They returned to report back their findings.





In the wake of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy and Gulf Oil Spill...

Some fundamental

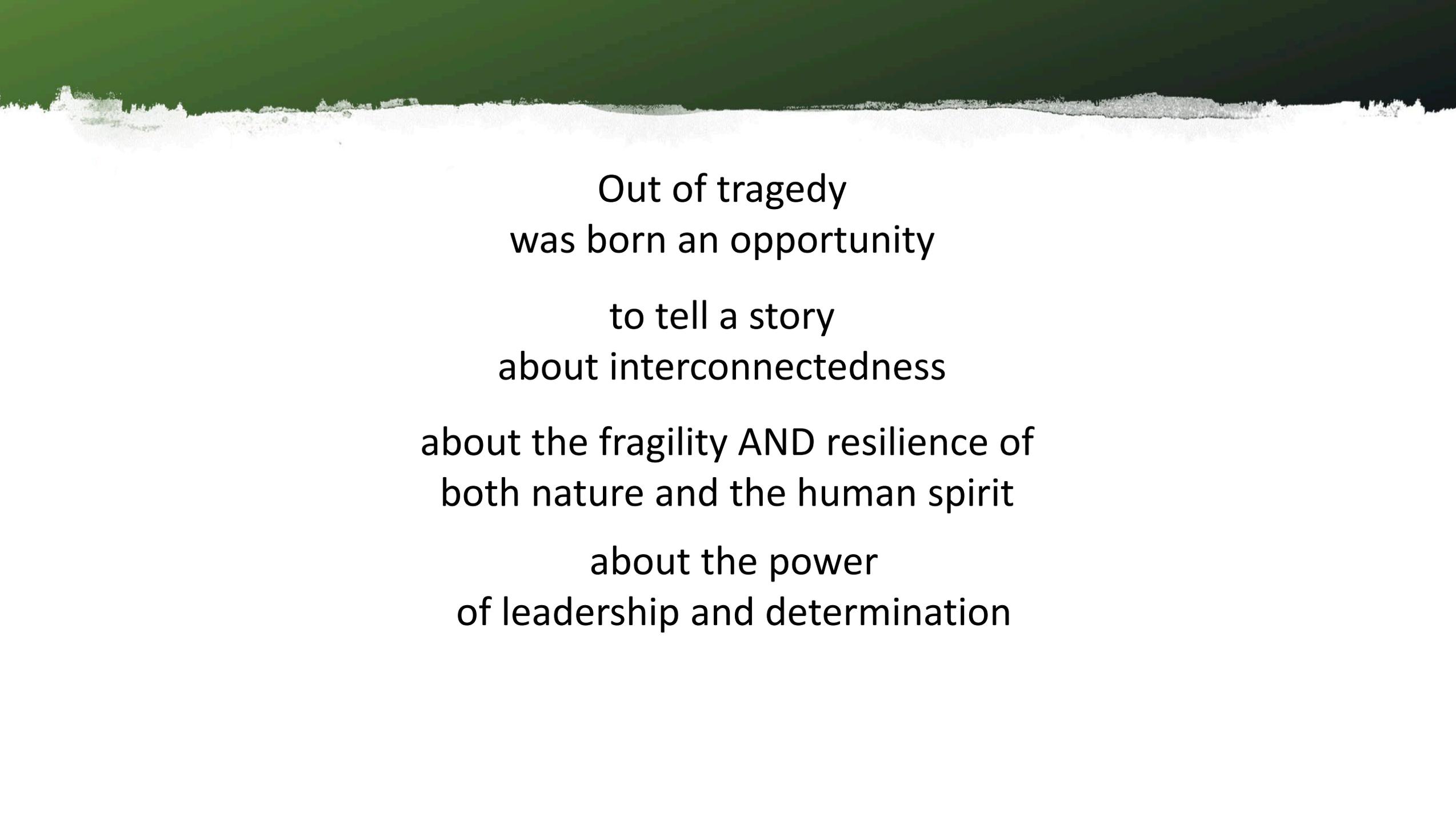
lessons were learned: Health of your economy hinges on the health of your environment

The importance of leadership, teamwork, listening and understanding

The role we all play as consumers

To be the change you want to see in the world

When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade



Out of tragedy
was born an opportunity

to tell a story
about interconnectedness

about the fragility AND resilience of
both nature and the human spirit

about the power
of leadership and determination



GULF COAST CENTER FOR ECOTOURISM & SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Gulf Shores and the Center are working together to build a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to learning and experiencing.

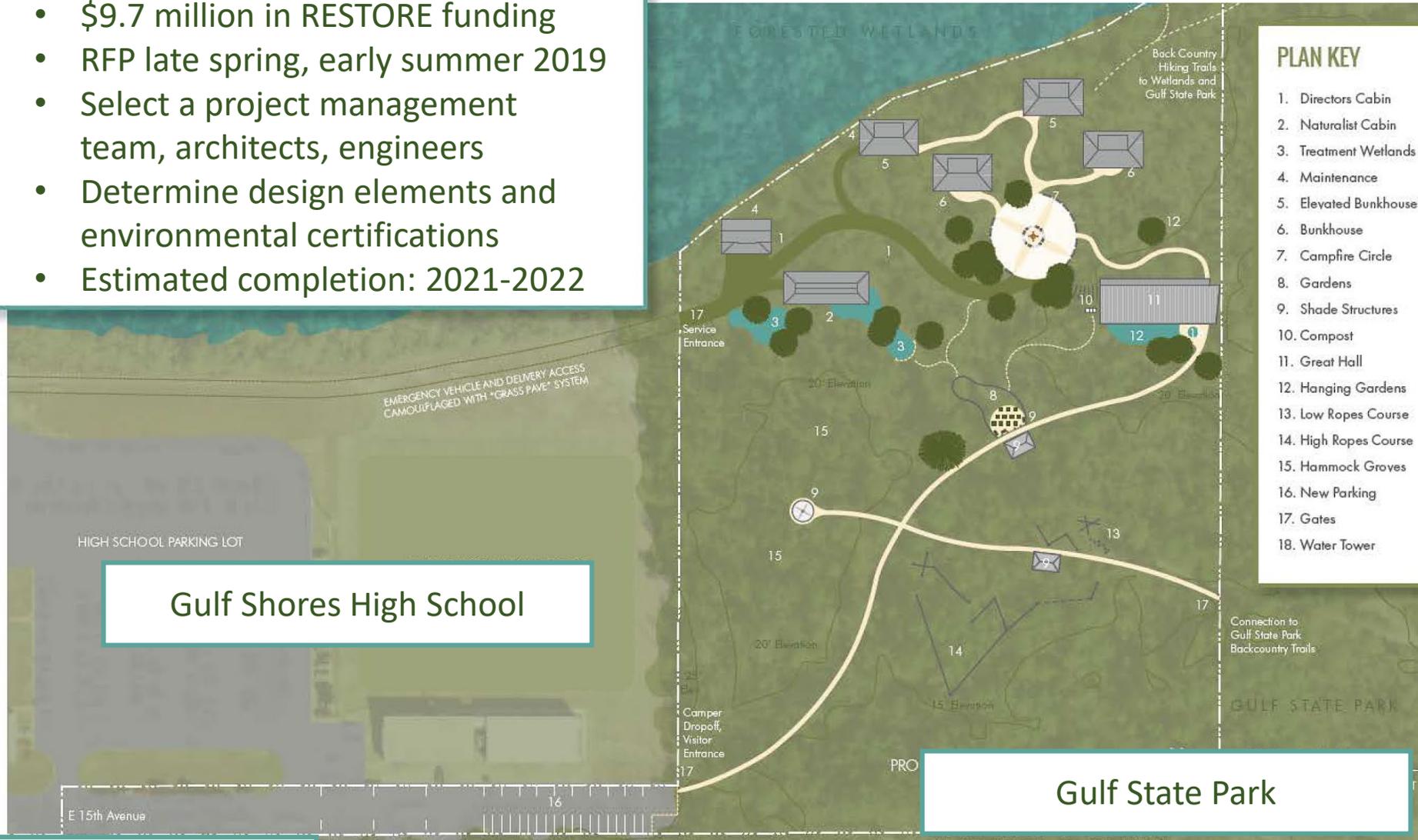
Inspired by nature in every sense, the facility will blend rustic, natural design elements with new sustainable technologies.

From food production, to material upcycling and resource collection, visitors will engage in the innerworkings of the Center.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

- \$9.7 million in RESTORE funding
- RFP late spring, early summer 2019
- Select a project management team, architects, engineers
- Determine design elements and environmental certifications
- Estimated completion: 2021-2022



Gulf Shores High School

Gulf State Park

Learning Campus

Community Partners

City and County Schools

Gulf State Park and Valor Hospitality

Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism

Local Businesses

Universities

Environmental Groups

and

Conservation Organizations

Cities of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach

Program Opportunities

Farm to Market/Field to Table

Little Lagoon Restoration

Dune Ecology/Sea Oat Planting

Wildlife Monitoring

Recycling and Composting

Environmental Art Installations

Videos and Publications

Classes and Workshops

Nature Film Festival

Earth Day Fair

A wooden boardwalk with railings leads from the foreground towards a sandy beach and the ocean under a sunset sky. The boardwalk is made of weathered wood and has railings on both sides. The beach is sandy with some sparse vegetation. The ocean is blue and calm, with a few people visible in the distance. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, with some clouds.

The Path Forward

**Program
Development**

**Center
Design**

**Community
Engagement**

Welcome To
Gulf State Park

Gulf State Park will be an international benchmark for environmental and economic sustainability demonstrating best practices for outdoor recreation, education, and hospitable accommodations.



Sustainability Goals

Construct facilities targeting the highest levels of international environmental certifications

- The 350-room Lodge is on track to meet LEED Gold, SITES Platinum, and FORTIFIED Commercial certifications
- The Interpretive Center is targeting full Living Building Certification, LEED Platinum, and FORTIFIED Commercial certifications
- The Learning Campus is targeting LEED Silver and FORTIFIED Commercial certifications
- Gulf State Park will be the only place in the world where a visitor can experience and learn about this combination of certifications in a single location



GOLF COURSE
CONVERSION

TRAIL NETWORK
EXPANSION

INTERPRETIVE
ELEMENTS

PARK
WAYFINDING

LEARNING
CAMPUS

CAMPGROUND
IMPROVEMENTS

ROAD TO TRAIL
CONVERSION

PICNIC AREA
ENHANCEMENTS

PEDESTRIAN
BRIDGE

PEDESTRIAN
BRIDGE

BEACH PAVILION

THE
LODGE

INTERPRETIVE
CENTER

DUNE
RESTORATION

EDUCATION
PIER

LEGEND

ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM

MASTER PLAN
ELEMENTS

The image shows a modern interior space, likely a balcony or a room with large windows. The walls and ceiling are constructed from dark wood slats, creating a rhythmic pattern of light and shadow. The floor is also made of wood. Large windows offer a view of a coastal landscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with a few clouds. The ocean is visible in the distance, and the foreground shows some low-lying vegetation and sand. The text "Bringing inside out and outside in" is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font, following the curve of the window frame.

Bringing inside out and outside in



Interpretive Center



**Interpretive
Porch**

**Solar Power
(105%)**

**Multi Use
Room**

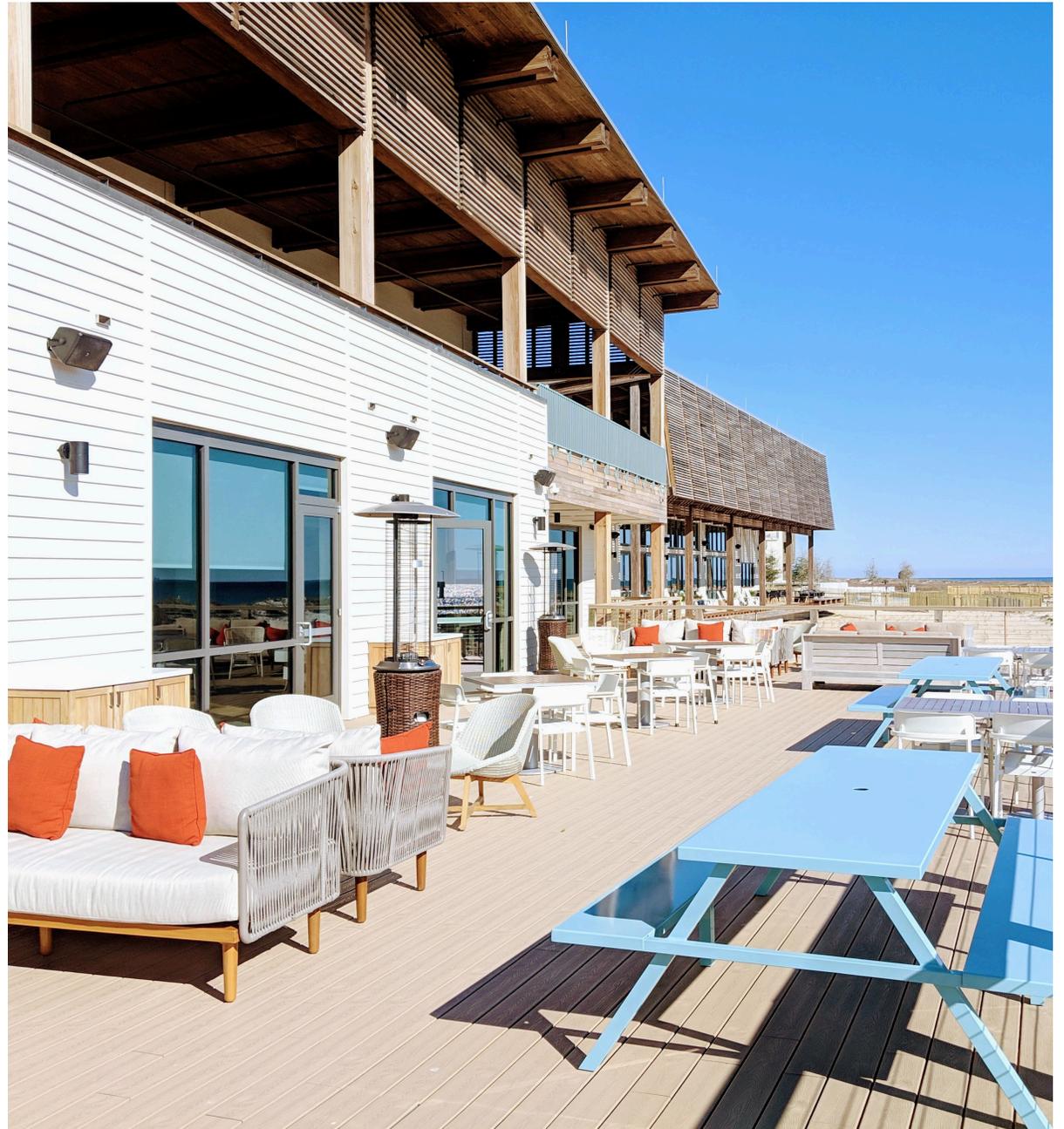
**Sand & Water
Play Area**

**Interpretive
Wall**

**Reclaimed
Water
(105%)**

**225' Dune
Setback**

**Pedestrian
Bridge**





GULF STATE PARK
STUDENT LODGE

Learning Campus

Learning Campus

Community Hub

Auditorium

Bunkhouses

Classrooms and Labs

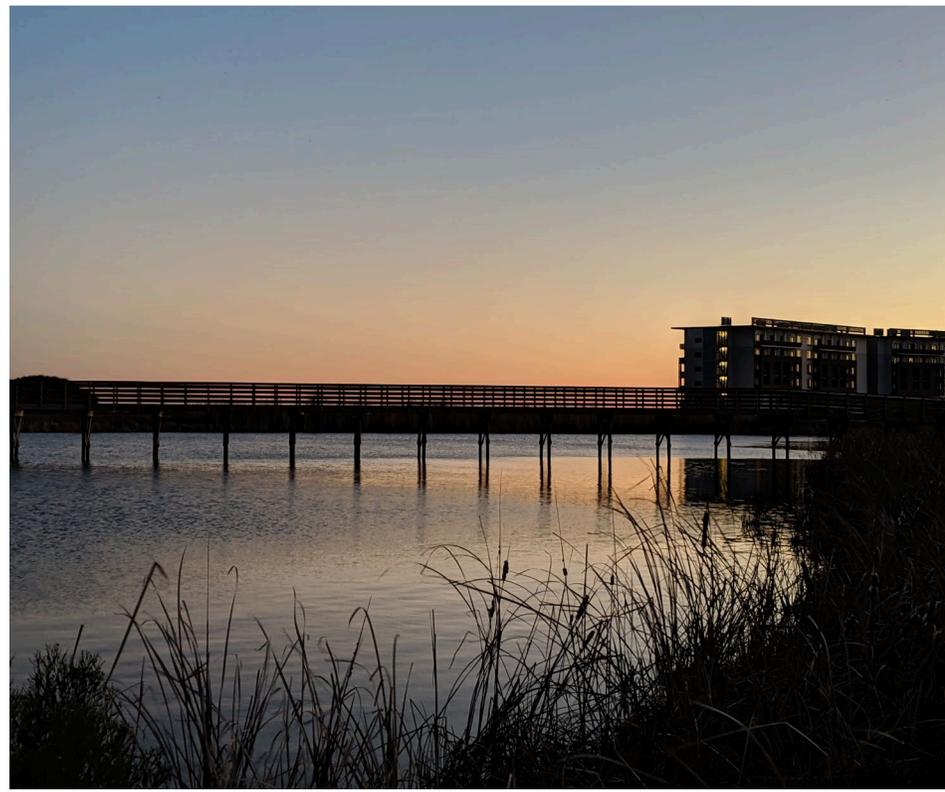
Woodside Restaurant

School groups,
retreats, field studies

Events, workshops,
festivals



The Park



Sustainable “Features” of the Park

Birds and
bats provide
pest control

Trees provide
oxygen

Wetlands
filter
sediment and
pollutants



Objectives

Serve a growing need for environmental and outdoor programs

Help provide access to new facilities

Support sustainable tourism

- 5. Elevated Bunkhouse
- 6. Bunkhouse
- 7. Campfire Circle
- 8. Gardens
- 9. Shade Structures
- 10. Compost
- 11. Great Hall
- 12. Hanging Gardens
- 13. Low Ropes Course
- 14. High Ropes Course
- 15. Hammock Groves
- 16. New Parking
- 17. Gates
- 18. Water Tower

Camper Dropoff, Visitor

Connection to Gulf State Park Backcountry Trails

GULF STATE PARK



Looking Ahead

Learning Opportunities

Successes and Challenges

Nuggets of Wisdom

Collaborative Potential
Locally and Globally

Protecting Critical Habitat
Foundation of Ecotourism and
Sustainability



GULF COAST CENTER FOR
**ECOTOURISM &
SUSTAINABILITY**

**Strengthening the community
and the environment.**

gulfcenter.org

