

Construction to start in May on Oso Bay nature park and trail

Park to be funded by voter-approved bonds

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CORPUS CHRISTI — The development of a \$2.4 million Oso Bay area nature park and trail is underway.

The City Council on Tuesday approved a \$264,000 design contract with RVi Planning, an Austin-based company. The 162-acre park near Holly and Wooldridge roads at Oso Bay will be a resource for area schools used for environmental programs. Voters approved the park development during the 2008 bond election.

Construction of the trail should begin in May and take two years. It will include an interpretive conservation center, parking lots, bike racks, wetland and habitat enhancements, teaching gardens amphitheater, informational kiosks and a site for birding and paddling trails.

"This is really something that we have been working hard for," Councilwoman Nelda Martinez said. "It's not only a good fit for us but our ecotourism. This is going to be a huge contribution to our community and I think it's going to be one of the best rates of return of our 2008 bond election."

Barbara Austin, a principal of RVi Planning, said she sees the park as an opportunity to connect residents to the natural world. The company has designed the San Gabriel River Trail & Rivery Park in Georgetown and is planning the Trail at Lady Bird Lake in Austin.

The Oso Bay area park project will be paid for with property taxes approved in 2008, a \$500,000 Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Recreation grant and \$200,000 from the National Recreational Trails Fund. It's a part of the \$153 million in bonds approved in 2008 for streets, public health, facilities and Bayfront Master Plan projects.



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