



LSCNRA

The proposed Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area (LSCNRA) was conceived at the SSPEED Center in 2010 as a non-structural flood damage reduction strategy. This proposal has been carried forward since 2011 by a coalition of stakeholders – including individuals, non-governmental organizations and local, state and federal agencies - led by Houston businessman John Nau and former Secretary of State James Baker. The goal of the proposed LSCNRA is to leverage existing conserved coastal lands toward a robust nature-based tourism and recreation sector. Such a sector, requiring no to minimal additional infrastructure, compatible with periodic surge flooding and recovering quickly following storms, is compatible with structural approaches to surge mitigation and would enhance coastal resilience.

As laid out in the draft legislation crafted by the Partners and stakeholders over the years, the LSCNRA would be a coalition of non-contiguous sites along the upper Texas Gulf coast joined in a voluntary partnership with the National Park Service. The National Park Service's expertise in education, visitor services, tourism marketing and stakeholder coordination, among other things, will make it a valued partner in this innovative partnership. Using the national recreation area framework of the National Park Service (NPS) would facilitate multi-party, cross-jurisdictional cooperation and collaboration to create a whole that is a greater tourism draw than the sum of the parts.

In order to qualify for national recreation area status, among other criteria, the area must be determined to be of national significance. Additionally, Congress must pass a law that authorizes NPS to create a new park unit. Work completed to date has established that the region meets the criteria that qualify it to be proposed as a national recreation area, including but not limited to the outstanding number and diversity of the region's ecosystems and the large number and variety of birds inhabiting and migrating through this area.

Additional benefits of the national recreation area designation, include offering the region's communities significant economic advantages, while retaining local governance and individual landowner control. It would provide a framework for economic development that supports private property rights, historic preservation, conservation, and traditional land uses; enhances employee recruitment and retention for local industry; and promotes small business.

For more information, please visit www.lonestarcoastal.org.