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**RESIDENTS AND VISITORS ENJOY RECONSTRUCTED BEACH ACCESS IN
BLUE MOUNTAIN BEACH**

WALTON COUNTY, Fla. – June 19, 2008 – After five years in the making, The Walton County Tourist Development Council (TDC) recently completed the construction of the new restrooms and parking area at Blue Mountain regional beach access. Blue Mountain is the second regional beach access to open in 2008, providing more parking spaces for residents and visitors along Scenic Highway 30A.

“The TDC worked cooperatively with the Blue Mountain community to establish a structure that would benefit all,” said Sonny Mares, executive director of the Walton County TDC. “The new structure addresses the community’s concerns regarding size as well as the need to maximize parking, which will us to accommodate more beachgoers as well as support our requests for state and federal funding for beach nourishment.”

The reconstructed beach access now provides public restrooms, 20 parking spaces, including two ADA parking spaces. Prior to construction, there were no defined parking spaces. The newly installed restrooms include one male and one female restroom with open air shutters to cool the facility. The facility was designed smaller than the typical restroom design to accommodate the location size. The Blue Mountain Beach Homeowners Association, Walton County Beach Improvements Committee and the Walton County TDC worked jointly over the past four years to create and construct a

similar but smaller restroom design. The project also included storm water improvements and repairs to the upper deck of the boardwalk.

“We appreciate the work the TDC has done,” said Richard Fowlkes, president of the Blue Mountain Home Owners Association. “We were very pleased that the TDC was willing to make modifications to the original plan to accommodate our suggestions. The new beach access is an asset to the community.”

The Blue Mountain Beach project was funded through the tourist occupancy tax paid by visitors on short term lodging rentals.

The TDC maintains a total of 56 public beach accesses. As a regional beach access, this location is staffed by lifeguards through the South Walton Fire District. For more information on the project, contact Dave Sell at 850.267.1216