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SAN JUAN BEACH ACCESS REOPENS

WALTON COUNTY, Fla. – June 19, 2008 – After being closed for improvements, Beaches of South Walton Tourist Development Council (TDC) announces the reopening of San Juan Neighborhood Beach Access. The renovated access now includes parking and will accommodate fourteen vehicles, including thirteen standard vehicle parking spaces and one ADA parking space. This addition makes the beach access at San Juan Avenue in Seagrove Beach more accessible to area beach goers.

“The new parking has a dual purpose,” said Sonny Mares, executive director of the Walton County Tourist Development Council. “We can accommodate more beach goers who would like to drive to this beach access as well as qualify for more state grant funds for beach restoration.”

Stretches of coastline along Scenic Hwy 30-A were deemed “critically eroded” by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) after the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005 and became eligible for up to 50 percent cost sharing by the state for beach nourishment. To receive the full 50 percent, there must be restroom facilities and 100 parking spaces per mile of beach. Beaches of South Walton has 42 public beach accesses on Scenic Hwy 30-A, however, parking is predominantly located at the seven regional beach accesses with restrooms. The TDC continues to work diligently to identify locations where parking can be expanded.

The amount of state assistance for beach nourishment will be determined prior to the execution of the Phase II Beach Restoration for the 30-A Corridor, and subject to funds provided by the state legislature. Phase II is currently in the permitting process through FDEP and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The beach at San Juan Neighborhood Access will be included in project area C of the Phase II Beach Restoration project.

For more information regarding area beach accesses, call Beaches of South Walton TDC at 850-267-1216 or visit www.beachesofsouthwalton.com.