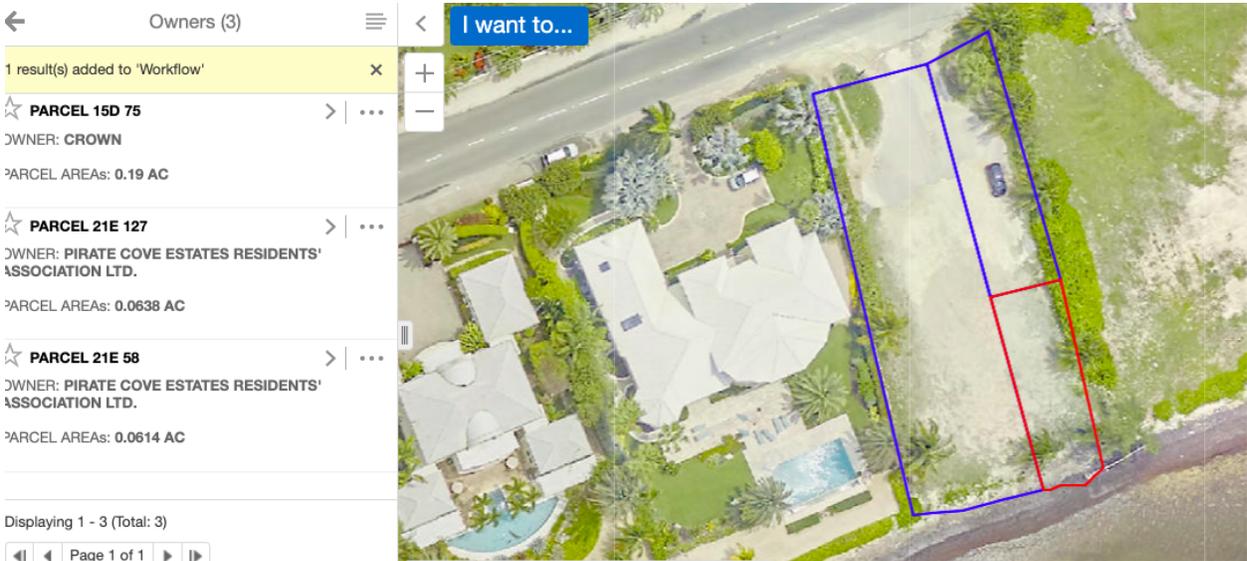


Pirate Cove Shoreline Community Rejuvenation Project

The Pirate Cove Shoreline Project aims to restore a narrow beach access of 0.3152 acres of stony beach ridge opposite Mary Read Crescent. By partnering with the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure, the National Roads Authority, the Pirate Cove Residents Association and the local community, Sustainable Cayman hopes to launch efforts to begin the planning and outreach phase of this project in early December.



Pilot Project

During the pandemic outdoor exercise became an important component of wellbeing. Many people in the community would choose to walk, jog or cycle along South Sound Road as their daily exercise and many reconnected with nature during this time. The experience highlighted the lack of accessibility to outdoor communal areas, not just for exercise but also for reflection.

There is a broad consensus that climate change will have significant impacts on local communities, and that preparation must be made to adapt to these impacts. Local impacts of climate change in the region will include extreme weather patterns including increased storm intensity and severe drought conditions. Sea level rise combined with high tides and storm events increase the risk of coastal flooding.

Beaches are a great place for plants and people – and although conditions can sometimes be challenging, they bring with them the opportunity to restore some amazing plants and explore new perspectives of our natural ecosystem.



Current eroded shoreline

In July, The National Trust of the Cayman Islands launched a Blue Iguana Garden project to encourage the planting of wild foodstock for the blue iguana conservation programme. These native plant species, many with flowers or fruit, would be suitable for beach planting and make hardy additions to rewilding public spaces, including beach access trails.

<https://nationaltrust.org.ky/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Blue-Iguana-Gardens-Starter-Pack-Small.pdf>

The Pirate Cove Shoreline Project aims to achieve the following three goals:



Goal 1 – Expanding the public area to increase the resiliency of the shoreline through grading of the beach, increasing car park setback and establishing foredune habitat

This project will restore a healthy living shoreline that will provide multiple ecosystem benefits, like habitat for shorebirds and native flowering plants, and shoreline stabilization to protect the beach we love so much!

Goal 2 – Implement nature-based protection measures against sea level rise and coastal storms

Specialized plants will grow and begin trapping sand transported by the wind and pushed ashore by waves. As vegetation begins to grow, so will the sand collection. Sargassum seaweed will be maintained to form part of the replenishment concept. Dunes can provide a natural defense against sea level rise and coastal storms.



Interesting and unusual plants grow by the sea. Herbs like rosemary, sage and thyme can thrive in these conditions. Exotics such as agaves and aloe grow brilliantly here too.



Goal 3 – Increase wellness of the community through an enhanced beach access with seated viewing, outreach, and education

In addition to reducing coastal hazards and providing habitat for wildlife, this project will encourage nature-based solutions and increase community awareness of living shorelines while still allowing all other existing recreational uses of the beach to continue as well as being enhanced.



Action

Subject to design approval, in order to move to the next stage of this proposal and create an action committee, we are respectfully asking for:

- (1) Ministry permission to design and upgrade Crown Land Block 15D / Parcel 75
- (2) Budgeting for the NRA to provide equipment and labour for land preparation
- (3) Budgeting for the NRA to replace the car parking area ie smaller footprint with permeable paved parking (approx. 5000 sq ft)

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Current
Project Site

