

GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4611 Tutu Park Mall Suite 300, 2nd Floor St. Thomas, VI 00802 (340) 774-3320 45 Mars Hill, Frederiksted St. Croix, VI 00840 (340) 773-1082 dpnr.vi.gov



Office of the Commissioner

CONTACT: Jamal Nielsen, Media Relations Coordinator jamal.nielsen@dpnr.vi.gov

Friday, May 7, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPNR Announces Coastal Access Improvements and Temporary Impacts at Boiler Bay and Brown Bay Beaches

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands — The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces the start of a restoration and public access improvement project at Boiler Bay and Brown Bay, located within the East End Marine Park on St. Croix's northeastern coast.

The project, expected to last approximately one month, will implement low-impact design and nature-based solutions to enhance public access, manage stormwater runoff, restore natural habitats, and protect coastal ecosystems. These popular beaches are essential not only for local recreation but also serve as critical habitats for endangered, migratory, and native species.

This effort is led by DPNR's Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas, in partnership with the Division of Coastal Zone Management, the East End Marine Park, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Improvements include upgrades to parking areas and walking paths, erosion control features, and better stormwater conveyance to improve water quality.

"The Department is excited to demonstrate how nature-based solutions can enhance shoreline access, green space use, and environmental health," said Kristina Edwards, Director of the Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas. "We appreciate the public's patience as we complete these vital upgrades."

Short-term access limitations may occur during the project period.

Please direct questions to Kristina Edwards, Director of the Division of Territorial Parks and Protected Areas at <u>Kristina.edwards@dpnr.vi.gov</u> or (340)718-1082.