

Nueces County is requesting to permanently relocate the No Wake zone currently located along the Packery Channel Nature Park shoreline. Packery Channel Nature Park's coastline (red polygon) sits directly adjacent to the no wake (red triangle). When boats slow in this area and come off wake, a large, unnatural, high-energy wave is created that, over a short period of time, has created severe erosion of the area. Coastal Parks has received grant funding to install gray/green infrastructure to rebuild the shoreline, protect county infrastructure, and support safe public access to the channel. The current placement of the no wake zone creates a safety concern for paddle boards and kayakers who use the parks shoreline as a launch point. Coastal Parks believes that the relocation would increase safety for water recreation users and cause the least amount of erosion in the proposed placement (purple triangles). There are few recreators in this area and the lack of islands and the bridge to the causeway will significantly lessen the amount of damage from the off wake wave erosion. This would create approximately 1 additional mile of no wake speeds along the channel. The high speeds through the channel has caused erosion in areas of the channel. Much of the Padre Island side of the channel has hardened shorelines (blue lines) which inhibit the natural progression of ecosystems and remove transitional marsh habitat. Additionally, the relocation of the no wake zone will protect the proposed grant project from future abuse of the high energy waves and create a lasting living shoreline area for public use.

