

Man, Land, & Sea

A publication by Guam Coastal Management Program

April 30, 2026



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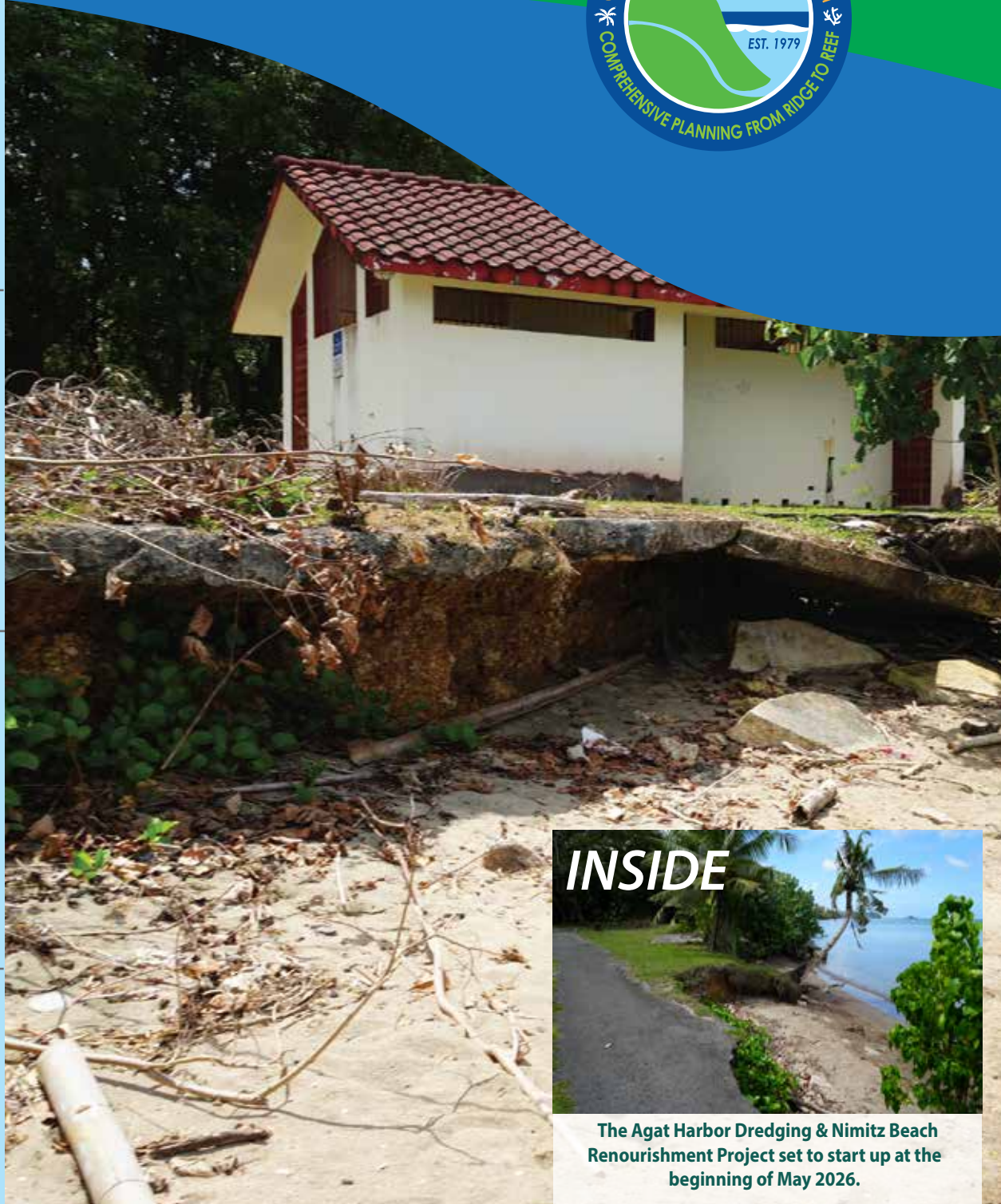
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Protecting Guam from Ridge to Reef



The Agat Harbor Dredging & Nimitz Beach Renourishment Project set to start up at the beginning of May 2026.

Photo by GCMP: Nimitz Beach Park Shoreline Erosion.

The Hågat Coastal Renewal: The Agat Harbor Dredging & Nimitz Beach Renourishment Project

By: Steven Dierking, Guam Coastal Management Program

HÅGAT, GUAM – A vital piece of Guam’s maritime infrastructure is set for a major renewal. This April and May, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Honolulu District, in partnership with the Office of the Governor, the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program, Department of Public Works, Department of Parks and Recreation, Port Authority of Guam, and the Hågat Mayor’s Office, will begin a comprehensive maintenance dredging of the Agat Small Boat Harbor.

For boaters and fishers who call Hågat home, the project is a long-awaited solution to the heavy sedimentation that has made the harbor’s entrance and access channels increasingly difficult to navigate. However, this project offers a double benefit: instead of disposing of the dredged material at sea, the high-quality sand will be used for “Beneficial Use of Dredged Material” (BUDM) to reclaim nearly 800 feet of eroded shoreline at the neighboring Nimitz Beach Park.

"This is a win-win-win for our community, environment, and economy," said Edwin Reyes, Administrator, Guam Coastal Management Program. "We are ensuring the functionality of the navigation channels that support our tourism, fisheries, and recreational industry while simultaneously protecting our environment and restoring one of our most precious recreational beaches."

To ensure the safety of the public during the high-pressure sand placement process, Nimitz Beach Park will be closed from April 15 through May 31, 2026. Boaters are also advised to exercise caution as a floating pipeline and dredge barge will be active in the harbor channels throughout the month of May.

PROJECT SCOPE & SPECIFICATIONS

- Dredging Volume: Removal of 8,300 to 9,000 cubic yards of sand/sediment.
- Target Depths: Entrance Channel (-14 ft), Turning Basin (-11 ft), and Access Channel (-7 ft).
- Beach Reclamation: Placement of material along 792 linear feet of Nimitz Beach, restoring approximately 1.5 acres of shoreline.

METHOD

A barge-mounted excavator will utilize a cutter-head suction system to pump sand via a floating pipeline directly to the beach.

TIMELINE & KEY DATES

Mobilization & Park Closure: Begins April 15, 2026.
Dredging Operations: May 3 – May 31, 2026.
Project Completion: Expected May 31, 2026.

FUNDING

100% Federally Funded for general navigation features.

PUBLIC SAFETY & ACCESS

Park Status: Nimitz Beach Park is **CLOSED** to all public access (including parking lots and pavilions) from April 15 to May 31, 2026.

Boater Notice: Maintain a "Slow-No Wake" speed near the harbor entrance. Watch for floating pipelines and professional divers monitoring the environment.



Nimitz Beach Park: Major beach erosion is pictured west of the restroom facilities. (Photo by: Guam Coastal Management Program)



North facing view of the sidewalk and beach erosion at Nimitz Beach Park: facilities. (Photo by: Guam Coastal Management Program)





THE GUÅHAN 2050 Sustainability Plan

AN UPDATE TO THE GUAM COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans Announces a Second Extension of Public Comment Period for the 2050 Guåhan Sustainability Plan

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) is announcing a second extension of the public comment period for the draft 2050 Guåhan Sustainability Plan (GSP). In accordance with the requirements of 5 GCA § 1205, BSP conducted two public hearings on the draft 2050 Guåhan Sustainability Plan (GSP) on February 12, 2026, at the Hågat Mayor's Office and February 25, 2026, at the Dededo Mayor's Office.

To ensure that all residents have ample opportunity to review the document and contribute to the island's long-term strategic vision, BSP is extending the comment period by 27 days. This will make the new deadline to submit comments to **Friday, May 22, 2026 by 5:00 pm.**

The 2050 GSP serves as a comprehensive framework for Guam's future, addressing critical areas such as economic resilience, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. This plan also acts as the official update to the Guam Comprehensive Development Plan (Kabales), as mandated by Public Law 35-110.

How to Participate and Access Resources

Residents and stakeholders can visit bsp.guam.gov/gsp2050/ to access a digital library of planning resources, including:

- Review the Draft: View and download the full draft of the 2050 Guåhan Sustainability Plan.
- Quick References: Access FAQs and concise chapter summaries to navigate the plan's key components.
- Legal & Historical Context: View a plan summary with direct links to Public Law 35-110 and the original Kabales plan currently being updated.
- Interactive Mapping: Explore the Draft Land Use Web Map and download specific village-level maps included in the plan.
- Data & Research: Download the Residential Survey Results Report and the detailed analysis of surveys that informed the plan's development.
- Public Hearing Archives: View video recordings of the public presentations from the two previously held public hearings.

Submission Instructions

The Bureau encourages the public to use the official comment form available on the website.

Visit: bsp.guam.gov

- Download: Visit the site to view specific instructions and download the formal comment form.
- Submit: Please email all written comments and completed forms to gsp2050@bsp.guam.gov.

Your input is vital to ensuring the 2050 Guåhan Sustainability Plan reflects the values and aspirations of all who call Guam home.

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Inalåhan Middle School Students Complete Guam Coastal Ambassador Training

By: Joshua Reyes, Science Teacher, Inalåhan Middle School & Steven Dierking, Guam Coastal Management Program

On March 23, 2026, 120 students from Inalåhan Middle School participated in the Guam Coastal Management Program's (GCMP) Coastal Ambassador Program. The training focused on the "ridge-to-reef" connection, demonstrating how upland wildfires directly impact the health of Guam's coral reefs.

Wildfire Prevention and Watershed Health

The students visited the Ugum, As Gadao, and Piti/Masso watersheds to study the environmental chain reaction caused by fire. Key activities included:

The Fire Triangle: Students identified how heat, fuel, and oxygen contribute to wildfires and practiced prevention by maintaining firebreaks and pruning trees at Cross-Island Road.

Reforestation: To combat soil erosion, participants planted native seedlings across the watersheds, learning how root systems stabilize the landscape.

Runoff Analysis: The group evaluated how fire-damaged land loses its ability to filter water, allowing sediment, nutrients, and pollutants to wash into rivers and coastal ecosystems.



Students engaged in a series of activities focused on forest restoration, watershed health, wildfire impacts, and coastal ecosystem protection. Activities took place at the Ugum Watershed, the As Gadao Watershed, the Piti/Masso Reservoir, and Fish Eye, where participants contributed directly to ongoing restoration efforts.

At each watershed site (As Gadao, Piti/Masso, and Ugum), students planted seedlings to support long-term ecosystem recovery and observed firsthand the purpose of reforestation. They examined how wildfires contribute to soil degradation, erosion, and landscape damage. Through guided discussions/activities, students explored how degraded soils affect freshwater availability, increase the likelihood of new flood zones, and ultimately influence the health of Guam's coastal environments.





At Cross-Island Road in Santa Rita, students participated in discussions about the fire triangle and engaged in hands-on activities such as maintaining firebreaks, pruning trees, and planting native species to reduce wildfire risk and promote forest resilience.



At Fish Eye Marine Park, students examined the symbiotic relationship between algae and coral. They discussed how sedimentation from upland watersheds reduces light availability, preventing algae from performing photosynthesis and ultimately harming coral reefs and the biodiversity they support. Students also explored the importance of our coastal shore's protection in terms of how it affects fisheries, shoreline stability, and the island's economic well-being. Their visit concluded with observations inside Fish Eye's underwater aquarium, where they observed a real marine ecosystem up close.



“ These training exercises aimed not only to educate participants in becoming Coastal Ambassadors but also to reach a demographic of students who may not normally participate and/or become educated in becoming coastal ambassadors. ” Joshua Reyes, Science Teacher, IMS



The Coastal Ambassador Program is an initiative of the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP), Bureau of Statistics and Plans. All photos provided by: Joshua Reyes.



SGS Guam: Shoreline Guardians – Coastal Clean-Up for a Greener Guam

Article By: SGS Guam, Corporate Release & The Guam Coastal Management Program



GUAM, March 27, 2026 – SGS Guam held a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) coastal clean-up at Ypao Beach, spending the morning enhancing and protecting this popular shoreline as part of their sustainability efforts.

The activity started at Ypao Beach Park, picking up plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and various litter scattered throughout public spaces. After tidying up the park, the team headed to the shoreline, where they cleared debris like plastics, packaging, and other waste that endanger marine life and the ecosystem.

Though the task was simple, it showed how steady effort can protect our environment and foster teamwork and compassion for both our workplace and surrounding communities.

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) extends its sincere appreciation to SGS Guam for their dedicated efforts during their recent coastal cleanup at Ypao Beach. Community-driven initiatives like these are vital to the protection of our island's natural resources. By removing plastic debris, aluminum, and other waste from our shorelines, SGS Guam has demonstrated a commendable commitment to environmental sustainability and the health of our marine ecosystems.

To support this successful event, GCMP was pleased to provide the necessary gloves and trash bags for the SGS team. It is through these collaborative partnerships between government agencies and the private sector that we can foster a deeper sense of compassion for our shared environment and ensure our beaches remain pristine for future generations.

Thank you, SGS Guam, for your leadership in corporate social responsibility and for being an active partner in keeping Guam beautiful.





GCBJ400: Stewardship on the Sands of Tumon Bay

By: Tania McCarthy, Geocaching Without Borders & Steven Dierking, Guam Coastal Management Program

Geocaching is a global treasure hunt that uses GPS technology and online coordinates to lead players to hidden "caches." But for the community, it's about more than just the find—it's about the land.

What is a CITO?

A CITO (Cache In, Trash Out®) event is a tradition centered on stewardship. It reflects a core philosophy that the privilege of accessing wild places is earned through care. Volunteers gather to remove litter or plant native vegetation, turning a social outing into a powerful act of land care.

Geocaching Without Borders

Eight Victorian Geocachers known as **Geocaching Without Borders** traveled from Australia to Guam. On Saturday, March 28 they joined the **Guam Geocachers** for an "hour of power" between Nana's Café and Matapang Beach in Tumon.

The Operation

While Tumon Beach is known for its crystal waters and iconic and beautiful beaches, it often faces the burden of discarded debris. Equipped with bags and gloves provided by the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP), and armed with sunscreen, hats, and water, the Geocachers got to work.

Geocachers are instinctively observant, trained to notice the small details others might walk past. This unique skill set translated into a highly efficient cleanup, proving that even a small group can make a significant impact on land care.

The event concluded with a observably improved beach and the lasting satisfaction of a job well done, reminding us all that while we may be visitors to these landscapes, we are all temporary caretakers of the earth. GCMP appreciates the Geocachers volunteer cleanup work and extends an Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase for helping keep Guam's shorelines beautiful.



**Man, Land, and Sea
Newsletter
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<https://bsp.guam.gov/guam-coastal-management-program/>

Organizing a Beach Cleanup? We can help!

Contact the Guam Coastal Management Program and get connected with other volunteers and supplies.
Call 671-475-9647
or email
gcmp@bsp.guam.gov
for more information.
*limited supplies available per cleanup event.



ENHANCING STORMWATER PLANNING AND DESIGN





The Guam Stormwater Drainage Runoff Calculation Tool is Now Available.
Visit bsp.guam.gov to download the official tool (XLSX).



Ensure your projects meet the highest standards with the newly updated, official Excel-based tool designed specifically for Guam's unique environment.

Developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program, Guam EPA, and the Department of Public Works, this tool simplifies complex drainage requirements into one reliable interface.

KEY FEATURES INCLUDE

-  **Site-Specific Data:** Pre-loaded with local soil types and Guam-specific geology.
-  **Full Calculator Suite:** Runoff Curve Number (RCN), Time of Concentration, and TR-55 Peak Runoff.
-  **Design-Ready Modules:** Simplified calculators for infiltration basins, swales, sand filters, and bio-remediation.
-  **Calculation Tool Training Video**

BUILDING RESPONSIBLY.

PROTECTING GUAM.

ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



US Army Corps
of Engineers



A MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GUAM COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
NOAA GRANT #NA25NOSX419C0062

