

City of Biloxi

Hiller Park

Environmental Enhancement Project



June 2011

Area Background

Hiller Park is located in West Biloxi just north of Pass Road and just east of Jim Money Road. Hiller Park is bounded on the west by United States Government Housing, on the east by the Biloxi Veterans Affairs Hospital, on the south by a residential neighborhood and on the north by Biloxi Back Bay. This park currently contains tennis courts, softball fields, baseball fields, a walking track, a children's park, a pavilion, and a boat launch. This park is a popular location for not only various athletic games, family gatherings, but also for fishing along the banks by the water. The VA Hospital employees also use this park on a regular basis utilizing the walking track for exercise or just as a peaceful place along the water to take breaks.

Project Overview

In 2003, the City of Biloxi applied for a Mississippi Tidelands Trust Fund Grant to make various improvements to the park. The City was awarded approximately \$150,000 and was awaiting approval on an additional \$250,000. The improvements to the park included fishing piers, a boardwalk among the live oaks along Back Bay, educational signs, benches, picnic tables, lighting and parking. When Hurricane Katrina hit Biloxi in 2005, the first phase of this project was being designed; but due to the aftermath of Katrina this project never moved forward and Tidelands Grant funds were not spent. The City would like to once again move forward with the Hiller Park Enhancement Project, and would look forward to partnering with BP to not only add recreational value to the area but also to provide environmental education, restoration, enhancement and protection.

The plan for Hiller Park includes those improvements in the original Tidelands Grant application and also replacement of the existing boat ramp with finger piers and parking area in Bayou La Porte, which would also involve dredging of Bayou La Porte to remove sediment that has been deposited over the years. Removal of the sediment will enhance the natural tidal flow to the Bayou thereby improving water quality in the bayou and Back Bay and provide better marine conditions for aquatic animals. The dredging will also provide for better access to the boat ramp and for the

citizens who live along that bayou. The new boat ramp will provide an additional means of access to recreational boating and fishing by the citizens of the City. Also included in the plan are four fishing piers and an 800' boardwalk to be located in Back Bay along the north shore of the park. The piers will provide access to recreational fishing, crabbing, and shrimping, and will assist the City of Biloxi Summer Playground program by allowing children to fish, throw the cast net, and learn about nature. The boardwalk will meander along the water's edge through the oak trees and will have benches, lighting, and educational signage describing the native plant and animal species. Along the north bank there is also an existing bulkhead that is in need of repairs. Replacing this bulkhead will give residents safer access to onshore fishing in the park.

Additional wooden foot bridges are proposed throughout the more natural portions of the park to provide the public with access to some of the nature areas and to provide for walk-ability through the various nature areas of the park. There will be educational signage installed along these nature walks and bridges to help to increase the public awareness of and appreciation of the Coast's natural resources such as wetland plant and animal species unique to the bayou ecosystem.

The Mississippi Renaissance Garden is a non-profit volunteer based group formed through the Reviving the Renaissance initiative, which Mayor Holloway spearheaded in an effort to guide the city's long term recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The Renaissance Garden was designed as a recovery effort to bring a healing and educational garden to the residents, volunteers, and visitors of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This public garden and horticulture center will promote horticulture therapy, sustainable healthy lifestyles and economic growth to the entire area. The Garden area includes walkways, gazebos, specialty gardens, water features, outdoor classroom and festival area, benches, greenhouse, and composting area, as shown in the drawings in Appendix B.

Parking lots are proposed throughout the portion of the park north of Atkinson Road to provide the public with access not only to the pavilion, boat ramp, fishing piers, boardwalk, shoreline and Renaissance Gardens but also to the large grassed areas that are excellent for family and group gatherings. The pervious parking will provide a place for additional infiltration of stormwater

runoff, which will improve water quality by reducing nonpoint source pollution through infiltration and not direct runoff to the Bayou La Porte or Back Bay.

The City also proposes to perform wetland restoration along the banks of Back Bay and Bayou La Porte. This will include removal of non-native plant species and replaced with native wetland plants which will also aid in improvement of the water quality in the bayou and bay. This will restore the shoreline's ability to act as a natural filtration system of the stormwater runoff and will enhance the natural ecosystem of the bayou and support marine and wildlife habitat.

Adding these features to Hiller Park will not only provide additional recreational opportunities to the local residents, visitors, and military families living in the adjacent housing but also to the VA employees and the children of the City's Summer Playground program. It will also provide for increased water quality and preservation of sensitive coastal resources through wetland restoration and enhancement. The City of Biloxi looks forward to working with BP to provide the citizens of the City of Biloxi with these additional amenities in Hiller Park.

Project Estimate

The following is table showing the preliminary cost estimate for this project.

Hiller Park Preliminary Cost Estimate			
Phase of Work	Previous Tidelands Funding*	Proposed BP Funding	Total Improvements
Engineering/Design/Permitting		\$100,000	\$100,000
Dredging		\$150,000	\$150,000
Boat Launch Finger Piers	\$75,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Fishing Piers	\$100,000	\$350,000	\$350,000
Bulkhead Repairs	\$100,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Boardwalk	\$100,000	\$175,000	\$175,000
Lighting/Signage/Benches/Picnic Tables	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Pervious Parking		\$125,000	\$125,000
Wooden Foot Bridges		\$50,000	\$50,000
Wetlands Restoration		\$100,000	\$100,000
Renaissance Garden		\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
Total	* \$400,000	\$2,900,000	\$2,900,000
*But not expended due to Hurricane Katrina, and these funds are no longer available.			

Appendix A

Aerial Photography of Parcels

Hiller Park



Appendix B

Renaissance Garden drawings

BILOXI BACK BAY

COMMENCEMENT POINT-SECTION CORNER- COMMON TO SECTIONS 23, 24, 25 AND 26, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 10 WEST, CITY OF BILOXI, SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT, HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

SECTION LINE COMMON SECTIONS 25 AND 26



467.80'

SECTION LINE COMMON SECTIONS 25 AND 26

888'38.51" W 47.34'

IPF

POB

500'-02.15" W 210.62'

HILLER DRIVE (APPARENT 50' R.O.W.) ONE WAY

IPF

500'-02.15" W 210.62'

IPF

292.74'

IPF

292.74'

IPF

292.74'

IPF

292.74'

IPF

292.74'

CREEK ROAD (APPARENT 50' R.O.W.) ONE WAY

000'-31.09" E 201.57'

IPF

201.57'

IPF

201.57'

IPF

201.57'

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201.57'

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201.57'

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201.57'

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201.57'

N88°15'48" E 291.18'

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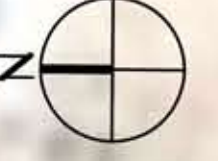
291.18'

IPF

291.18'

IPF

291.18'



PRELIMINARY DESIGN

1" = 20'-0"

0 20' 40'

1

Sheet

1 of 1

Drawing No.

PRELIMINARY LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Sheet Title:

Checked by: BP

Drawn by: MK

Date: 2.23.10

No.	Date:	Description:

Project No: 0608-LS-02

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