

WORK UNDERWAY AT POPP'S FERRY CAUSEWAY PARK

FOX NEWS25



A 30-year-old idea is coming to fruition at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park in Biloxi.

The popular fishing spot near the Popp's Ferry Bridge will soon see a new bait shop with kayak launches and open air interpretive center and nature trails explaining native plants. The original plans were unveiled in 1986, but a lack of funding halted construction.

Thanks to Restore Act funds, the plan is back on and scheduled to be completed by April 2018. City of Biloxi Public Affairs Specialist Cecilia Dobbs Walton said, "It is a ten acre site that was actually purchased under Mayor Holloway and then when the BP oil spill came along and the money came to the state, Governor Phil Bryant actually looked for projects that were already ready to go and Popp's Ferry Causeway was one of them so he sent the money our way and started on the project."

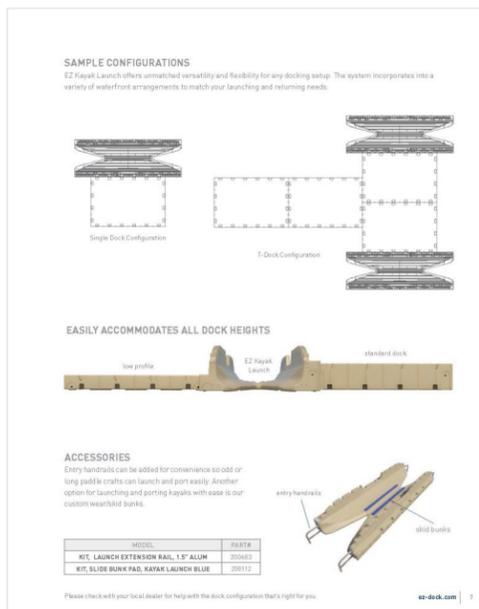
Plans also include installing new pavement south of the boat ramp and additional fishing piers.

<https://wxxv25.com/2017/07/12/work-underway-popps-ferry-causeway-park/>

Work Underway at Popp's Ferry Causeway

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POPP'S FERRY CAUSEWAY PARK

City of Biloxi, Popp's Ferry Causeway Park Project #990

November 2017

Work getting underway at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park

March 29, 2017

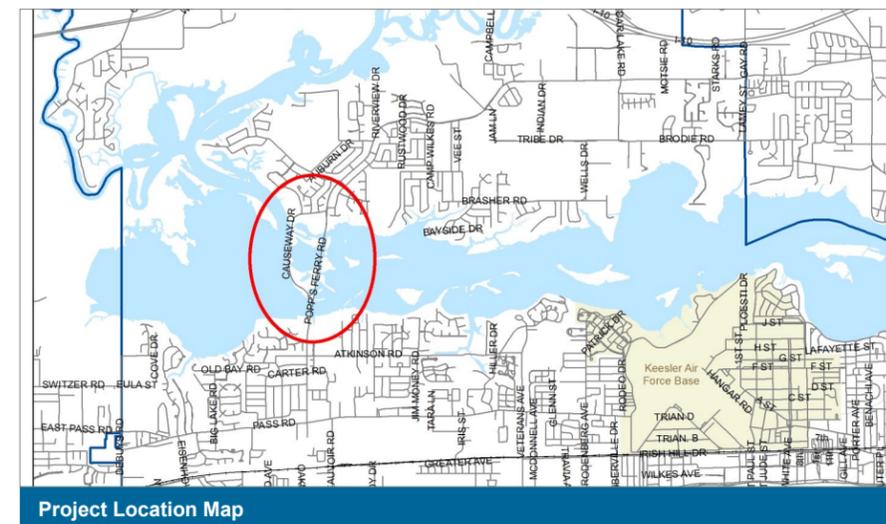
Preliminary site work and the delivery of materials and equipment has begun on the Popp's Ferry causeway, and over the next 12 months visitors to the area and motorists on the Popp's Ferry bridge will see a 30-year-old idea becoming a reality: Popp's Ferry Causeway Park.

The project will include a bait shop and kayak launches, an open-air interpretive center, and nature trails featuring kiosks that explain native plants.

"This is an outstanding project that drives home the importance and beauty of our waterfront," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Gov. Phil Bryant and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality for recognizing the significance of this project and steering BP money our way."

For Biloxi, it's a project that has been more than three decades in the making. It was in 1986, with the drafting of the Biloxi Waterfront Master Plan, that the city unveiled concepts to create walking trails and shoreline fishing spots for the site, a narrow sliver of land west of the Popp's Ferry Bridge. The city purchased a small portion of the land at that time, and, in 2001, Biloxi spent \$600,000 to purchase the entire 10-acre site and conducted more public hearings to gather more ideas to create a more inviting public recreation area. A \$5.9 million master plan was created as a result.

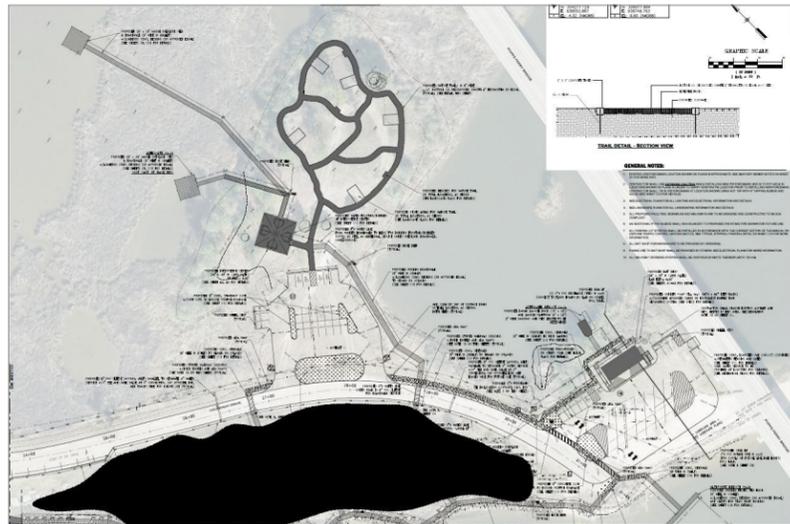
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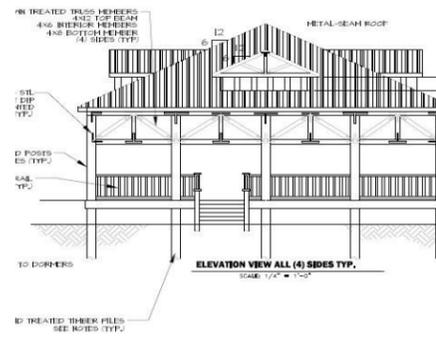
Project Location Map

In This Issue

- Work Getting underway at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park
- Project Timeline
- Quantities
- Work Underway at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park



Plan Sheet showing Interpretive Center and Nature Trails Location



Interpretive Center Elevation

Work getting underway at Popp's Ferry Causeway Park (continued)

In addition to upgrading existing boat ramps, plans called for constructing a waterfront boardwalk, a bait shop, and an open-air pavilion, where exhibits would describe the native plants and wildlife found in the Popp's Ferry marsh. The work would be on the west side of the existing Popp's Ferry bridge, while a proposed new Popp's Ferry highrise would be on the east side of the existing bridge.

The city constructed a waterfront boardwalk, lighting and an upgraded boat ramp, but work stopped short of the final phases for a lack of funding.

That all changed when Biloxi answered a call from the state seeking shovel-ready projects that could be funded with BP money. Months ago, Gilich asked the City Council to hire Seymour Engineering to transform artist's renderings into construction documents, and last week, work began at the site.

"Initially, you'll see the clearing of the sites for the bait shop, the interpretive center and the nature trails," said Charlie Dellenger of Seymour Engineering, who briefed the City Council on the project Tuesday. "Workers from DCD Construction, the contractor on the job, also will be doing some things that you can't see, such as the water, sewer and electricity, which will be underground."

Dellenger said the project is scheduled to be completed in April 2018.

"You'll see plenty of activity at the site as time goes by," Dellenger said. "They'll be driving piles for the marsh overlook, and then begin getting the boardwalks formed up. It's going to really begin attracting attention when it goes vertical, once the piles are driven for the bait shop and the interpretive center."

Milling of the roads and installing new pavement south of the boat ramp and additional fishing piers will be the last items to be done, Dellenger said.

"Things are going to be hopping at the site," Dellenger added, "because the contractor knows this project is expected to be completed a year from now."

Quantities/ Amenities

670 ft of Concrete Boardwalk

1,200 ft of Wooden Boardwalk

870 ft Shoreline Restoration

1,000 sq ft Kayak Rental/
Bait Shop

1,600 sq ft Interactive Center

160 ft Marsh Overlook Pier

48 Parking Spaces/ 5
Trailer Parking

1,000 ft of Walking Trails

ADA Accessible Kayak Launch

Pier with Boat Accessibility for Bait Shop

Solar Lighting/Power Panels



2017 Aerials with Project Drawings Overlay

Project Timeline

April, 2010 the Oil Spill occurred in the Gulf of Mexico, a year later in June 2011 the City of Biloxi developed five projects to be submitted for potential NRDA funding. Biloxi's projects were submitted in September, 2011 to NOAA; from 2011 to 2015 we negotiated the scope of work. In 2015, Biloxi entered into MOU with MDEQ to design and construct the project.

Once approval of the Popp's Ferry Causeway Park occurred, the city then worked with a local engineering firm, Seymour Engineering, to create a complete set of plans for the project.

Plans were advertised to the public for bids of the construction and accepted on Nov. 30, 2016. We received bids from three various contractors but awarded the project to the lowest bidder, DCD Construction, Inc. for the contract amount of \$2,991,010.00.

DCD Construction was issued a Notice to Proceed to begin work on March 22, 2017 with 365 consecutive calendar days to complete within.

