

Popp's Ferry Causeway Park Project

Phase III Early Restoration

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Popp's Ferry Causeway Park project is intended to restore lost recreational opportunities through the enhancement of increased access to coastal estuarine habitats and wildlife viewing areas. The project enhances the public's use and/or enjoyment of natural resources by constructing an educational interpretive center, nature trails, piers, and other recreational enhancements that will provide visitor access to the adjacent coastal estuarine environment and opportunities for visitors to fish, crab, and observe nature.

The mostly unimproved 10-acre Popp's Ferry Causeway property is a parcel of land and marsh located just west of the Popp's Ferry Bridge. It is surrounded by water on all sides, including the Biloxi River to the north, Big Lake to the west and the Back Bay to the south and east.

Construction of an interpretive center, nature trails, boardwalks, piers and other recreational features are included. Visitors may fish and crab as well as enjoy boardwalks and nature trails for viewing the waterfront and marshes. One of the project goals is to enhance what the public perceives to be the "best fishing spot without a boat in Biloxi, Mississippi."

Improvements include roadway repair and lighting, a bait shop, kayak rentals, construction of new fishing piers and boardwalks, and continuation of an eight-foot-wide concrete and wooden walkway.

Coupled with the walkway is the addition of benches and lighting - all of which enhance visitor access to coastal habitats. For additional shoreline stabilization, riprap replaced the existing water edge treatments west of the walkway. Within the upland area, a marsh overlook and boardwalk was constructed, along with picnic areas, nature trails, visitor parking, and a new interpretive center with outdoor exhibits.

Construction began in 2017 and will be completed in late 2018.

ESTIMATED COST:

\$4,757,000

