

BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN USE ENHANCEMENTS

Phase IV Early Restoration Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Bike and Pedestrian Use Enhancements Project at Davis Bayou includes roadway enhancements as a means of addressing loss of recreational use on Department of the Interior lands in the five Gulf States affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Two roads run through the Davis Bayou Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Park Road and Robert McGhee Road are both two-lane roads that have no paved shoulders. The first mile of Park Road was constructed over 30 years ago in an existing residential area of Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

It serves as the primary access to the William M. Colmer Visitor Center. Traffic on Park Road has increased significantly over the last 20 years as approximately 10,000 additional residents have moved into the vicinity.

Members of the public – including day users, overnight campers, and commuters – use this road as walking, jogging, bicycling, and motor vehicle traffic routes. Simultaneous use of the roads by all user groups results in congested traffic and difficult conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.

The project will widen portions of Park Road to provide multiple-use lanes and separating buffers. Along 2.17 miles of Park Road, the existing 22-foot wide roadway will be augmented by up to 2-foot wide buffers flanked by up to 5-foot wide multiple use lanes. The outside edge of the multiple use lanes will be bordered by up to 4-foot wide unpaved shoulders. Up to five feet of additional clearing is planned and retaining walls will be constructed in areas where the road is elevated. The project also includes constructing a new park entrance sign and two traffic-calming medians, and moving an existing sign.

ESTIMATED COST \$6,996,751 million

