

# Mahogany Mill Boat Ramp

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT (NRDA) – PHASE I

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project provides boaters enhanced access to public waterways within Pensacola Bay and offshore areas and addresses the reduced quality and quantity of recreational activities (e.g., boating and fishing) in Florida attributable to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and response activities. Mahogany Mill Public Boat Ramp is a newly constructed boat ramp and park that provides many environmental benefits and improved access to Pensacola Bay.

The Mahogany Mill Boat Ramp site had long been associated with pollution and contaminants. It was built using various eco-friendly materials on a 2.82 acre parcel that features a public boat ramp with multiple lanes, public gazebo, portable toilet facility, various sized parking spaces to accommodate a wide range of water craft, a tie down area, sanitary pump-out station and an educational kiosk. The project also included the reconstruction of Mahogany Mill Road with drainage improvements and sidewalks for the public access to the site.



**Figure 1: (Bottom & Top) Construction beginning at the boat ramp.**

During the planning and design phases, constituents were able to incorporate the plan to install a living shoreline project as an educational tool, as well as a valuable enhancement to the Bayou Chico watershed system.



**Figure 2: (Top) Ribbon cutting ceremony at the completion of the boat ramp. (Bottom) The boat ramp's entry sign displaying all of the partners in this project.**

Living shorelines enhance estuarine habitat, stabilize sediment and improve water quality. The oyster reefs that create the living shoreline will be placed along 100 linear feet of the western bank of Bayou Chico in between the recently constructed public boat ramp at Mahogany Mill and Harborview Marina. The oyster reefs will be constructed out of recycled oyster shells that have been collected from local restaurants, weathered and pre-bagged for deployment. The reef structures are designed to provide substrate for live oysters to settle and grow, as well as habitat for a variety of marine and near shore organisms. The oyster reefs also provide protection for the shoreline so intertidal grasses can grow. The oyster reef installation along this stretch of bayou shoreline is the first

stage of a permitted living shoreline project, which will eventually include the installation of native, salt-tolerant, intertidal vegetation.



**Figure 3: (Bottom & Top) Volunteers and State workers construct the oyster reef.**

Escambia County recently received the 2015 Partners for Environmental Progress (PEP) Environmental Stewardship Award for its Mahogany Mill Boat Ramp project. The award, which has been given out annually since 2005, helps recognize innovative environmental best practices on the Gulf Coast in manufacturing, construction, engineering, conservation or restoration.

Source:

<http://www.restoration.noaa.gov/dwh/storymap/>



## PROJECT DETAILS

Status: Complete

Total Funding Allocated (For all four boat ramps: Mahogany Mill, Perdido River, Galvez Landing, and Navy Point: \$4,422,768

BEFORE



AFTER



## MAHOGANY MILL BOAT RAMP

