

Posted on Sat, Oct. 18, 2003

M.P. celebrates restored shoreline

By NICHOLAS COLE
THE SUN HERALD

MOSS POINT - Moss Point High School seniors Lorenzo King and Tristen Barnes believe in preserving the environment.

They feel so strongly about it that they volunteered for the Shoreline Restoration Project, helping to plant more than 500 plants, which city leaders say has revitalized the city's waterfront.

On Friday, city and state officials held a ceremony at Pelican Landing in honor of the \$136,000 project.

The city was awarded a grant in 2000 from the Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico's Five Star program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Community-based Restoration program, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore 3.5 acres of shoreline at Pelican Landing. Once laced with junk cars and dilapidated buildings, the area now houses a 12,000-square-foot conference center and nearly 1,000 native grasses, trees and shrubs.

"This project represents the beginning of great things to come in Moss Point," Mayor Frank Lynn told about 20 people at the ceremony.

Lynn said the restoration at Pelican Landing is part of the city's waterfront revitalization plan, which aims to develop the area while maintaining its natural beauty and environmental value.

Linda Holden, Shoreline Restoration project coordinator, said the project's ultimate goal is to build a filtering system with native vegetation at the shoreline to prevent harmful pollutants from going into the water.

Terry Hines Smith, with the EPA Gulf of Mexico program, said the shoreline is landscaped with native species, creating a stunning view of the bayou in place of a colorless bulkhead.

"The project turned out a lot better than we expected," King said. "The environment is very important to nature's survival and I'm glad I played a role to help preserve it."

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