

THE NEWS ROOM

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BOEMRE Awards \$2.9 Million for Mississippi Park Boardwalk

CIAP Grant to Fund Nature Trail, Educational Pavilion, Historical Conservation Sites

NEW ORLEANS – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced today that it has awarded a \$2,940,000 Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant to the state of Mississippi. The grant will fund the construction of a pedestrian nature trail, interpretive signage and maps, historical site research, and an educational pavilion in Joseph T. Jones Memorial Park in Gulfport, Miss.

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding that is allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

“Educating the public about ecology and conservation through family-oriented projects is another example of our efforts to preserve the coastal environment,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “With these CIAP grants, we are helping communities fund critical protection and coastal restoration initiatives, while also showcasing our historic landmarks.”

The \$2,940,000 grant will be used for the construction of a hard-surfaced biking path and walking trail within Joseph T. Jones Memorial Park, as well as maps and interpretative signage along the trail. The project also includes funding for archeological and ecological research to identify significant historic sites along the boardwalk, as well as the development of a knowledge base for conservation and historic interpretive information. In addition, the grant will fund the construction of a conservation educational pavilion.

CIAP received \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the Fiscal Years 2007-2010, to be disbursed to six eligible OCS oil and gas producing states: Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana and Texas.

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