

PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR COASTAL WETLANDS PERMIT
AND WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

City of Gulfport has filed an application with the Department of Marine Resources requesting permission to conduct regulated activities under the provision of the Coastal Wetlands Protection Law Act, Title 49, Chapter 27, Mississippi Code of 1972.

The applicant is proposing to improve the hydraulics of Coffee Creek and in the existing Clower-Thornton Nature Park. Improvements will generally occur on only one side of the channel (west side north of the railroad and east side south of the railroad). Hydraulic improvements on an approximate ½ mile stretch upstream of the 2nd Street bridge will consist of: routine maintenance and debris/sediment removal, channel widening, channel deepening, removal of tress and invasive plants and replacement with low-lying native grasses and plants. This will occur on both banks. A levee will also be constructed at the top of the west bank with a 12 feet wide asphalt public access trail connecting the existing parking area on Railroad Street to the Katie Patterson Booth Community Center, and an additional trail will connect this new path to the existing path east of Coffee Creek. These new trails will then be connected to the proposed Centennial Plaza development south of the railroad to allow access to Coffee Creek's outfall at the Mississippi Sound.

Approximately 1.96 acres of wetlands are proposed to be filled.

The purpose for the project is to encourage economic development and tourism by providing access between the upcoming Centennial Plaza development and Gulfport's beaches, and to enhance and restore the natural flow of approximately 4,900 linear feet of Coffee Creek. . The project is located on Coffee Creek from the Mississippi Sound to Hewes Avenue, Gulfport, Harrison County, MS.

In compliance with Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, 1341), as amended by PL 95-217, the applicant will request certification from the Office of Pollution Control that the above mentioned activity will be in compliance with applicable

provisions of Section 301 (33 U.S.C. 1311), Section 302 (33 U.S.C. 1312), Section 303 (U.S.C. 1313), Section 306 (U.S.C. 1316), and Section 307 (U.S.C. 1317) of the Act and appropriate requirements of the State Law.

Any person wishing to make comments or objections to the proposed regulated activity must submit those comments in writing to the Department of Marine Resources at 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530 and the Office of Pollution Control, Post Office Box 2261, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2261 before 1:00 p.m. on the day February 18, 2015.