

ALABAMA'S LIGHTNING POINT



An aerial photograph of a bayou system. The water is a deep blue-grey color. In the foreground, a small peninsula with a parking lot and some buildings is visible. The background shows a large, winding bayou with a sandy bank and some vegetation.

ALABAMA'S LIGHTNING POINT

One of Alabama's most iconic landscapes, the seafood capital of Alabama, and a town steeped in southern history with a dash of French and even Southeast Asian influence. Bayou La Batre is an American landmark, and one that is also under threat.

Together with the City of Bayou La Batre, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Mobile County, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy is committed to protecting and preserving this iconic town. The Lightning Point restoration project will revitalize the locally important waterfront area by restoring, enhancing, and protecting the shoreline habitats and providing improved community access for recreation and fishing opportunities.

A COMMUNITY ASSET

Lightning Point should be a place for the entire Bayou La Batre community. From the beginning, the Lightning Point project has prioritized three goals to ensure that the work truly benefits those who call Bayou La Batre home:



A COMMUNITY FRONT PORCH Provide an enhanced experience for locals and visitors for boating, fishing, and sightseeing.



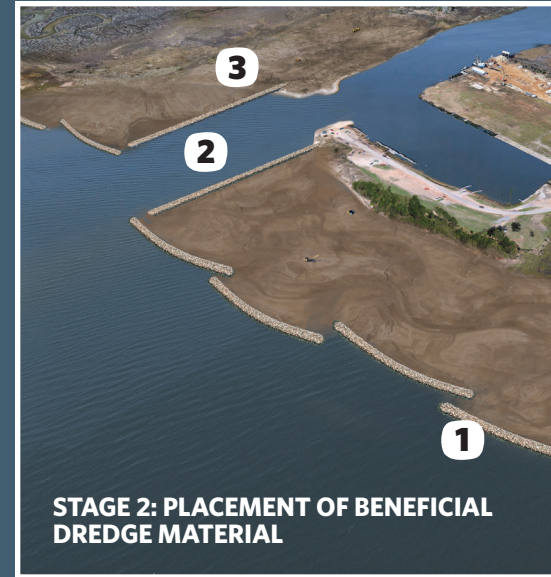
RESILIENT AND PRODUCTIVE SHORELINE Restore a diverse system of coastal habitats that provides shoreline protection for the long-term and supports nursery habitats for the fish and shellfish sought after by recreational and commercial fishers.



ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY Provide a safe, enjoyable area for the community for fishing and recreation access, parking, walking, and utilizing the waterfront, while limiting impacts to restored habitats.



STAGE 1: INSTALLMENT OF BREAKWATERS



STAGE 2: PLACEMENT OF BENEFICIAL DREDGE MATERIAL

A VISION FOR RESTORATION

The Lightning Point project is designed to achieve multiple restoration goals for the Bayou La Batre coastline.

SHORELINE PROTECTION Construct **1** 1.5 miles of overlapping, segmented breakwaters along the shoreline on both sides of the navigation channel to provide a buffer from waves and boat wakes. Construct **2** two jetties (700-800ft long) at mouth of channel to maintain access to the navigation channel for all types of vessels, from commercial shrimp boats to manufactured pilot boats to recreational bay boats.

HABITAT CREATION Create approximately **3** 40 acres of marsh, **4** tidal creeks, and **5** upland habitats that support a wide range of fish, shellfish, and birds.

MANAGED ACCESS Complement the City of Bayou La Batre's Master Plan for the **6** City Docks area with **7** walking paths and a **8** lookout point for community use and enjoyment of the site. Design a **9** low-impact parking lot employing green-infrastructure techniques, such as pervious pavers, bioretention cells, and bioswales, to aid in stormwater management to improve water quality in the area (funding TBD).

BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL Utilize dredged material beneficially to create marsh habitat and use thin-layer deposition to build and nourish the marsh for decades to come.

127 ACRES
of land protected

83 acres through NFWF by TNC

1.5 MILES

of breakwaters, including two jetties

40 ACRES

of marsh, tidal creeks and scrub-shrub habitat

365,452 CUBIC YARDS

of beneficial use of dredge material

LOW IMPACT DESIGN PARKING LOT:

 **82** vehicle/trailer parking spaces

66 single vehicle parking spaces

44 acres by Mobile County

975 feet of managed trails

 **1** GAZEBO



RENDERINGS JEANAH BAUER/ MOFFATT & NICHOL



BAYOU LA BATRE

Bayou La Batre, the Seafood Capital of Alabama, is deeply rooted in its history surrounding the water. It was the first settlement in southern Mobile County in 1786 and was named after a French battery on the west bank of the canal. The area was part of multiple territories throughout its history, including Louisiana, Mississippi, and West Florida, until it finally became part of Alabama when the state was admitted to the union in December 1819. For over a century, the community's livelihood has been built around water as a massive hub for shipbuilding, fishing, and seafood processing. The locals have an old saying that describes the town as having four seasons during the year: shrimp, oyster, crab, and fish. Annual events, such as The Blessing of the Fleet and The Taste of the Bayou, celebrate this southern community's seafood history and heritage on the water. In 2005, the City was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and in 2010, the City's fishing industry was devastated by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. The City of Bayou La Batre has bounced back from both disasters and continues its legacy as a working waterfront community. The resilience of the community and its seafood industry is a defining characteristic that all of Alabama should be proud of.





CARLTON WARD JR

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