



Refugio County Boat Ramp Area Improvements

Summary Report

Project Number – 2319
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*PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE
COASTAL BEND BAYS & ESTUARIES PROGRAM, INC.,
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CBBEP or other organizations that may have provided funding for this project.

Summary Report for:

Refugio County Boat Ramp Area Improvements CBBEP Agreement # 2319

Background/Objective

The City of Austwell, a small town of 200 people on Hynes Bay, operates a bayfront park and beach, boat ramp, and fishing pier facility. Aside from the public boat ramp, there have been few human use/access improvements made to promote enjoyment of the park and waterfront facility. The fishing pier was destroyed in 2017 by Hurricane Harvey and is in the planning stages of being replaced. Since late 2017, shoreline fishing and “bring your own chairs/shades” has been the only available option for day use of the park.



City of Austwell bayfront park and boat ramp area

Project Area

In Partnership with CBBEP, Project #2319 was designed to promote and improve human use/access at the City of Austwell bayfront park and boat ramp area by providing four (4) covered picnic tables along the beachfront, for use by fishermen and daytime visitors to the beach and park area, along with informational signage.

In planning the installation of pavilions, the length of the beachfront was considered, and the picnic table pavilions were spaced 100' apart, to allow for privacy, and full use of the available shoreline.



Aerial view of City of Austwell bayfront park and boat ramp area

Planning

The City of Austwell produced drawings for four (4) 12'x15' steel re-enforced concrete slabs with footings, with welded, in-place rigid frame buildings using all 4" galvanized square tubing as structural members, with a single slope galvalume roof for shade and maximum corrosion resistance and longevity.



Project layout overhead view

Construction and Installation

The selected construction method allowed for most parts to be prefabricated with trusses built off-site and then placed onto the slab and welded, ensuring square and quality work.

The work was sub-contracted for both the welding/fabrications, concrete pouring, and final installation of the structures. The city volunteer team conducted excavation, site planning, and aided during the construction phase with weld cleaning, re-galvanizing weld sites, and cleanup. The buildings were built in two groups of two to maximize the use of a full concrete truck. The dimensional size and shape of the buildings was planned to allow for full size materials, with zero construction waste, resulting in no scrap pieces. A single-slope galvalume roof was secured to each structure to provide shade.

High quality recycled plastic lifetime picnic tables were purchased, assembled, and anchored under the awnings. These tables will not rust/corrode or rot like traditional metal, or wooden, picnic tables.



Slab corner weld-plate and rebar installation



Prefabricated roof trusses stacked and ready for installation



Completed concrete slab



Welding the rafters into place



Evening view of two completed frames



High quality recycled plastic solid core picnic tables



Four completed shaded picnic structures at City of Austwell bayfront park

Signage

Informational signage was designed/installed as part of this project. The signs list rules for usage of the bayfront park in the City of Austwell and were installed at two prominent locations within the park. Pictures of the signs are found below.



Signage installed at the City of Austwell's bayfront park



Signage installed at the city of Austwell's bayfront park

Conclusion:

The bayfront park, for the City of Austwell and its citizens, is the greatest attraction and most valuable quality of life asset for the City. These additions to the park will benefit residents and visitors alike, and represent a key improvement to our park, bayfront, and overall usability of the beachfront access. The improvements to the bayfront park and boat ramp area will promote this location as an ecotourism site and encourage the use of the City of Austwell's waterfront park, public beach, wetland area, and boat ramp.



A local couple enjoys the shady new site on a quiet afternoon