

# Submission of the Bayou

## Victor Robey

He is a shrimp dock worker that has lived on bayview for 44 years. He has seen the bayou flood many times during his life and says "I just deal with it, the bayou is at it's normal high point right now unless we get a strong north wind or a heavy rain." Despite the fact that Victor lost everything except a few clothes due to Katrina, and that he is in an area where the bayou can flood he is going to rebuild in the same location because "this is home". His childhood home was just down the street and all that is left now is the concrete pad and a set of steps where the porch used to be. "I can sit there and it's like im on my parents front porch but when i turn around i realize that the house that used to be there is gone," he said. The area that Victor lives in is mostly commercial along the back bay and is residential on the south side of Bayview Ave..

## Eric Nolan

Eric is a city arborist and says it is interesting to look at the way the city has been shaped during the years based on our desire to be near the water. As our society values waterfront property to be higher than inland property people tend to migrate towards the waterfront property and monetary value increases. Because of this condition, areas of the bayou have been filled in and developed creating a situation in which the natural expansion of the bayou is hindered.

## Security guard who wishes to remain anonymous

He has been in the Biloxi/Gulfport area for seven years and when asked about the bayou he was unaware of any effect it has on the city or the city's inhabitants. He was here for Katrina and thinks that buildings south of the I-10 corridor need to be elevated and should be held to a more stringent set of codes.

## Patty Brouard

Patty has been in Biloxi most of her life. She said "Biloxi is not what it used to be, you can walk around the bayou and see where it is supposed to be but people have built on top of it and now they are dealing with floods." she also said that the Auguste Bayou used to come well across division street and she could remember that the street was not continuous like it is now. We were sitting on a front porch and she pointed around and said "all around this area used to be bayou and you can see when we get a heavy rain where it floods, the bayou is going to flood and is going to act the way that god made it."

Based on the information obtained during these interviews i decided to look at various maps of the east Biloxi area. I found that the size and path of the Auguste Bayou has been altered as development increased. On the right side of here are current maps showing areas that have been developed but are within what was previously part of the Auguste Bayou.

We can look at the topography map in the top right corner of this poster and see the area in color is 5 feet above the water or less. This area just based on the topography is going to be prone to flooding during a heavy rain and when the back bay water level increases. This is an area previously part of the Auguste Bayou.

The middle image is a zoning map of the same area, you can see the pink area is commercial and the yellow is various levels of residential and mixed use.

The image in the bottom right corner shows an overlay of the Auguste Bayou highlighting the zoning map. We can see here that development has happened in a low elevation area. When I took a walk around this area I noticed that plants growing here are slightly different than plants in other areas of the city. The plants growing in this area are similar to those that are growing within the current recognized bayou. From the evidence presented here we can see that this area is going to be prone to floods. In this area buildings that were here before Katrina are at or just above ground level creating a hazard for potential floods. A question i will ask you is, Should we try to force this Bayou into submission or should we be more concious of it in future development?

