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EXTENSION SERVICE

Lake Terrace Convention Center

Hattiesburg, MS

Project Highlights:

- One-acre constructed marsh holds and filters stormwater runoff from parking terraces and rooftops.
- Bottomland hardwood restoration to Mixon Creek watershed.
- Walking pathways through the reconstructed bottomland wetlands.

Parking Lot Runoff Bioretention



Lake Terrace Convention Center Lake Exhibit

Project designers:

Edward L. Blake, Jr., The Landscape Studio, Robert Poore, landscape architects

Albert and Associates, architects

HOK, planning

Context: convention center, urban

Award: ASLA Centennial Medallion Award, 1999

Project Overview

Opened in 1998, Lake Terrace Convention Center has been recognized as one of Mississippi's premier meeting facilities. Located in south Hattiesburg, Lake Terrace Convention Center hosts 68,550 square feet of meeting space, which includes an exhibit hall, meeting rooms, and conference rooms, all overlooking a constructed, two-acre lake and terrace. The site was once a flood plain woodland and the land's thirty acres had previously been cleared and filled for commercial development. In addition to the design and development of the facilities, another aspect of the project scope was to restore the hydrologic function to Mixon Creek and to refurbish its accompanying landscape ecology.

Smart landscape features and practices

Parking lot bioretention. Bioretention is the process in which contaminants and sedimentation are removed from stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff from the convention center's extensive parking areas are treated within a constructed one-acre wetland marsh system, before being released in Mixon Creek. The project landscape architect, Edward L. Blake, Jr., once wrote that "Shallow sedge meadows are the landscape's kidneys. Its vegetative mosaic changes along its moisture gradient, which moves from bayberry edge and tilts to a cypress swamp and narrow deep-water. The marsh's rhythms of storm surge will be revealed as patterns of plant response."

See following page for additional images.

The marsh weir holds parking lot runoff and allows silts to drop out before entering the two-acre lake.





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The constructed marsh at Lake Terrace serves as a ponding area for temporary storage of parking lot stormwater runoff. While contained within the marsh, the parking runoff is slowed in water force, allows sediments and particles to settle out of the water, and filters some pollutants and organic materials.



The master plan for the Lake Terrace Convention Center shows parking adjacent the Exhibit Promenade, the Convention Center building, outdoor plazas, the lake, amphitheater, marsh, and walking path.

The two-acre pond serves as the second treatment area for parking and building water runoff. Water retention basins, such as this pond, improve water quality, allow for groundwater recharge, protection from floods, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics.



The lake overflow features a concrete water cascade that releases lake water into adjacent Mixon Creek.