Plans Include View of River for Donaldsonville City Park

Project is Under Way at Former La. Capital

By CLAIRE FUNESK

DONALDSONVILLE, La. (AP) - The Mississippi River, meandering down from Minnesota, is a majestic and impressive waterway, and many are the visitors to south Louisiana who seek a shoreside view of it, only to have their way blocked by natural and man-made obstructions.

The Mississippi River is under way in Donaldsonville, one-time capital city of Louisiana.

The entire project is expected to take three years before it is completed, but the area will be ready for picnicking and river-viewing in the very near future.

When Mayor Lawrence Reigara, City Commissioners Claude Bourg Jr. and Heldon Well Jr., and former Commissioner Louis G. LeBlanc, working with them, liked the plans for the endeavor, the project was on its way.

LANDRY ASSISTED

J. B. Landry, district conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, working through the Lower Delta Soil and Water Conservation District headed by Andrew P. Gay of Plaquemine, assisted with plans for the new area.

Recreation specialist Carl Thompson with the SCS’s Louisiana office in Alexandria had a hand in planning this fun spot, as did SCS technicians who ran topography surveys and compared them against elevations furnished the city by the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

The study showed a possibility of a slight flooding once in every five years of short duration, but the planners will have an answer for that.

Besides the picnic area with its shade trees, there will be a soft playground, a baseball area, a blanket will be controlled along the shore of the river, and a recreational facilities including heavy hand of grass will be maintained to reduce erosion.

Lighting will be provided for the entire area. There will be a shelter for the tourists who will gather on the Mississippi River levees.

SIT AT LEISURE

A primary objective of the park project is to give visitors to Louisiana a place to sit at leisure and gaze on the Father of Waters and the mighty and many vessels that make use of it.

This is a joint endeavor of the Donaldonville City Council, the Lower Delta Soil and Water Conservation District and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, with the Lafourche Board Levee Board and the local National Guard unit assisting.

The first stage of work on the new recreation area got under way a few days ago when 100 black trees, ranging in weight from six to 12 feet, were planted to provide shade for visitors.

A few minnows trees are to go into the setting for decor and color.

DISCUSSION plans for a new Donaldsonville city park, as they stand on the Mississippi River site for the park are (left to right) Carl Thompson, U.S. Soil Conservation Service recreation specialist; Mayor Lawrence Reigara; Commissioner of Streets and Parks Heldon Well Jr.; former Commissioner of Streets and Parks Louis G. LeBlanc; and Commissioner of Finance Claude Bourg Jr.