

New Bucktown marina harbor set to be built



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Frank Woolley is a third generation fisherman. His great-grandfather 'Buck' is the buck in Bucktown. Woolley says, "I am going to get rid of my boat. I am not. My wife will -- after I die." Woolley has heard talk of building a new marina for decades. He is thrilled to know he will finally see it take shape -- especially since it will replace the temporary floating docks that he helped put in place after Katrina. He explains, "These little docks are only four feet wide. They are very unstable even for an experienced boatsman. You unload 100 pound boxes of crabs, 70 pound baskets of shrimp -- we've needed a loading dock for a long time."

An artist rendering of the new harbor includes a loading dock, slips for commercial and recreational boats and green space with plans to build out more slips and parking in phase two. The commercial fishermen tell us they will not be displaced. They will stay at the temporary docks while construction on phase one of the marina will begin on the other end closest to the levee.

"We have 2.3 million dollars from the LRA - we being the parish. Jefferson Parish put up \$1.5 million. The designs have all been done. We are working with the Coast Guard to make sure everything is kosher between the two," says Mark Schexnayder with the LSU AgCenter. He adds construction should begin any day with completion of the 66 new slips set for November.

"The more the better. The more people in the area, obviously brings more business," says Anthony Montalbano with Il Tony's restaurant is just on the other side of the levee from where the new marina will be built. He adds, "One of the things that shot down the marina before was a lot of commercial business could be located out there and that is what the people in Bucktown didn't really want, but boats slips public and private boat slips I think would be a big positive."

Jefferson Parish is currently working on management and lease arrangements for the slips. Priority for the commercial slips will go to the fisherman who held long term leases in the 17th street canal. There will likely be a lottery system for the recreational slips.



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