



# *Parish of Ascension*

OFFICE OF THE PARISH PRESIDENT

TOMMY MARTINEZ  
Parish President

## **Handicap-Accessible Gazebo/Pier Adds To Lamar Dixon Fishing Experience**

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GONZALES – Ascension Parish President Tommy Martinez announced this week the newly constructed handicap-accessible gazebo/pier on the banks of the fishing pond at Lamar-Dixon Expo Center is continually drawing residents looking for an enjoyable fishing experience.

“With the spring fishing season now in full swing, we’ve already seen numerous residents using the pier,” said President Martinez. “By designing it to be handicap-accessible, we want to make sure no one is denied the joys of casting that line and feeling the excitement of pulling in a fish. It’s something that every child, and every adult for that matter, should experience in their lives.”

Built on the bank of Lamar-Dixon’s 11.4-acre fishing pond, the gazebo measures 16 feet across and sits 40 feet from shore. An 80-foot by 6-foot dock provides access to the gazebo.

“It’s built so that people with disabilities can fish from a wheelchair and have fun,” said parish recreation employee Richard Gautreaux. “They’re going to catch bass, catfish, sac-a-lait and bream. The deepest part of this pond is 17 feet and there’s bass up to six and seven pounds in here. And there’s catfish much bigger than that.”

According to park rules, bass measuring over 14 inches must be released. Newly stocked grass carp must be released also, according to state regulations. All other species may be taken.

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Gautreaux said the pond was stocked by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in February of 2010 with 79 breeding stock catfish and 59 breeding stock bass between two-and-a-half and four pounds.

“A friend of mine recently caught a catfish that weighed over 10 pounds,” Gautreaux said. “I’ve heard that someone caught a 12-pounder and another person caught an 18-pounder.”

According to park rules, only daytime fishing is allowed. Swimming is prohibited. Only paddle or trolling motor boats are allowed. If boating, proper safety gear is required such as life preservers. Alcohol is prohibited.

For more information on fishing at Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, or to schedule an organized activity, you may call parish program coordinator Beth Bertrand at (225) 450-1065.



Parish employees (from left) Thomas Nicholson, Nelson Aymond, Hubert “Cue Ball” James, Richard Gautreaux and Leroy Anderson take a moment for a picture at the new handicap-accessible fishing pier and gazebo at Lamar-Dixon Expo Center.

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