POVERTY POINT RESERVOIR AND STATE PARK

DOTD’s Department of Public Works and Water Resources
What is Poverty Point Reservoir?

The entire project was funded, designed, and constructed through the DOTD’s Department of Public Works and Water Resources, Bo Bolourchi.

- 2860 Acre Reservoir
- 5 Miles of Levees and Dams
- 6 Miles of Access roads
- 250 Lot Residential Development
- 12 Cabins, 50 Boat Marina, 2 Boat Ramps
- 18 Hole Black Bear Golf Course
- 20,000 gpm Pumping Plant
- Cost: Approx. $50,000,000
- Reservoir Capable of producing 5.5 millions gallons of water daily.
Reasons for Project?

- Economic and Recreation Development
- Potable Water Supply
- Project is located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, in the 9th poorest Congressional District in America
Why is it called Poverty Point?

• Nearby Poverty Point National Monument and Historic Site that commemorates a culture that thrived during the first and second millennia B.C. This site, which contains some of the largest prehistoric earthworks in North America includes a complex array of earthen mounds and ridges overlooking the Mississippi River flood plain.
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PHASES

- In 1991, the Louisiana Legislature appropriated the initial money for this project, and the DOTD hired Denmon Engineering to do a feasibility study of the project.
- Environmental and Dam Safety Permit
- Right-of-Way Acquisition
- Surveying
- Preliminary and Final Design
- Construction Management
- Water Impounded in 2003
- Final Support Structure, early 2011
Project Uniqueness – Off Stream Reservoir

Reservoir Built Adjacent to Bayou Macon as opposed to damming Bayou Mason. Bayou Mason has a 700 sq. mile watershed. Project only required a 100’ spillway with 5’ of freeboard. Essentially, the vast water supply of Bayou Macon can be utilized at a greatly reduced cost, and without satisfying complex dam safety issues.

Construction also allows for the reservoir to built around sensitive areas: cemeteries, houses, wetlands, etc., greatly reducing the environmental permitting. Only 165 acres of wetlands were impacted.
Topography
Timeline

• 1991: Louisiana Legislature appropriated initial money for feasibility study and permitting.
• 1994: Commenced Design, Surveying and Right of Way Acquisitions
• 1996: Initial Construction – Levees, Spillway, Boat Ramps, Intake Structure, etc.
• 2003: Water First Impounded
• 2003-2010: Construction of support facilities: Access Roads, Marina, Pumping Plant, Cabins, Golf Course, etc.
• 2005: State Park Opened
• 2007: Black Bear Golf Course Opened
• 2011: Hotel
Spillway Construction
3 Million Cubic Yards of Dirt
Confused Engineer, Water Intake Structure
Marina and Spillway
Finish Product
Though the water still belongs to the State, the area around the reservoir have been transferred to La. State Parks. The lots were auctioned off to private developers.
Poverty Point Today

Dozens of new houses are being built around the park in a once economically depressed area.

A potable water and recreational resource has been created.

130,000 people annually visit Poverty Point State Park, the 3rd highest in the state.

The Black Bear Golf Course has been added to Louisiana’s Audubon Golf Trail. Golf Week recently ranked it as the #1 public course in Louisiana and it was named as one of Golf Digest’s America’s Bests in 2007.

Due to the park’s popularity, State Parks has constructed a Visitor’s Center, Camp Ground, Walking Path, and two more boat ramps.