

What is the OYSTER Project?

The Offer Your Shell To Enhance Restoration (OYSTER) Project at Bayview Park is a cooperative effort between Clean & Green, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), City of Pensacola, Southern Company and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation supported by our local partners. The project seeks to collect oyster shell from local restaurant partners to be used as substrate to restore 22 oyster reefs in Bayou Texar.

The Clean & Green staff and volunteers are responsible for routine pick up of oyster shell from participating restaurants. Shells are then dried at a local staging area prior to deployment to each permitted reef site.

Once deployed, clean oyster shells act as preferred substrate which attracts oyster larvae, or spat. Oyster spat are mobile during the larval stage and move with currents and tides until they select a place to settle or "set". The larvae are selective and prefer a cleaner surface; this is why recycled shell is the preferred material.



Where are the reefs within our local watershed system?

Since October 2005 FDEP has deployed over 334 tons of clean recycled oyster shell into northwest Florida estuaries to create oyster habitat and 13 reefs in Blackwater Bay, East Bay, Bayou Texar, Bayou Chico, Bayou Grande, Perdido Bay, Choctawhatchee Bay, Bayou Garcon, and Rocky Bayou.



How does the collection process work?

The collection process is easy. Project partners fill Clean & Green supplied containers with discarded shell and the OYSTER team recovers those containers leaving clean ones. The program began in July of 2011 and is scheduled to be completed September 2012 at which time additional funds will be sought to build more reefs throughout the Pensacola Bay System.

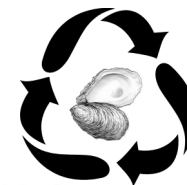
What is the project's status?

The project is ongoing and will continue with the support of our dedicated partners. As long as there is shell to collect there will be habitat to restore. We are always looking for partners and volunteers of all kinds!



Aerial site view of Bayou Texar:

Below is an aerial view of the project.



*Interested in Volunteering
or becoming a Project Partner?
Contact the
OYSTER Project Team:
850.438.1178*



*OYSTER Project
Restaurant Partners:*

Peg Leg Pete's
1010 Fort Pickens Rd
Pensacola Beach, FL 32561
850.932.4139

Marina Oyster Barn
505 Bayou Blvd
Pensacola, FL 32503
850.433.0511

Additional Partners:



OYSTER Sponsors



Pensacola-Escambia Clean Community Commission, Inc.

3303 N Davis Hwy
Pensacola, FL 32503-7240
email: admin@cleanandgreen.org
website: www.cleanandgreen.org



OYSTER

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ENHANCE RESTORATION*

