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Large oaks headed back to beachfront park

GULFPORT — Thanks to the Island View Casino Resort, Gulfport beautification crews will replant two large live oak trees on Monday at 1 p.m. at Preservation Oaks Park on the beach.

The old oaks in the park were destroyed in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina. The Island View recently purchased two 18-foot oaks to replace the lost trees. The casino had the \$1,200 trees shipped from a nursery in Florida to Gulfport's Public Works headquarters on Hewes Avenue.

"My business partner and co-owner of Island View Casino Resort, Terry Green, and I grew up in the shade of many of Gulfport's beautiful live oaks, and we recognize the destruction of some of those majestic trees is a true loss to the Gulf Coast," said Rick Carter, co-owner of Island View. "Through the planting of these two new oaks, it is an honor for Island View to continue our support of Gulfport's rebuilding journey. We look forward to seeing these trees grow in Preservation Oaks Park, along with the growth of this great area."

The trees will be planted at Preservation Park during a ceremony on Monday.

The Gulfport City Council recently backed a push from Mayor George Schloegel to strengthen the city's tree preservation ordinance. The goal of the new law is to bring an immediate end to the mass destruction of Gulfport's natural canopy.

"We wanted to take significant steps toward preserving our natural green canopy and immediately adopting an ordinance protecting trees on residential property was a good start," Mayor Schloegel said. "The Island View's commitment to preserving our magnificent oaks is another giant step, and the city is very grateful of the casino's effort and we are thankful that the Island View shares our understanding of the important role that our beautiful trees play here in South Mississippi."

www.IslandViewCasino.com



Island View co-owner Rick Carter, Gulfport Mayor George Schloegel, Rick Quinn, Island View vice president of public relations, and Bobby Weaver, director of the Harrison County Sand Beach Authority shovel dirt during a planting ceremony marking Island View's donation of two trees to Preservation Oaks Park in Gulfport.



The first of two 18-foot oaks donated by Island View Casino Resort find a home at Gulfport's Preservation Oaks Park during a planting ceremony on January 10. The oaks will replace trees that were lost during Hurricane Katrina.