



05/20/2015 RACE is honored for the 2nd consecutive year with ACE Award

The Pleasure Beach Historic Pier Design by RACE wins Achievement in Civil Engineering (ACE) Award from the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers.

RACE received the 2015 ACE Award of Merit for Structural Design for the restoration of the 750' foot historic pier at Pleasure Beach. This is the second consecutive year the RACE has been honored with an ACE Award.

Restoring access to historic Pleasure Beach Park, which ran seasonally from 1889 until a fire destroyed the bridge approach in June of 1966, was paramount to the City of Bridgeport.



Since the fire, the island became inhabited by endangered and threatened animal and plant species, while infrastructure deteriorated further and the CT DEEP and the US Fish & Wildlife Service made it clear that automobiles were not going to be permitted on the island. Species protection and mitigation work commenced while RACE hit the design boards for a water taxi system that provided public access and species protection.

On the mainland, a water taxi dock was constructed adjacent to the Central Avenue Public Fishing Pier which was formerly the approach structure to the abandoned bridge. The water taxi launch was designed and built upon the pier with ancillary launch structures.

Sustainability was the principal design objective to achieve both regulatory approval and cost effective improvements by rehabilitating the existing abandoned structures, focusing their use on the water taxi infrastructure, and by reusing foundation components, RACE reduced environmental impacts to threatened and endangered species located at the site and saved significant costs in construction. The island was reopened to the public on June 28, 2014 and welcomed over 25,000 visitors during its first season. RACE was honored for their work at the eighth annual Achievement in Civil Engineering (ACE) Awards ceremony on May 20, 2015.

The water taxi transportation system ferried over 25,000 visitors the 1st summer it was reopened. The RACE design provided the beach-going public with the ADA opportunity to reclaim this island experience. State-of-the-art 2-D wave modeling software was used to calm berthing areas by creating the wave attenuator. The RACE wave attenuator design keeps the taxis on schedule by allowing for ease of safe docking and offloading of passengers, which assures improved safety for the public.

