

5. Forrest County Multi-Use Trail Project

Partner: Forrest County Board of Supervisors
Contact: Bill Lane
404.562.3175

Project Goal

The Forrest County Multi-Use Project will provide walking and biking connections between the University of Southern Mississippi, local hospitals, Hattiesburg businesses, Longleaf Trace Trail, and the neighboring community in an effort to promote outdoor recreation. This connectivity will be achieved by the design and implementation of a linear park that will utilize existing natural features, including Gordon's Creek while promoting sustainability.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in developing a County-wide Trail Network Plan by engaging community members and local, state, and Federal government representatives in the Forrest County area.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

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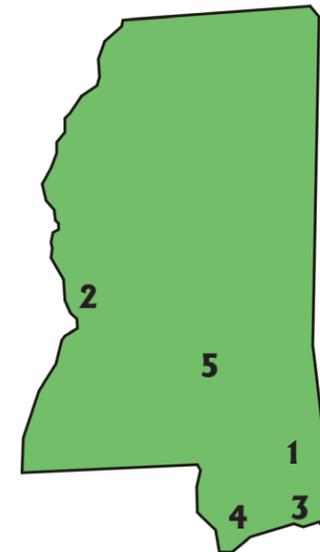
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Blueways of Mississippi - Connecting Biloxi to Ocean Springs, Mississippi via paddling trails

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



1. **Pascagoula River Basin Recreational Corridor**
Pascagoula River Audubon Center
2. **Mississippi River Trail**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
3. **Bikeways, Blueways and Walking Trails - Jackson County**
Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain
4. **Gulf Coast Heritage Trail**
Harrison County Board of Supervisors
5. **Forrest County, MS - Multi-Use Trail**
Forrest County Board of Supervisors

Recent Successes

Bays and Bayous of Mississippi Welcome New Field Office

The new Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program Mississippi Field Office has been established to better serve local communities around the state of Mississippi in developing and implementing recreational trail and conservation projects. RTCA is especially interested in supporting and assisting with the rebuilding efforts in coastal communities.

Since January 2007, RTCA has assisted local greenway, trail and resource conservation planning efforts in Harrison and Jackson Counties, collaboratively leading community members in preparation and implementation of project plans.

Based at Gulf Islands National Seashore, Davis Bayou Unit, RTCA has been instrumental in expanding trail connectivity between the local community of Ocean Springs and the National Seashore, creating a key link in the Live Oak Bicycle Path.

Also, in a cross regional effort, RTCA is working with Mississippi River Trail, Inc. to create 3,000 miles of interconnected trail system linking communities and national parks up and down the Mississippi River, while instilling an understanding of the role and importance of public land and water resources in people's daily lives.

Current Projects

1. Pascagoula River Basin Recreational Corridor
 Project Partner: Pascagoula River Basin Alliance
 RTCA Contact: Liz Incer-Smith
 228.230.4120



Project Goal
 The Pascagoula River Basin Alliance has partnered with other conservation interests for the creation of the Pascagoula River Basin Recreation Corridor. The corridor plan will promote the public use and enjoyment of the entire Pascagoula River while promoting ecological sustainability, economic viability, responsible use and stewardship, and long term community benefits of the last large unimpeded river system in the contiguous United States.

recreation corridor plan. RTCA will assist in identifying existing public sites, the uses that each site may support, opportunities for site amenities and, most importantly, local groups to serve as stewards in maintaining and promoting each site.

The project also seeks to develop a marketing strategy that will help promote the use of the recreational network and promote entrepreneurial opportunities that will support its use. It is anticipated that 81 miles of water trail and over 100 miles of multi-use land based trails will be created from the headwaters of the Pascagoula River, south, to the Gulf of Mexico.

2. Mississippi River Trail (MRT)
 Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
 RTCA Contact: Liz Incer-Smith
 228.230.4120

RTCA Role
 RTCA, in collaboration with partner agencies and conservation interests, will provide facilitation assistance in support of the creation of the

Project Goal
 The MRT, once completed, will provide a 3,000 mile system of bicycle-friendly roads and multi-use pathways. There is significant impact in utilization of the MRT as an alternate transportation and recreation system that traverses the Central United States. Impacting 20



Pascagoula River Planning Workshop - Moss Point, MS

million residents, connecting 400 communities in 123 counties in 10 states, linking 12 national parks and 14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife areas, the trail plays an important part in the public engagement with the river system.

RTCA Role
 Working with MRT Staff and City planners from Natchez and Vicksburg, RTCA will provide facilitation assistance in support of the development of segments of the MRT in Mississippi through MRT Workshop Planning.

3. Bikeways, Blueways and Walking Trails of Jackson County
 Partner: Land Trust of the Mississippi Coastal Plain
 RTCA Contact: Liz Incer-Smith
 228.230.4120

Project Goal
 The Trails Partnership promotes healthy physical outdoor activities and opportunities to safely explore the coastal communities of Mississippi. Partners envision one system of connected, safe trails, accessible to many user-groups. Jackson County trails will be visible, advertised, adopted and developed to enhance tourism and quality of life. It is anticipated that over 50 miles of bikeways, blueways and walking trails, connecting natural, cultural and historic sites along the Mississippi Gulf Coast will be created.

We're Here For You.
 Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?
 Contact us to find out.

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THE RTCA PROGRAM
 The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate. By investing in the protection of special places, recreation, tourism, and well planned development, local leaders can bring long-lasting economic and quality of life benefits to their communities.



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Current Projects cont.

RTCA Role
 RTCA has convened stakeholders in a countywide effort to map existing and proposed bikeways, blueways and walking trails in Jackson County, MS.

based trails, connecting natural, cultural, and historic sites along Mississippi Gulf Coast will be created.

4. Gulf Coast Heritage Trails
 Partner: Harrison County Board of Supervisors
 RTCA Contact: Liz Incer-Smith
 228.875.9057 (ext. 120)

RTCA Role
 Through meeting facilitation, RTCA is working to develop and build capacity of the Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership. RTCA is collaboratively leading local, state, and Federal agencies together with citizens of all ages, through the planning and implementation of a multiple use trail network made up of land and water based trails in Harrison County, MS.

Project Goal
 The newly formed Trails Partnership envisions a coast-wide network of diverse trails that connect neighborhoods to businesses, schools, and green and blue spaces where everyone can enjoy scenic, historic, educational, and natural areas. The Partnership's mission is to improve the quality of life for Gulf Coast residents and visitors of all ages by creating safe and easily accessible, diversified trails. It is anticipated that over 100 miles of land-based and water-



Bayou Portage Blueway - Pineville, MS