

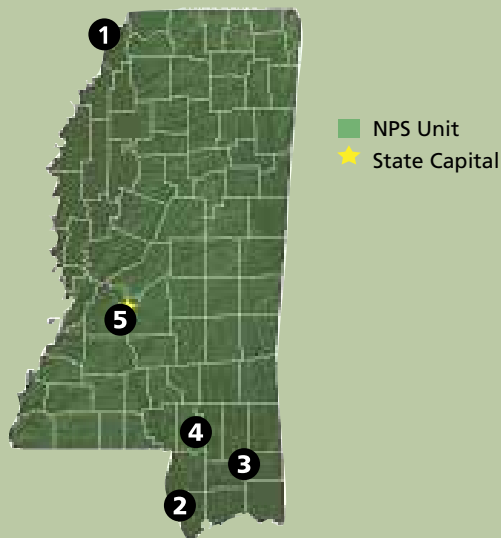


Mississippi News



"Battle for the Bayou" kayak race. Photo: Heritage Trails Partnership of the Mississippi Gulf Coast

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Mississippi River Trail**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
- 2. Gulf Coast Junior Trails Partnership**
Heritage Trails Partnership of the Mississippi Gulf Coast
- 3. Pascagoula River Recreation Corridor Trail**
Land Trust for the MS Coastal Plain
- 4. South Mississippi Regional Blueways Alliance**
Forrest County Board of Supervisors
- 5. Midtown Skate Park**
SkateMS

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Current Projects

1. Mississippi River Trail

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

NPS Contact: Liz Smith-Incer

Location: Headwaters of the Mississippi River in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico

Congressional Districts: MS - 1, 2, 3

Project Goal

Connect all national parks and refuges along the Mississippi River via the Mississippi River Trail (MRT). Passing through hundreds of communities, the trail will create a network of 3,000 miles of trail from Minnesota to Louisiana, as well as a communication forum between all refuges and national parks along the Mississippi River. Locally, 71 miles of trail from Vicksburg to Natchez, Mississippi will be developed.

NPS Role

Provide facilitation assistance in support of the development of segments of the MRT in Mississippi through outreach and workshop planning.



Midwest and Southeast NPS Superintendents and NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program staff with partners on the Mississippi River Trail graphic on the riverfront in St. Louis, Missouri. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance?
Contact us to find out.

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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide 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.

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



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Current Projects

2. Gulf Coast Trails Junior Partnership

Project Partner: Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership

NPS Contact: Liz Smith-Incer

Location: Harrison, Jackson, and Hancock Counties

Congressional District: MS - 4

Project Goal

Develop a program focused on youth organizations in the Gulf Coast. Youth organizations will gather knowledge from their peers and others to help develop, plan, and implement strategies for the creation of trails, greenways, and nature-based recreation along the Gulf Coast and in coastal communities.

NPS Role

Assist with coordinating efforts between national, state, and local partners. Develop and implement the Junior Trails Partnership Program by identifying potential youth partners.

3. Pascagoula River Recreation Corridor Trails

Project Partner: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

NPS Contact: Liz Smith-Incer

Location: Beginning at the confluence of the Leaf River and Chickasawhay River, south to the Gulf of Mexico

Congressional District: MS - 4

Project Goal

Develop a work plan for the creation of a recreation corridor. This plan will include blueways and walking trails that connect natural, cultural, and historical sites along the upper Pascagoula River.

NPS Role

Assist in conducting workshops to identify site and management issues. Identify and address specific goals for areas within the river corridor.

4. South Mississippi Regional Blueways Alliance

Project Partner: Forrest County Board of Supervisors

NPS Contact: Joshua Moore

Location: Forrest, George, Jackson, Perry, and Stone Counties

Congressional District: MS - 4

Project Goal

Create a regional collaborative to develop a blueways and recreation opportunities plan. The alliance will be responsible for the protection of area blueways and natural resources, and will serve as a model for education and outdoor stewardship in the community.

NPS Role

Facilitate discussions between the alliance leadership team and the public to discuss and develop plans for local and regional recreation opportunities and projects.

5. Midtown Skate Park

Project Partner: SkateMS

NPS Contact: Joshua Moore

Location: Jackson

Congressional District: MS - 2

Project Goal

Work with SkateMS, the Midtown Foundation, and the City of Jackson to revitalize and revamp Benjamin Brown Park in the City of Jackson. Along with providing increased community access to outdoor recreation -- including a skate park, walking trail, and water features -- plans for the park will also connect numerous residential areas to local schools and businesses.

NPS Role

Help build and enhance local and regional partnerships, assist with public outreach, develop marketing materials, and identify potential funding sources for the project.