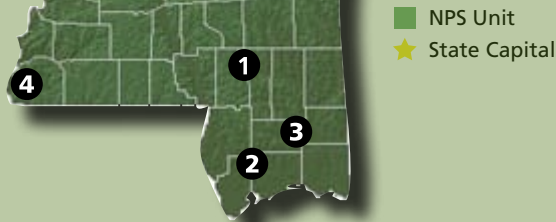




Mississippi News



Kayaking along the Pascagoula River, Mississippi



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Forrest County Multi-Use Trail Project**
Pine Belt Pathways
- 2. Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Junior Partnerships (GCHTJP)**
Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership
- 3. Pascagoula River Recreation Corridor Trails**
Land Trust for the MS Coastal Plain
- 4. Mississippi River Trail Project**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA 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.

Current Projects

1. Forrest County Multi-Use Trail Project

Location: Forrest and Lamar Counties, including the cities of Petal and Brooklyn, MS.
Congressional District: 4
Project Partner: Pine Belt Pathways
NPS Contact: Joshua Moore

Project Goal

Provide walking and biking connections between the University of Southern Mississippi, communities, local businesses, and the Longleaf Trace Trail to promote outdoor recreation. The project will also consist of a linear park that will utilize existing natural features, including Gordon's Creek, while promoting sustainability

RTCA Role

Help develop a conceptual master plan for the trail and conduct community outreach, including facilitating public meetings.



RTCA staff Bill Lane discusses potential trails with Hattiesburg community residents

We're Here For You.

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

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2010 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,251 Miles of Trail Developed
1,694 Miles of River Conserved
25,370 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Current Projects cont.

2. Gulf Coast Trails Junior Partnership

Location: Harrison, Jackson and Hancock Counties, MS
Congressional District: 4
Project Partner: Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership
NPS Contact: Liz Smith-Incer

Project Goal

Develop a junior trails partnership program focused on youth groups in the gulf coast area of Mississippi. The organized youth groups will gather knowledge from their peers and others to help develop, plan, and implement strategies for the development of trails, greenways and nature-based recreation along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist with coordinating formal efforts between national, state, and local contacts in order to develop and implement the Junior Trails Partnership Program. RTCA will also help identify potential youth partners from schools, youth organizations, and other similar groups.

3. Pascagoula River Recreation Corridor Trails

Location: Beginning at the confluence of the Leaf River and Chicksawhay River, south to the Gulf of Mexico.
Congressional District: 4
Project Partner: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain
NPS Contact: Liz Smith-Incer

Project Goal

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

RTCA Role

RTCA staff will assist in conducting workshops that will identify specific site and management issues and goals for areas within the river corridor.

4. Mississippi River Trail

Location: Headwaters of Mississippi River in Minnesota to Gulf of Mexico, New Orleans.
Congressional Districts: AR-1,4; IO-2,4; IL-4,12,16,17,19; KY-1; LA-1, 2,3,5,6; MN-2,3,4,5,6,8; MO-1,2,3,8,9; MS-1, 2, 3; TN-7,8,9; WI-3
Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
NPS Contact: Liz Smith-Incer

Project Goal

Locally: Develop 71 miles of trail from Vicksburg, MS to Natchez, MS.
Nationally: Create a network of 3,000 miles of trail from Minnesota to Louisiana.



Map showing the proposed Mississippi River Trail