

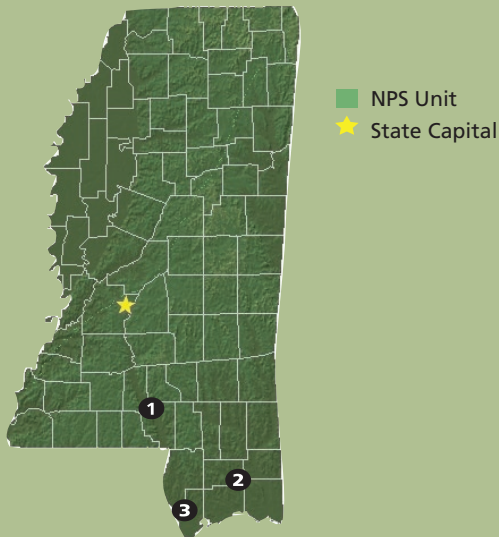


# Mississippi News



Canoers enjoying the Pascagoula River. Photo: Gulf Coast Paddling

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. South Mississippi Regional Blueways Alliance  
Forrest County Board of Supervisors
2. Pascagoula River Recreation Corridor Trails  
Land Trust for the MS Coastal Plain
3. Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Junior Partnerships  
Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

On September 22, 2012, a dedicated group of community members hosted the Pascagoula River Education Adventure Fest in George County. Nearly 200 community members participated in activities that promoted greater awareness and appreciation for the Pascagoula River; many being introduced to the Pascagoula Wildlife Management Area for the first time.

Participants celebrated the Pascagoula River Blueway, as part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Through the free educational activities such as kayaking and nature walks, the successful event inspired participants to explore and learn about the riparian habitat and to become stewards of the migration corridors for fish and wildlife.



RTCA staff Joshua Moore stamps Adventure Fest Scavenger Hunt Booklets for local kids. Photo: NPS

## We're Here For You.

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

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## 2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154	Miles of Trail Developed
1,074	Miles of River Conserved
70,385	Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
94%	Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects

## 1. South Mississippi Regional Blueways Alliance

Project Partner: Forrest County Board of Supervisors  
NPS Contact: Bill Lane, Joshua Moore  
Location: Forrest, George, Jackson, Perry, Lamar and Stone Counties  
Congressional Districts: MS - 1, 3, 4

### Project Goal

Create regional collaboration through regional blueways. The Alliance will be responsible for the protection of area blueways and natural resources and will act as education and outdoor stewards for residents.

### NPS Role

Identify and inventory existing outdoor recreational opportunities, assist with the development of a regional blueways plan, and facilitate discussions for the Alliance Leadership team and the public.

## 2. Pascagoula River Recreation Corridor Trails

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

### Project Goal

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

### NPS Role

Assist in conducting workshops that will identify specific site and management issues. Also, goals for areas within the river corridor will be addressed.

### ABOUT US

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.



RTCA staff Liz Smith-Incer stands next to a map of the MS Coastal Heritage Trail. Photo: NPS

## 3. Gulf Coast Trails Junior Partnership

Project Partner: Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership (GCHTP)  
NPS Contact: Liz Smith-Incer  
Location: Harrison, Jackson and Hancock Counties  
Congressional District: MS - 3, 4

### Project Goal

Develop a program focused on youth organizations in the gulf coast. The youth organizations 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 Gulf Coast and surrounding communities.

### NPS Role

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