

LAND TRUST FOR THE MISSISSIPPI COASTAL PLAIN

PRESENTS

**Introducing Water Trails to
the Gulf Coast**



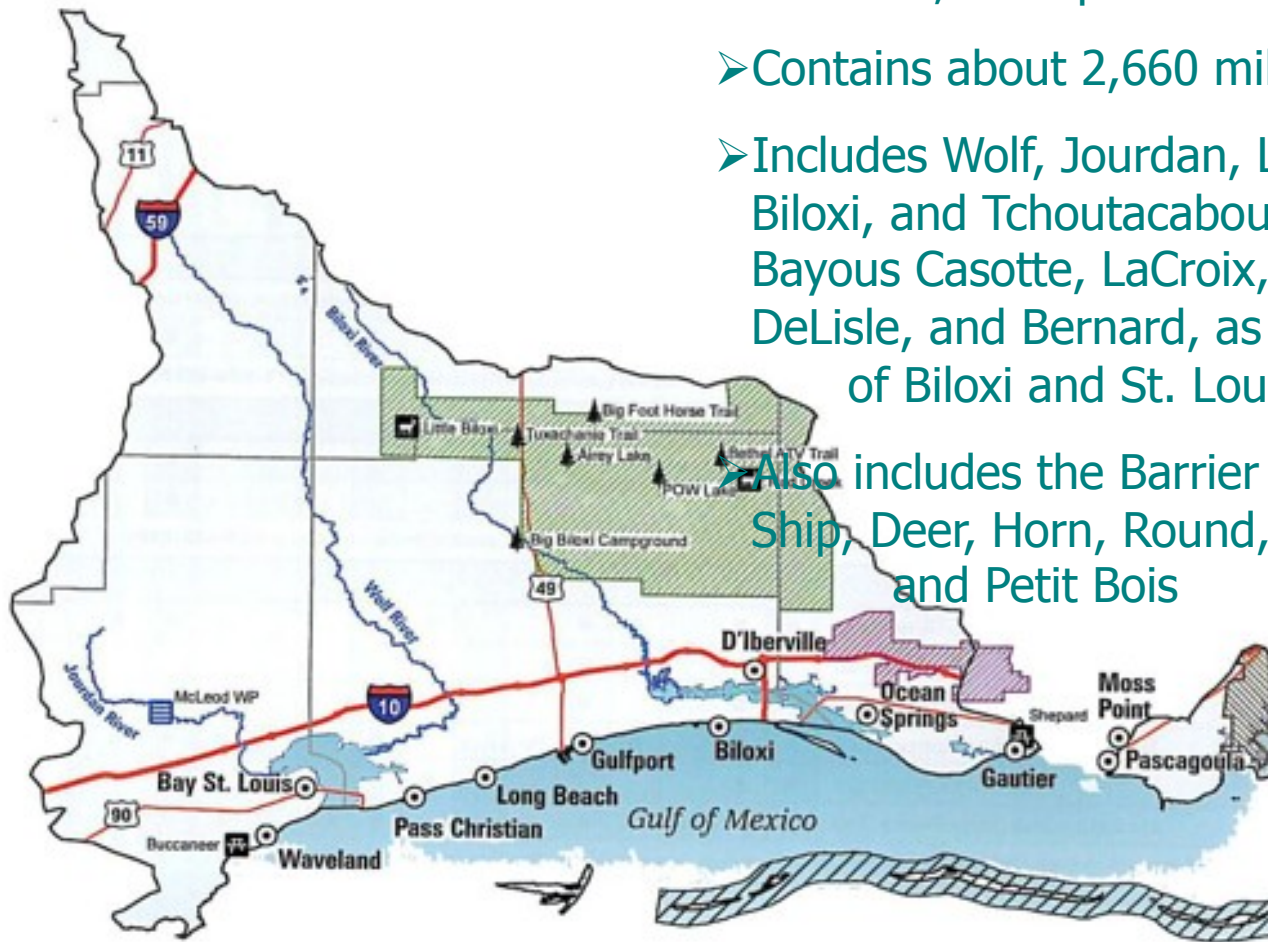
Mississippi Waterways

- Mississippi has 10 major river basins with 86,000 miles of streams
- Wetlands cover about 2.7 million acres throughout the state
- It is estimated that the state contains 64,000 acres of vegetated coastal wetlands
- In all, Mississippi's estuarine waters cover over 750 square miles
- Coastal Mississippi is comprised of the Coastal Streams Basin and Pascagoula River Basin



Coastal Streams Basin

- Covers 1,545 square miles
- Contains about 2,660 miles of streams
- Includes Wolf, Jourdan, Little and Big Biloxi, and Tchoutacabouffa Rivers, Bayous Casotte, LaCroix, Bacon, Rotten, DeLisle, and Bernard, as well as the Bays of Biloxi and St. Louis
- Also includes the Barrier Islands of Cat, Ship, Deer, Horn, Round, and Petit Bois

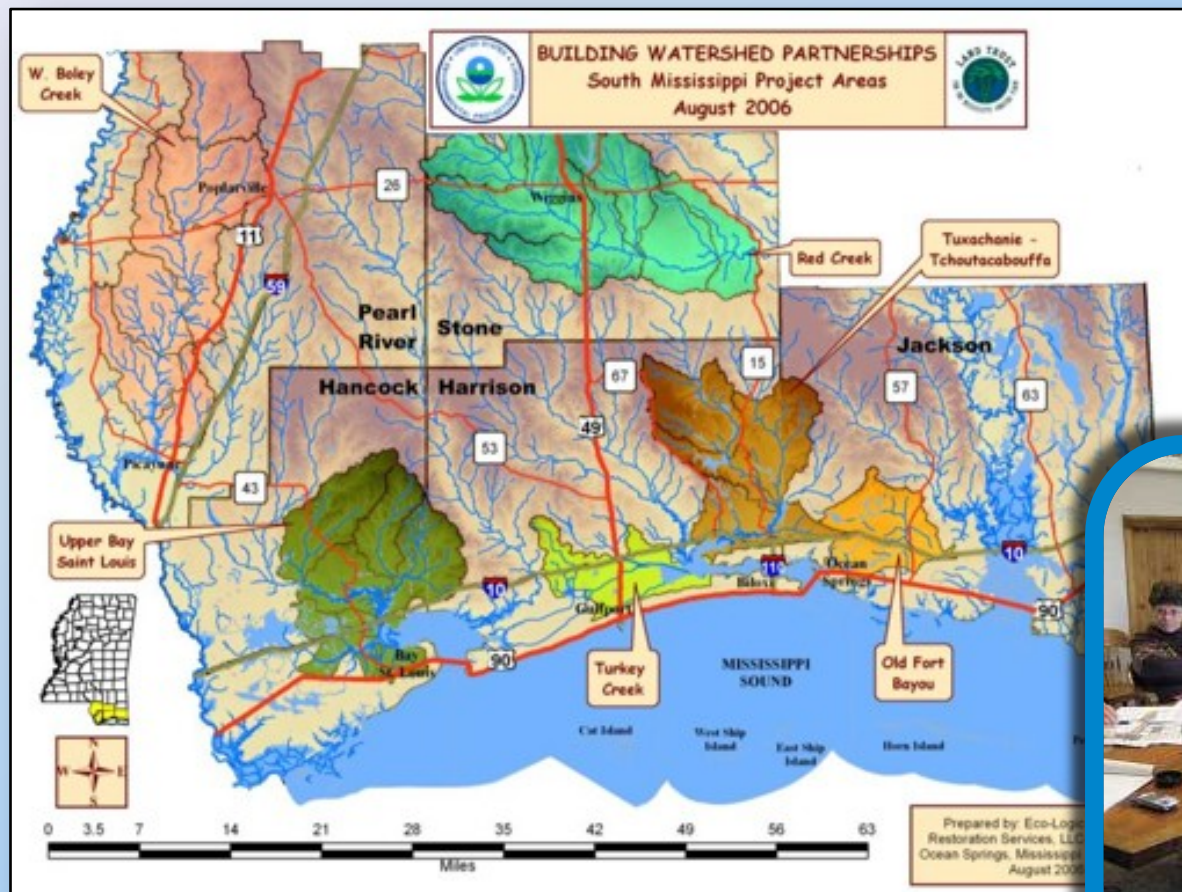


Pascagoula River Basin

- Covers 9,600 miles
- Contains 15,045 miles of rivers and streams
- Includes the Pascagoula, Leaf, Escatawpa, Bogue Homa, Chunky, and Chickasawhay Rivers and Black, Bowie, Okatoma, Okatibbee, Buckatunna, and Red Creeks
- Pascagoula River system is the last unregulated major river system in the lower 48 states



Developing Watershed Partnerships



West Boley Creek
Upper Bay Saint Louis
Turkey Creek
Old Fort Bayou
Tchoucatabouffa
Red Creek





Tchoutacabouffa River Watershed

Working together to protect:
water quality
wildlife habitat
scenic beauty

***Leave a legacy of clean water
Please don't litter***

www.ltmcp.org
(228)435-9191

Funding provided by EPA, Region 4



WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

TURKEY CREEK

City of Gulfport, Harrison County, MS

Prepared in collaboration with:
Turkey Creek and North Gulfport community partners

Sponsored by:



With funding assistance from EPA, Region IV



Prepared by:
Eco-Logic Restoration Services, LLC
1004 Government Street
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564
www.ecologic-restoration.com

Submitted October 16, 2006



Building a Watershed Partnership for Old Fort Bayou

October 26, 2006
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Christus Victor Church
2755 Bienville Blvd, Ocean Springs, MS

Please join us for refreshments
and discussion.


We are looking forward to hearing your
thoughts and ideas for the future
of Old Fort Bayou and the watershed.

Hosted by: Leah Bray, Donna Brown
and Gary Young

Sponsored and facilitated by:
Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain
228-435-9191

Educational Materials

TCHOUTACABOUFFA RIVER WATERSHED



The Watershed at a glance....

The Tchoutacabouffa River Watershed is located in Harrison County, West Jackson County, and southern Row County, as well as south Mississippi. The watershed includes a headwater land ridge, a rapidly converging area with urban land, and a rapidly converging area with urban land.

The entire watershed includes a river sub-basin that has been designated for partnership building and action. River Corridor: Railroad Creek, Wetmore Creek, Tchoutacabouffa River, and River Ridge. Tchoutacabouffa River and Express Creek, Tchoutacabouffa Creek and Express Creek, Tchoutacabouffa Creek and River Creek, Tchoutacabouffa Creek and River Creek.

Natural Characteristics of the Tchoutacabouffa River Watershed

The Mississippi Natural Heritage Program identifies the state's most significant natural areas through a comprehensive inventory of rare plant and animal species, ecosystems, natural communities, special geological features, and significant natural areas. As part of the program, the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program lists the following natural communities for the Tchoutacabouffa River watershed:

- Wetland Types of Plants**
 - Wetland** - muddy, sandy bottom with scattered sandbars.
 - Freshwater marsh** - dominated by reeds and sedges with dark patches, smooth sedges along riverbanks with tall marsh grass in the uplands.
 - Wetland** - dominated by reeds and sedges with dark patches, smooth sedges along riverbanks with tall marsh grass in the uplands.
- Animals**
 - Animals common found throughout the Tchoutacabouffa River area include gray squirrels, great blue herons, river otters, gray fox, bobcats, and raccoons. However, several threatened and endangered species occupy the Tchoutacabouffa River Watershed area including:
 - Threatened**
 - Least tern
 - Least tern
 - Least tern
 - Least tern
 - Least tern
 - Endangered**
 - Least tern
 - Least tern
 - Least tern
 - Least tern
 - Least tern

TCHOUTACABOUFFA RIVER WATERSHED

Tchoutacabouffa River Watershed Partnership

The Tchoutacabouffa River Watershed Partnership is a coordinated effort of private and public stakeholders to identify, support, and promote projects to improve water quality along the Tchoutacabouffa and Tchoutacabouffa Rivers. The partnership is coordinated by the Local Trust for the Mississippi. The partnership includes:

- Streambank Stabilization** - The partnership provided approximately 250 cubic yards of riparian material to stabilize streambanks along the Tchoutacabouffa River.
- Watershed Education** - The partnership has developed a series of educational materials, including a brochure, a poster, and a puppet show, to educate the public about the importance of the watershed.

Please join us! Check us out at www.thr.org/tchoutacabouffa

Threats & Issues

As coastal population migrates north of I-10, the natural characteristics of the Tchoutacabouffa River watershed have become threatened. The consequences of increased development, both upland and riverine, are apparent:

- **Wetland loss** as a result of land clearing.
- **Increased flooding** as a result of increased impervious surfaces.
- **Increased boat traffic** as a result of increased population density.

In addition, the Tchoutacabouffa River watershed has been identified as a "high priority" for future restoration by the Mississippi Department of Transportation. The watershed is currently in a "high priority" status for future restoration.

What Can You Do?

Best Management Practices (BMPs) - practice automobile property maintenance and repair by:

1. Controlling runoff by improving drainage.
2. Using permeable paving material for driveways and patios.
3. Stabilize disturbed slopes.
4. Minimize lawn care chemicals.
5. Maximize native trees and shrubs.
6. Replant bare soil as soon as possible.

Streamside buffers - maintaining a strip of vegetated land alongside and up slope of a waterbody or wetland will protect water quality, promote wildlife habitats, minimize flooding, and maximize groundwater recharge.

Septic tank maintenance - ensure a properly functioning septic system to avoid contamination of nearby waterbodies. Failing septic tanks are a source of impairment for the Tchoutacabouffa River.

Conservation - donation of land or portion of property to accredited land conservation organizations. Tax benefits for landowners who conserve land are significant.

Water Testing - Most water testing is available to any volunteer willing to take water samples on a regular basis in order to track important health indicators of the river.

Preservation through Recreation



Preservation through Recreation



Blueway Development: Where Do You Begin?

Partners:

City

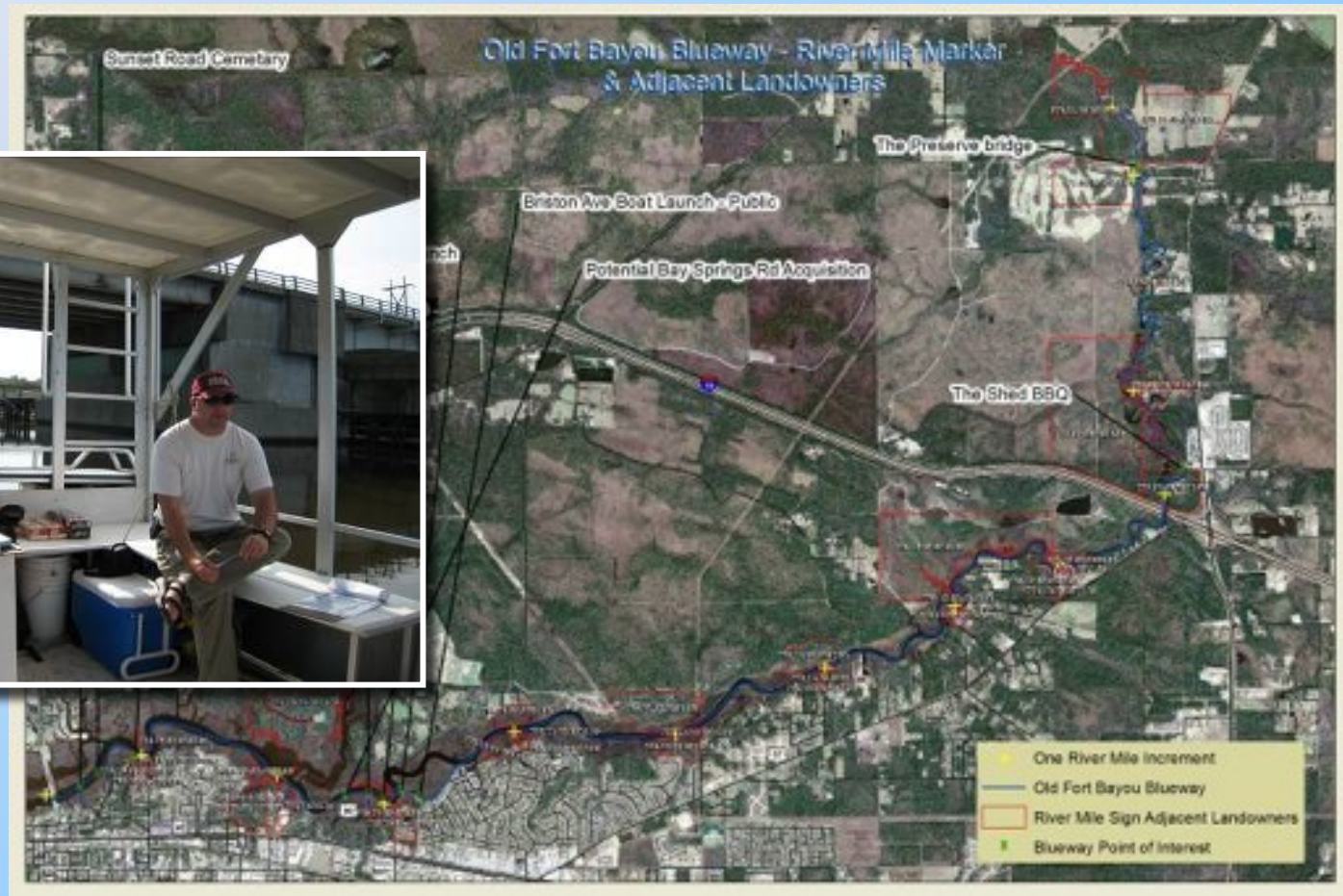
County

State

Community



Planning and Mapping



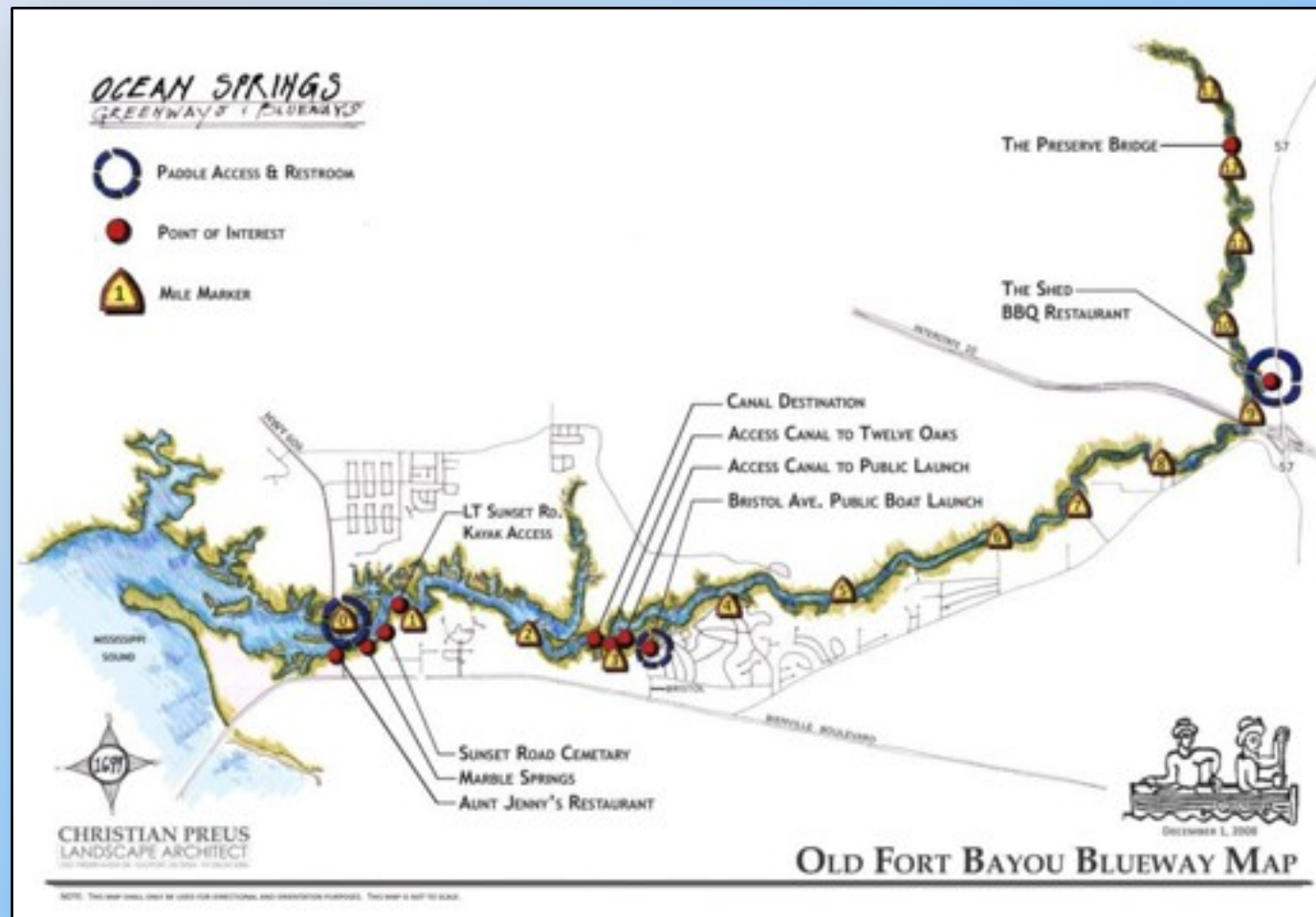
Planning and Mapping

Identify:

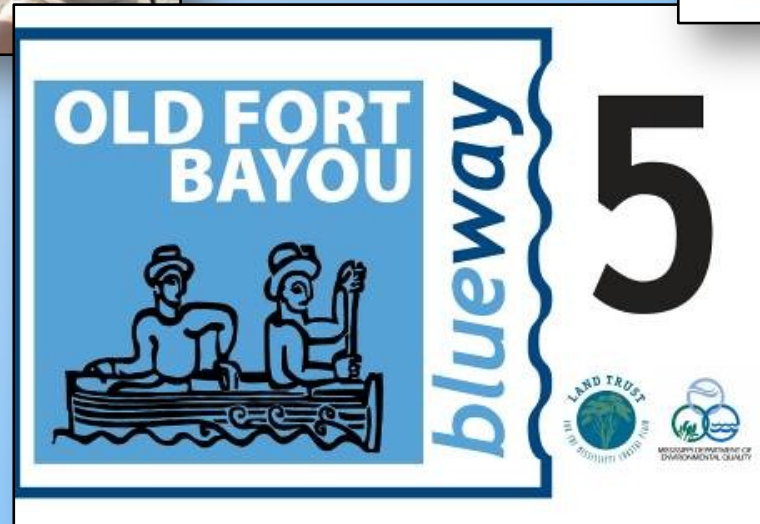
Points of Interest

Put In Points

Public Facilities



Marking the Blueway



Promoting the Blueway

A variety of habitats exist along Old Fort Bayou



The mouth of the bayou is considered an estuary, a place where the river meets the sea. This area hosts ecological communities of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) such as widgeon grass or tape grass beds; its presence is vital in the developmental stages of many estuarine wildlife species such as native juvenile blue crabs, fish and other species that spend early developmental stages in shallow estuaries where they can hide from large predators. These grasses also help to stabilize sediments to prevent erosion.



a nature lover's paradise
providing a beautiful vista while
canoeing up or down Old Fort Bayou,
Oceans Springs MS

**OLD FORT
BAYOU**
blueway

visit us at
www.ltmcp.org



Promoting the Blueway

Old Fort Bayou

It's a beautiful meandering waterway in Jackson County, Mississippi. Its origins (downstream) begin in the forest of pine (downstream) south of Hattiesburg. The Bayou continues through many (downstream) riparian (downstream) areas including the Mississippi (downstream) Delta National Wildlife Refuge, The Helene (downstream) Conservancy's Old Fort Bayou (downstream) mitigation property, and (downstream) Smith's (downstream) Bayou (downstream) Conservation Park and (downstream) Mississippi's (downstream) Old Fort Bayou (downstream) Coastal Program (downstream) deepening and (downstream) widening (downstream) towards (downstream) its mouth at (downstream) Indian Bay in Ocean Springs.



The map shows the winding path of Old Fort Bayou. A legend indicates:

- Blue circle: Point of Interest
- Red dot: Point of Interest
- Yellow triangle: Wetland

 Numbered points 1 through 9 are marked along the bayou. A compass rose is in the bottom left, and a small illustration of two people in a boat is in the bottom right.



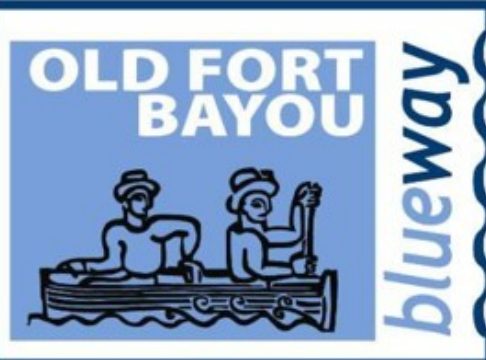


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gulf Hills									
McIntosh on the Bayou									
Avon Landing									
Lowry Lake (Hattiesburg Airport)									
Avon Hill									
McIntosh on the Bayou									
Ocean Springs Cemetery									
Smith's Bayou									
Smith's Bayou (Point of Interest)									
The Smith's Camp (Point of Interest)									
The Preserve Golf Course									



Introduction to the Community





It's a Race!

Be there to see who will win the race and help us kick-off the opening ceremonies for the New Old Fort Bayou Blueway Trail. Activities to be held on the waterfront behind the hotel.

Light refreshments will be served.
Guided paddling tours hosted by Do Beach House and South Coast Paddling Company will begin immediately following the celebration ceremony. See reverse side for details!

The Land Trust for the
Mississippi Coastal Plain
Invites You to Be Our
Special Guest

As we celebrate the
Opening of the
Old Fort Bayou Blueway
Saturday
September 19, 2009
9:00 am
Gulf Hills Hotel
13701 Paso Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

RSVP: Judy Steckler at 435-9191
or judy@ltmcp.org



JOIN US FOR A CANOE / KAYAK TRIP !

Saturday, September 19th
immediately following the
OFB Blueway Opening Celebration
Gulf Hills Hotel & Conference Center
13701 Paso Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Kayaking for Novices	Family Fun on the Bayou	Experienced Paddlers
\$20.00 1.5 hours	\$25.00 2 hours	\$35.00 4 hours
Instruction and short paddle along shoreline	Gulf Hills to Bristol Ave.** Splash Times: 10:30 am & 1:00 pm	Gulf Hills to The Shed** Splash Time: 10:00 am or The Shed to Gulf Hills Splash Time: 2:00 pm

** Shuttle service available from all take-out locations back to Gulf Hills.
Price includes \$10.00 conservation fee. Tax-deductible information available upon request.

For tickets, contact LTMCP at 228-435-9191 or www.ltmcp.org

Community Events




Jourdan River Blueway

Hancock County



Red Creek Blueway

Stone County



The brochure features a large photograph of a river flowing through a forested area. The title "Red Creek Blueway" is prominently displayed in a serif font, with "Red Creek" in red and "Blueway" in black. Below the title, there are several logos: the Stone County seal, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) seal, the Land Trust logo, and the Mississippi River National Scenic River logo. The text on the right side of the brochure provides information about the creek's history, its status as a public waterway, and its significance as a sub-basin of the Pascagoula River Watershed. A photograph of people canoeing on the river is included, along with a large illustration of a yellow and black butterfly.

Red Creek Blueway

Red Creek is a coastal blackwater stream that forms near Lumberton in Lamar County and ends when it meets Black Creek near the Pascagoula River in Jackson County. It gets its name from the reddish stain that naturally-occurring tannins impart to the water. In 2004, the watershed was documented as 66% forested with a 100 foot, well-forested riparian zone extending from Highway 26 (west of Wiggins) to its confluence with Black Creek. This section of Red Creek is a public waterway and, according to Ernest Herndon's Canoeing Mississippi, is a beautiful float trip. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science has documented 61 species of freshwater and diadromous fish with a recreational fishery for at least 5 species. Red Creek has been designated as one of Mississippi's Scenic Streams.

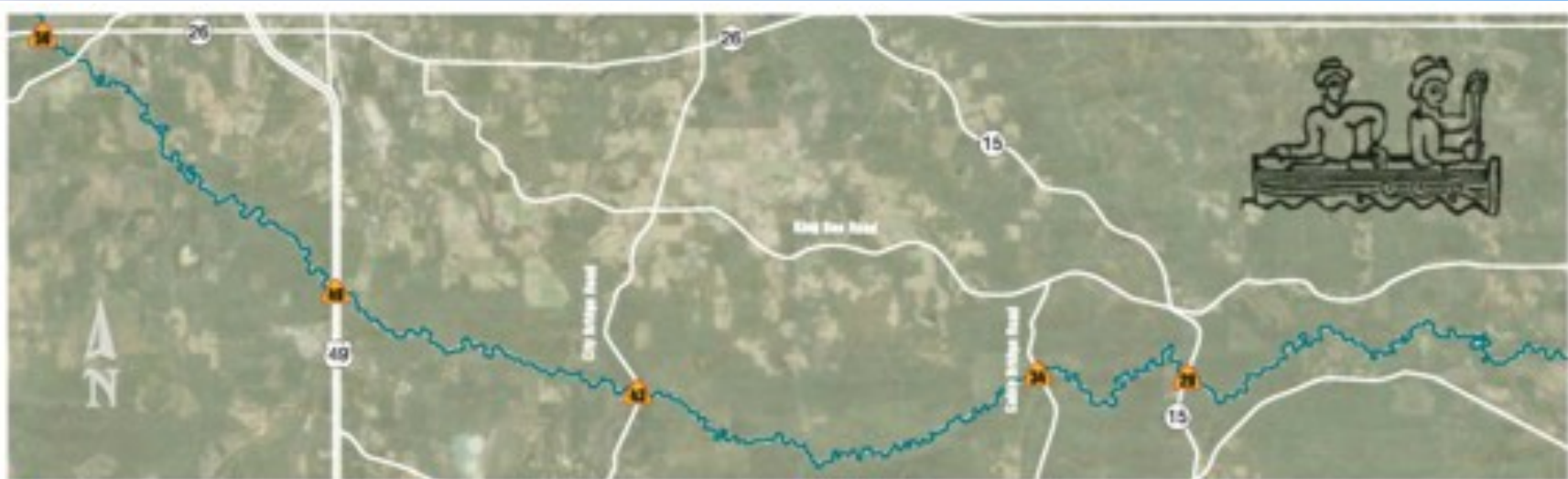
Red Creek is in the East Gulf Coastal Plain Ecoregion and is a major tributary in the Pascagoula River watershed.

The entire drainage area of Red Creek is over 400 square miles. Red Creek flows through Lamar, Stone, George, and Jackson Counties. It also touches Pearl River and Forrest Counties. It is an important sub-basin of the Pascagoula River Watershed, a nationally significant eco-system with the largest unimpeded river in the continental United States.



Red Creek Blueway

Stone County



38 Clay Shelves Segment

A 3.7 mile float from Highway 26 to Highway 49. To float a flat bottom boat plan for 3.5 hours. Canoes and kayaks plan for 7.5 hours. While floating this upper reach segment you'll discover first hand how Red Creek got its name. As you traverse along the red-dip shelves, you'll also encounter several small rapids.

41 Railroad Trestle Segment

A 6.2 mile float from Highway 49 to Clay Bridge. To float a flat bottom boat plan for 6 hours. Canoes and kayaks plan for 3 hours. Discover large white sandbars and Red Creek meanders its way through the sandy soils of mid Stone County. You'll also pass beneath the high railroad trestle still in service today.

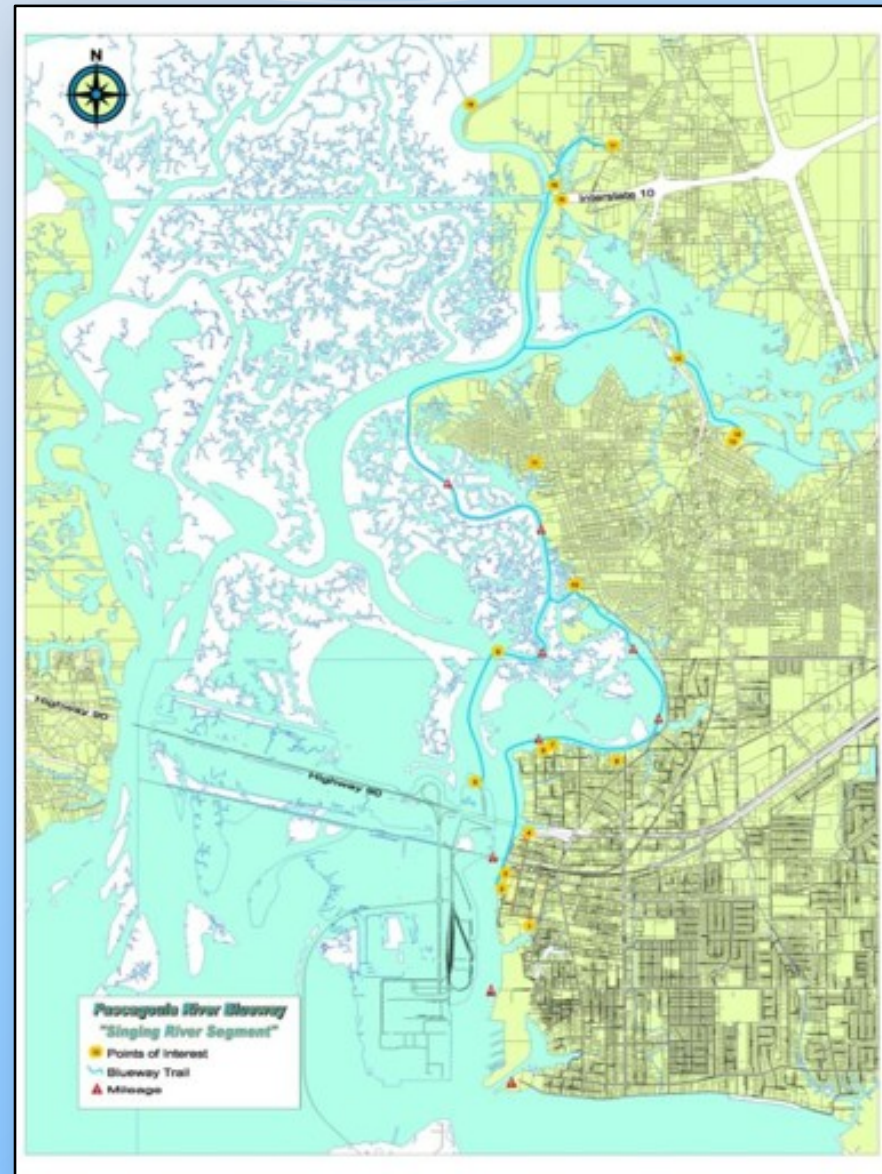
42 Red Bluff Segment

A 3.6 mile float from Clay Bridge to Cable Bridge. To float a flat bottom boat plan for 3.5 hours. Canoes and kayaks plan for 6.5 hours. You will navigate through the remains of several old rail trestle lines bearing witness to the vast timber harvest of the early 1900's. If you're lucky, you'll see glimpses through the trees of the famous "Red Bluff."

34 Natural Springs Segment

A 4.6 mile float from Cable Bridge to Highway 15. To float a flat bottom boat plan for 4 hours. Canoes and kayaks plan for 3 hours. Enjoy a short but picturesque float through the Deane National Forest. Floaters will discover the natural springs feeding the creek as they get closer to the historic site of the Ramsey Springs Hotel.

Lower Pascagoula River Blueway Jackson County



Introducing Water Trails to the Gulf Coast



www.LTMCP.org