



Project Summaries for Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund Funded Projects

2023 Appropriations Round (\$14,700,000)

Per February 14, 2024 MOSTF Board of Trustees Meeting

(by order of funding amount)

- (1) **Gordon's Creek Linear Trail (\$2,246,419.00)** - This project will assist the City of Hattiesburg in the development of the River District of Gordon's Creek Linear Park and connect the Longleaf Trace to the Chain Park. As part of a four-phase project for Gordon's Creek, this phase will offer residents and visitors exposure to outdoor amenities, which include: an 8-ft pathway along the creek for pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchairs, a pedestrian bridge over Gordon's Creek that connects the Longleaf Trace and Chain Park, re-use of an old railroad bridge, art node detailing the Native American history of Southeast Mississippi, a native bamboo grove, a landing where people can access the creek, and an overlook and outdoor classroom, looking across the Leaf River. The other three phases of the project are already in process, and the City of Hattiesburg has committed \$800,000 of local funds to ensure the completion of this project.
- (2) **Reimagining New Albany's Park Along the River (\$2,000,000.00)** – Funding will assist the Little Tallahatchie Riverway Conservancy to partner with the City of New Albany within the boundaries of Park Along the River to construct a nature-themed playground with discovery educational and activities for children and adults of all ages and abilities. Construct new riverside access points for kayaks, canoes, paddle boards and fishing. Construct observations points for birdwatching and wildlife viewing. Historical point of interest signage with emphasis on Native American history in the local area soil/water conservation, wildlife/plant biodiversity and tree identification.
- (3) **Bay St. Louis Public Recreational Fishing Reef Enhancement (\$1,531,872.00)** – This project administered by The Nature Conservancy will add up to 5 acres of reef to the Tony Trapani Reef, located in waters that are closed to oyster harvest due to its water classification of “prohibited”. This reef would serve to enhance recreational fishing opportunities by adding additional near shore area for recreationally important fishes. Additionally, this reef would add oyster brood stock Mississippi sound, benefiting the commercial oyster industry. This project would include adding vertical height (up to 16 inches) to improve oyster reef resilience against low dissolved oxygen events and increase surface area available for oyster colonization. Completion of a combined 30-acre oyster reef project area, would be the second largest subtidal oyster reef restoration project completed in Mississippi for natural and recreational benefits. Further this would be the on average tallest oyster reef in the state adding much needed resilience to low dissolved oxygen events.
- (4) **Tanglefoot Trail Bridge, Surface, and Chickasaw Nation Signage Trail Improvements (\$1,500,000.00)** – This project will assist the GM&O Rails-to-Trails Recreation District-North

MS to make upgrades to the Tanglefoot Trail in Union, Pontotoc, and Chickasaw Counties. The Tanglefoot Trail is a National Recreational Trail, as designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service, which recognizes exemplary trails of local and regional significance. Components include surface upgrades to 43.6 miles of paved trails, replacing timber railings and bridge decking with synthetic materials to maximize extended life, and design and installation of signage along the entire 44-mile District trail right-of-way which will illustrate and convey the history, culture, and historic events and personalities of the Chickasaw, as developed in collaboration with the Chickasaw Nation today.

- (5) **DeSoto County Agri-Educational Center and Arena's Walking Trail (\$1,021,836.00)** – Funding will assist the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors to construct a multi-use trail spanning 0.8 miles. An expansive scope of work includes a pond restoration, preservation of vegetation and stream buffers in addition to the installation of a boardwalk to heighten visitor experience and overall enjoyment of the trail's protected wildlife and recreational space. The walking trail is within 200 county-owned acres and bordered by a recreational grassy area and recreational ball fields. The trail itself will provide a restored fully stocked pond, boardwalk with observation and will be aligned with benches as well as signage of the scientific and Native American names for plant and animal species. On-site partnerships with Northwest Mississippi Community College and Mississippi State University 4H Extension have committed to including the trail as a critical component of regularly scheduled curriculum that will afford students the ability of live, hands-on experience.
- (6) **Sunflower River Walk (\$932,877.41)** – Funding will assist the City of Clarksdale in construction of an ADA-compliant 6,000 linear foot pathway loop along the banks of the Sunflower River in Downtown Clarksdale. When complete, the Sunflower River Walk loop will connect the American Legion Soldiers Field/Oak Grove at the north end, to the pedestrian crossing of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Boulevard bridge and meadow park at the south end, linking existing parks and recreational facilities and incorporating existing natural and historical features along the way. The project will also provide safe, riverside path access to additional neighborhoods - at Madison Avenue, South Sunflower Avenue, Third Street downtown, and North Sunflower Avenue - that currently are without direct access.
- (7) **Healthy Outdoor Business, Recreation and Community Connectivity Development Project (\$870,000.00)** - The Town of Sumrall seeks to leverage the nationally recognized Longleaf Trace recreation path, which traverses the Town, as a backbone of connectivity for all residents. The initial project, funded in part by a US Congressional Appropriation through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides for the acquisition of properties, construction of sidewalks along existing developed roads and public facilities in the downtown corridor. To connect the two halves of town bisected by the Longleaf Trace, the initial project has provided acquisition of the Mill Creek Hardwood Bottom, a natural area the Town seeks to restore. MOSTF Funds will be used to enhance and protect the historic area and expand usage through the removal of invasive species, restoration of natural vegetation, construction of a multipurpose trail, public use comfort stations, environmental education center, amphitheater and public fishing facilities while recognizing the role of Mill Creek and the Trace in the local history.
- (8) **Pinebelt Blueway's - Glendale Avenue Boat Ramp Enhancement (\$696,254.72)** – Funding will assist the Forrest County Board of supervisors to improve public water access to the Bouie River. Funding would assist with the acquisition and development of the Glendale Road boat ramp, which encompasses some of the Delta Industries property. This location is

a critical output site that would allow for a 7.8-mile route called the Lower Bouie Route, where the input site at Highway 42 near Chain Park. The Glendale Road improvements would include reconstructing the ramp at a standard slope range, installing a timed gate for security purposes, increasing onsite lighting, adding concrete steps to the sandy beach, vehicle and trailer parking, boat and kayak launches designed for fluctuating water levels, and ADA-accessible path to the water, security cameras, increased lighting poles, and a cleared landing for anglers. The improvements are connecting an active route for tourism and community development.

- (9) **Marquette Road Multi-use Path (\$585,678.00)** – Funding will assist the City of Brandon to construct approximately one mile of new multi-use path along Marquette Road, providing pedestrian and bike access connectivity to the recreational opportunities in the area, which include the Brandon Amphitheater, Quarry Ballpark, and the Quarry Park Trails. The trail system provides residents and visitors with outdoor recreational activities including cycling, wildlife watching, bird watching, walking, hiking, and the enjoyment of outdoor scenery with multiple water features. This project will provide greater exposure and access to those recreational resources and any future outdoor recreational opportunities which may be developed on additional lands owned by the City of Brandon in the area.
- (10) **Noma Drive Walking Trail (\$500,000.00)** - This project for the City of Diamondhead is for a four-mile nature trail that will include both trails, pedestrian bridges, and deck walks to connect Noma Drive Boat Launch to Montjoy Creek Kayak Launch. The project will provide access points for hiking, jogging, birding, and photography. The combination of trails, pedestrian bridges, and deck walks will provide additional access to Rotten Bayou. Much of the planning and engineering for this project is being completed by a Tidelands grant already awarded to the city. Additional design, permitting and construction will be funded by a RESTORE grant and the MOSTF.
- (11) **Jordan and Logtown Natural Area Conservation (\$447,815.00)** – This project will allow Wildlife Mississippi and the Mississippi Land Trust to leverage almost \$4.5 million in federal and private funding already committed to the project to permanently conserve, better manage, and enhance public access at the Logtown Natural Area and Mill site in Hancock County and the Jordan Natural Area in Jackson County. It will place 712 acres of high quality longleaf pine grassland and associated habitats under an NRCS Agricultural Land Easement as a Grassland of Special Environmental Concern, place 487 acres of bottomland hardwoods and historic lumber mill site under permanent conservation with a USFS Forest Legacy Easement, restore 1,000 acres of off-site loblolly pine, slash pine, and/or exotic pasture grasses to longleaf pine in Jackson, Hancock, and Pearl River Counties, install a living shoreline to protect important historic resources from erosion at an active boat ramp, implement initial trail work to extend Possumwalk Trail further into the historic Logtown Community, enhance and secure the artesian well at Logtown to benefit humans, wildlife, and water quality, construct a pavilion and pier to provide infrastructure for public use, enhance property boundary security, repair roads and firebreaks with low water crossing technology to reduce erosion and increase wet weather access, and acquire equipment to enable better forestry, wildlife, and natural resource management.
- (12) **Matthews Branch Sidewalk Improvements (\$261,890.00)** – Funding will assist the City of Petal in constructing sidewalks for safe movement of pedestrians among points of interest in an area of heavy vehicular traffic. The addition and design will encourage exercise, cycling, and future community development.

- (13) **Pearl River Wildlife Management Area Wetland Habitat Enhancement (\$250,000.00)** – This project will provide funding for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to replace flood control pump motors, pipe infrastructure, and water level control structures. These repairs are needed to restore functionality of bottomland hardwood flooding protection and the waterfowl habitat management system for 235 acres of wetlands critical to waterfowl, wading birds, migratory birds, and wetland dependent wildlife. Additionally, functional flood control will help protect assets and public use of the Turcotte Shooting Facility.
- (14) **Clarkco State Park NICA Trails (\$220,800.00)** – Funding will assist the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks in developing a progressive trail network that offers beginner to advanced-level mountain biking as well as pedestrian opportunities. With the recent addition of Mississippi to the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), Clarkco State Park is ideally equipped and situated to host NICA racing events. As purpose-built trails are developed and mileage increases, so will visitation from residents, visitors, and regional trail users. The trails will be bike-optimized with careful consideration for hikers and runners to be sure their needs will also be met. This is a broad concept plan; specific trail design will be a coordinated effort between local stakeholders and professional trail builders.
- (15) **Roosevelt State Park NICA Trails (\$220,800.00)** – Funding will assist the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks in developing a progressive trail network that offers beginner to advanced-level mountain biking as well as pedestrian opportunities. With the recent addition of Mississippi to the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), Roosevelt State Park is ideally equipped and situated to host NICA racing events. As purpose-built trails are developed and mileage increases, so will visitation from residents, visitors, and regional trail users. The trails will be bike-optimized with careful consideration for hikers and runners to be sure their needs will also be met. This is a broad concept plan; specific trail design will be a coordinated effort between local stakeholders and professional trail builders.
- (16) **Lower Mississippi River Side Channel Reconnection and Restoration (\$204,524.00)** – This project will allow The Nature Conservancy to partner with the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee, Mississippi River Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers to construct and modify environmental restoration features on various rock dikes located on the Mississippi River in Jefferson, Adams, and Washington Counties. The installed and modified dike notches will restore flow and public access opportunities through approximately 7.5 miles of degraded secondary channel, facilitate ingress and egress by fish species to critical extra channel habitat, improve water quality during all but the lowest river stages, increase both recreational and commercial fishing opportunities, as well as, waterfowl and alligator hunting, kayaking, camping, and birding opportunities, increase habitat for threatened and endangered species such as Pallid Sturgeon and Fat pocketbook mussel, and improve reproductive success of sandbar-nesting bird species, such as the Interior least tern, by severing the land bridge between the island and shore.
- (17) **Camp Kamassa-Outdoor Recreation Field and Nature Observation Area (\$200,000.00)** - Camp Kamassa, operated by the Mississippi Toughest Kids Foundation, is Mississippi's first and only year-round fully handicap accessible camp facility for children and adults with serious illnesses, physical & mental challenges, and other special needs. Mississippi has limited recreational and developmental opportunities for those with disabilities. There is no

other barrier free, fully accessible facility like Camp Kamassa in Mississippi. Funding will be used to construct an outdoor recreational field and a nature observation area. The recreational field will offer campers a spacious place for accessible outdoor play, sports, wildlife observation and educational activities. The nature observation area will offer a location for wildlife observation, star gazing, campfires, outdoor educational activities, and primitive camping. Funds will also be used to plant hardwoods near both project sites to enhance the natural environment, provide shade, and reintroduce trees native to Mississippi.

- (18) **Flowood Nature Park-Walking Trail (\$160,000.00)** - The project includes the rehabilitation of approximately 1.75 miles of six-foot wide asphalt walking trails located within the City of Flowood Nature Park. The nature walking trails are approximately 13 years old and an asphalt overlay is needed to maximize the functional aspects of the paths and the future of the park.
- (19) **Bayou St. Louis Bayou LaCroix Boat Launch Phase 2 (\$150,000.00)** – Funding will assist the City of Bay St. Louis following progress of Phase 1 which included land acquisition construction of a new double boat launch, parking, bulkhead, and mobile restroom. Phase 2 will include addition of a kayak launch, additional bulkhead, and low-level pier positioned to provide erosion control and stability of the shoreline.
- (20) **Access Infrastructure at the Delta Wind Birds Sky Lake Nature Reserve (\$120,000.00)** – Funding will be provided to the Delta Wind Birds charity organization to enhance visitor access at the Sky Lake Wildlife Management Area Prothonotary Trail in Humphreys County. Enhancements include additional parking area, retaining walls, ADA sidewalks, ADA observation deck, trailhead signage, interpretive signage, benches, and a footbridge.
- (21) **The Mississippi Wild Turkey Initiative, Phase 1: Rehabilitating Riparian Hardwoods (\$110,000.00)** - The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) will be a key partner by deploying on-the-ground biologists from the agency’s Private Lands Program to identify landowners and coordinate projects. These partners will design, coordinate, and facilitate project implementation and will meet collectively multiple times annually for planning and mutually shared project coordination and development. interested landowners are selected through a competitive ranking process accounting for current habitat conditions, landscape context, previous management on the property, all aimed at ensuring project success and maximal benefit of project funding. Selected landowners will be required to provide 25% of the financial costs necessary to carry out project practices on their properties. Habitat treatments will be conducted by private vendors who will bid on geographically “bundled” groups of enrolled tracts. Finally, the effects of our habitat manipulations will be monitored through observational surveys such as the MDWFP’s Spring Gobbler Hunting Survey, camera surveys, or deployment of Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) to detect changes in turkey occurrence on treated properties.
- (22) **Fannin Landing Multi-use Path Extension (\$99,100.00)** – Funding will assist the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District to extend an existing multi-use trail 1,880 feet from the Fannin Landing boat launch recreation area on Fannin Landing Circle in Rankin County to the Arbor Landing neighborhood entrance. The trail would be a 10-foot-wide paved facility conforming to current ADA accessibility standards, The trail would connect the 220 existing and planned residences in the Arbor Landing and Osprey Point neighborhoods with the boat launch recreational facility and the existing 23-mile trail system that the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District currently maintains in Rankin and Madison Counties. Funds awarded for this

- project will be used to match Federal Transportation Alternative Program funds provided through the Mississippi Department of Transportation.
- (23) **Mclvor Shooting Facility Pavilion (\$65,190.00)** - This project will build an outdoor pavilion at the Mclvor Shooting Facility located in Panola County. The new Pavilion would meet the specific needs of the range, range events, and hunter/boater education events. The pavilion would include outdoor seating, electricity/water etc. Matching source funds over \$586,000 from the Federal Wildlife and Sports Fish Restoration Program will be utilized to provide additional funding.
- (24) **Mississippi Landscape Management Plan (\$50,000.00)** – This project administered by the Mississippi Forestry Association will add the Mississippi Alluvial Valley and Northern Gulf of Mexico ecoregions to the ongoing landscape management plan project that covers the two coastal plain regions, providing coverage for the entire state of Mississippi. Develop a Mississippi Landscape Management Plan web portal that provides access to all information that is required to be included in management plans meeting the American Forest Foundation 2021 Standards of Sustainability. Publish the web portal on a public access site open to all landowners, foresters, and natural resources professionals for use with ATFS certification, cost-share stewardship programs, and general land management.
- (25) **Aquatic Passage: Enhancing Waterfront Access through Floating Docks (\$27,220.77)** – Funding will assist the City of Eupora with construction of floating docks to create new recreational access to public waters at White’s Creek Lake Recreation Area. Floating docks are versatile structures that can be anchored in the water and adjusted to changing water levels, providing stable platforms for various recreational activities. The installation of floating docks will provide new recreational opportunities for a range of activities, including but not limited to kayaking, fishing, swimming, and wildlife observation to the existing City Park.
- (26) **Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries and Parks Shooting Sports Scholarships Program (\$24,000.00)** - The Foundation is helping Mississippi's youth make their first step in becoming lifelong, safe hunters, and outdoor recreation enthusiasts by providing these scholarships as incentives for students and their schools to participate in the Archery in Mississippi Schools (AIMS) and Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Sports Programs (MSSP), as well as encouraging students to pursue careers in conservation and/or outdoor recreation. Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund dollars are needed to help incentivize these deliverables. The Foundation is requesting funding from Mississippi Outdoor Stewardship Trust Fund and proposing \$24,000 matching dollars to fund scholarships that will help support the college education of participants in the aforementioned programs. These scholarships will be awarded competitively to students based on their performance at program-sponsored competitions.
- (27) **Spring Lake Restoration Project, Wall Doxey State Park (\$10,000.00)** – This project will allow the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to restore access and recreation to the 40-acre lake located at Wall Doxey State Park near Holly Springs, MS. The project will provide funding to treat Eurasian watermilfoil, an exotic invasive submerged plant that has infested over 80% of the lake, with an approved specialized herbicide. A whole-lake treatment is needed to reopen recreational access to boaters and restore the fishery.
- (28) **ADA Kayak Launch Roosevelt State Park (\$8,750.00)** – This project will provide materials for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to construct a floating

launch facility specifically designed for safe and efficient launching of kayaks and small non-motorized vessels and will be designed to specifications for users with disabilities.

- (29) **ADA Kayak Launch Percy Quin State Park (\$8,750.00)** – This project will provide materials for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to construct a floating launch facility specifically designed for safe and efficient launching of kayaks and small non-motorized vessels and will be designed to specifications for users with disabilities.
- (30) **ADA Kayak Launch Paul B. Johnson State Park (\$8,750.00)** – This project will provide materials for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to construct a floating launch facility specifically designed for safe and efficient launching of kayaks and small non-motorized vessels and will be designed to specifications for users with disabilities.
- (31) **ADA Kayak Launch Trace State Park (\$8,750.00)** – This project will provide materials for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to construct a floating launch facility specifically designed for safe and efficient launching of kayaks and small non-motorized vessels and will be designed to specifications for users with disabilities.
- (32) **ADA Kayak Launch Lake Monroe State Lake (\$8,750.00)** – This project will provide materials for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to construct a floating launch facility specifically designed for safe and efficient launching of kayaks and small non-motorized vessels and will be designed to specifications for users with disabilities.
- (33) **ADA Kayak Launch Lake Perry State Lake (\$8,750.00)** – This project will provide materials for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks to construct a floating launch facility specifically designed for safe and efficient launching of kayaks and small non-motorized vessels and will be designed to specifications for users with disabilities.