



# Greenways Connections

## DeSoto County Greenways and DeSoto Arts Council to Collaborate with Public Art

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HERNANDO, MS (April 9, 2011) –

Recently, the DeSoto County Greenways Committee made plans to increase community involvement and awareness through outreach, education and creative partnerships. Now, a newly formed partnership with the DeSoto Arts Council will help to build awareness of the County's greenways program; increase value for adjacent property development; and articulate the history, identity, culture and geography of the greenways.

Vicky Neyman, Executive Direc-



tor of the Desoto Arts Council, said "this all fits well with DeSoto Arts' mission: To stimulate increased participation in the arts, integrate art into people's everyday lives, advance community support of the arts, and use the arts to affect community unity and changes throughout the county and the surrounding region."

Greenways programs throughout the Country have determined that visually appealing public art of various types and scale could become an important feature. The partnership will oversee the installation of public art pieces that are both artistic and functional, as well as historically significant, site-specific artwork, that can enhance the visual quality and beauty of the DeSoto County Greenways.

Sunny Stuckey, board member and past President of the DeSoto Arts said, "This is an exciting partnership, one that has been on the agenda for some time now. This partnership will have a significant impact for several areas in our county. When people consider moving to our area, generally two primary questions are presented; how is the school system and what type arts are available in the area. These questions are asked simply due to the quality of life it adheres to within a community. It will allow us to employ artist as well as architects, engineers and material suppliers within our community. Additionally, it will create a signature for our county and our greenways. Public art is fascinating and inspiring. This will allow us to attract more visitors as well as provide an economic

impact to our county. For every dollar spent on the arts there is a thirteen dollar return to our community. I am very excited to see this legacy begin to take shape."

"By involving the DeSoto Arts Council we can enhance the aesthetic environment of the DeSoto Greenways program through engaging, unique and high quality public artworks that are compatible with natural settings.

Through DeSoto Arts, we will involve local artisans in the design and installation of the art." Michael Hatcher, Greenways committee chair, said.

"Public art, strategically placed along the greenways, can help explain our cultural and historic sites such as the area where Hernando DeSoto discovered the Mississippi River near the Johnson Creek Greenway offer an unusual opportunity for artistic expression. The Arkabutla Nature Center trails offer an unusual opportunity to create site-specific works that directly engage the landscape and present new perspectives on the natural world while exploring our relationship to the environment and the role of nature in our society" Larry Jarrett, coordinator for the DeSoto Greenways program, said.

[www.DeSotoarts.com](http://www.DeSotoarts.com)

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Larry Jarrett  
DeSoto Greenways  
Coordinator

**"To the artist there is never  
anything ugly in nature."**

**-Auguste Rodin 1840-1917**

## Welcome to DeSoto Greenways Newsletter Connections! By Larry Jarrett

This issue of *DeSoto Greenways Connections* is focused on hiking, walking and outreach efforts that focuses on Greenways promotion and awareness.

DeSoto County has a number of trails open to hiking and walking. In this issue we are including a variety of greenways news and related articles from around DeSoto County, tips on hiking safely, and a special section on wilderness.

DeSoto County will celebrate its first Earth Day Celebration on April 30. Thanks go out to the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors and County Administration for their lead role in helping

us with this effort that will ultimately help to increase awareness for our greenways program and also help to keep our county clean.

We are excited about the possibilities with the new partnership with the DeSoto Arts Council. We hope that including public art as part of our Greenways system will provide an essential role in increasing community awareness and involvement.

We also want to thank Mr. Robert Sayle, DeSoto County Representative with the Yazoo—Mississippi Delta Levee Board for his help in securing the 41

acre parcel that we hope will become an integral part of our Greenways plan.

Our goal is to initiate creative thinking and active engagement of our readers that will ultimately improve our greenways system here in DeSoto County. Whether you are a cyclist, hiker, canoeist, equestrian rider or just want to get outside, DeSoto County Greenways has a lot to offer!

As always, we are open to suggestions and comments regarding content and news articles.

You can email at [desotogreenways@gmail.com](mailto:desotogreenways@gmail.com)

## Leave No Trace Ethics



Human beings put a great deal of pressure on the wild. The seven Leave No Trace Principles are meant to minimize our impacts on nature. DeSoto County Greenways encourages and practices these ethics with all of our outdoor activities. For more information on "leave no trace" go to: <http://www.lnt.org/>

1. Plan ahead and prepare. Know the type of terrain and possible weather conditions you might encounter. Minimize impacts by keeping groups small and avoiding high use times for the trail. Repackage food to minimize waste. Walking single file and avoiding shortcuts will

limit damage to the trail and surrounding ecosystems.

2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces. Focus activity on resilient ground. Surfaces consisting of sand, gravel, rock, snow, or dry grass are durable and can withstand heavy use. Use existing campsites; keep them small and out of sight from trails in order to reduce visual impacts to other users. Walk through mud/puddles to avoid widening the trail.

3. Dispose of waste properly. Be informed about waste storage and disposal. Pack it in. Pack it out! Clean up all trash and leftover food and properly seal all food in airtight containers and store it away from your tent. Also practice "negative trace" by picking up trash left by others. Dispose of human waste in cat holes dug 6-8 inches deep in soil at least 200

feet from any water source. Fill it in and camouflage when finished. Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products. Carry water 200 feet from water sources to wash dishes or yourself. Scatter strained dishwater.

4. Leave what you find. You can look, but don't take. Leave everything that you find in the wilderness where it belongs. Avoid moving rocks, picking plants, and disturbing cultural/ historical artifacts. Take pictures instead; it allows others to enjoy the same experience.

5. Minimize campfire impacts. Keep your campfire small—or go without. Use previously constructed fire rings or mounds. Only burn small diameter wood found on the ground. Do not damage live or fallen trees. Be aware of the level of fire danger of the area. Make sure your campfire is

completely smothered before you leave camp.

6. Respect wildlife. Let the wild be wild. Keep your distance and do not attract or approach them. Never feed animals human food as this disrupts their natural food cycle. Control pets in natural areas and always keep them restrained. At camp, cook away from the tent and thoroughly seal any food/leftovers when finished to ensure not to attract any insects or curious animals like deer, raccoons or other wildlife.

7. Be considerate of other visitors. Show respect for other trail users. Keep voices/noises from getting intrusively loud. Obey any posted trail rules including rights of way. Orient rest spots and campsites away from the trail. Attempt to minimize visual impacts by wearing clothes that are earth tone colors: brown, green, tan or black.



# Spring Hiking in DeSoto County Mississippi

Winter is over and Dogwoods are blooming. That's your cue to explore some of the DeSoto County hiking trails right here at our back door. A few trails and brief descriptions are listed below with more information on our [www.DeSotogreenways.org](http://www.DeSotogreenways.org) web site.



**Coldwater Nature Trail**

## Coldwater River Nature Trail System

The North Outlet Channel Recreation Area provides access to the Coldwater River Nature Trail System. This network of trails encompasses two hiking trails (one trail is 3 miles in length and the other is 5 miles in length) and the Big Oak Nature Trail which is a self-guided interpretive trail.

The area includes pristine bottomland hardwood and pine forests where an abundance of wildlife and native plant species can be found throughout. A self-guided interpretive booklet is available at the trailhead located on the north side of the Outlet

Channel.

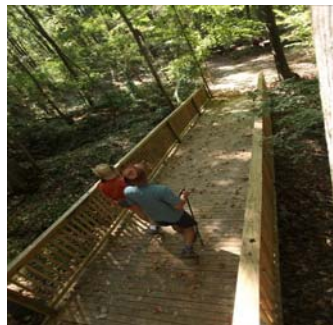
## Swinging Bridge Nature Trail

The South Outlet Channel Recreation Area offers a unique trail experience. The Swinging Bridge Nature Trail is a self-guided trail that includes an old section of the Coldwater River left untouched during construction of the dam.

The Coldwater River was once flowing through this very trail area! Take time to enjoy a walk through this historic trail and learn about the history of the Arkabutla community and how the Corps of Engineers redirected the Coldwater River. Maybe you would like to learn how to identify native plants and wildlife, or just enjoy the tranquility of the trail's azalea garden. Identification panels are placed visibly throughout the trail to help guide you along your walk.

## The Arkabutla Lake Nature Trail (ARK)

The ARK Nature trail is located 10 miles west of Hernando on Highway 304 just west of Fogg Road. Look for signs and parking area on the left just past Panther



**ARK Trail**

Creek. These trails are part of the future Arkabutla Lake Nature and Environmental Education Center and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Visitor's Center, which is a collaborative effort between the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers, DeSoto County Board of Supervi-



**ARK Trails**

sors, Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. and DeSoto County Greenways.

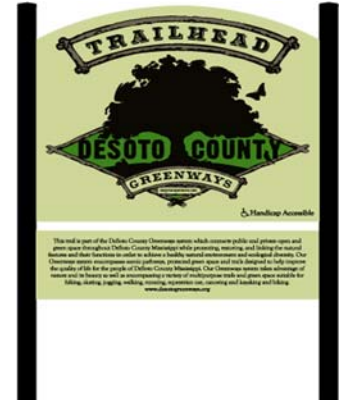
The ARK trails system has almost 2 miles of woodland walking trails. Interpretive signage strategically placed along the trail include plant and tree identification and area wildlife. The last loop features a beautiful view of Arkabutla Lake.

## The DeSoto County Visitor's Center Trail

The project is a collaborative effort between the DeSoto County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, DeSoto County Greenways

and the DeSoto County Tourism Association.

The 1/4 mile handicapped accessible interpretive trail circles the storm water retention pond and features native landscaping. The pet friendly trail offers visitors and residents a place to walk, stretch, picnic or peaceful rest.



## The Johnson Creek Greenway

Currently under construction, the Johnson Creek Greenway runs parallel to and was planned in conjunction with utility easements obtained by Entergy and the DeSoto County Regional Utility Authority. The first section begins at Baldwin Rd and continues to Highway 61. The Greenway, which will initially allow both foot travel and equestrian use, will include interpretive signage, outdoor education classroom, wildlife viewing area and landscaped parking areas including a constructed wetlands.

Future plans include expanding the Greenway from Baldwin Rd to Church Rd and from Highway 61 to the Mississippi river.





# DeSoto County to Celebrate Earth Day 2011

For over 40 years, Earth Day has inspired and mobilized individuals and organizations worldwide to demonstrate their commitment to environmental protec-



tion and sustainability.

Here in DeSoto County, the 41st anniversary of the first Earth Day will be celebrated in DeSoto County on Saturday, April 30, from 8a.m. until noon, on the historic court square in Hernando, MS.

The celebration is being held in conjunction with the opening day of the 2011 Hernando Farmers Market season.

Partners who have been planning the event include the

cities of Horn Lake, Olive Branch, Southaven, Hernando and Walls, DeSoto County Board of Supervisors, DeSoto County Greenways, DeSoto County Soil and Water Conservation, Leadership DeSoto, and DeSoto County Extension Service/Master Gardeners/Master Urban Foresters.

The event will concentrate on three primary areas of interest: sustainable living, energy efficiency, and natural resource conservation.

Sustainable living activities will include local farmers markets, community gardens, home gardening, DeSoto greenways and water trails, and local sports and recreation programs.

Energy efficiency will focus on LEED certified buildings, sites and neighborhoods, home and business energy savings, energy efficient transportation and

new energy technology.

Natural Resource Conservation activities will feature the DeSoto County Stormwater Committee, the DeSoto County Ozone Committee, water conservation, recycling and land conservation activities in the county.

Free exhibit space is open to community groups, non-profits, government agencies, farmers, and environmentally-conscious businesses that want to be a part of the DeSoto County Earth Day Festival. Exhibitors may be grouped together into environmental focus areas such as education, recycling, water, conservation, farming, sustainability, or wildlife. All exhibits should have an environmental focus that is sustainable. This will help us to maintain the growth and quality of the festival. Our aim is a green, yet diverse, free, family event.

If you are interested in being

part of the Earth Day festivities, please fill out the following application form. All applications must be approved by the Earth Day steering committee. Permit to exhibit depends on how environmental your exhibit will be and the number of exhibitor requests we receive.

To exhibit click on the form link below:

[DeSoto County Earth Day 2011 Exhibitor Form](#)

***“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” ~Native American Proverb***

# DeSoto Greenways offers Teacher Grants for Earth Day

Recently, the DeSoto County Greenways Committee made plans to increase community involvement and awareness with more community outreach and education. One of our goals is to reach out to children and families with our Greenways program and related activities.

In support of Earth Day, the

DeSoto County Greenways will be offering TWO \$500 teacher grants to be announced and awarded at the Earth Day Celebration on April 30th on the Court Square in Hernando, MS.

In order to qualify to win, a teacher must submit a brief writing composition on why he or she thinks DeSoto County

Greenways and Earth Day are important and how he or she plans to encourage and/or get as many children as possible to attend. The two best submissions win! And the teacher may use the money in his/her classroom however he or she chooses.

We hope to see a whole lot of

children walking on the square on Earth Day!

Deadline for submission is April 15!

For more information call Deborah Morgan at 662-429-4414



## DeSoto County Approves Expansion of Bass Landing

HERNANDO, MS (April 4, 2011) –

The DeSoto County Board of Supervisors recently voted unanimously to enter into an agreement with the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board to expand the acreage at Bass Landing from 1.5 acres to over 41 acres for the development of a public picnic area and walking trails.

Bass Landing Road, currently the only public access site to the Mississippi River in DeSoto County, is currently managed by the County

Roads Department and frequently patrolled by the County Sheriff's patrol. It is also a critical access point for County Emergency Services.

Preliminary plans in addition to the existing boat ramp would include picnic tables, pavilion, river overlook, interpretive signage, landscaping and trails system.

The Levee Board has determined that the use of a part of its property adjacent to Bass



Mississippi River

Landing will promote the interest of the Levee Board in carry-

ing out its mission and to inform and educate the public as to the importance of flood prevention and control.

A committee will be formed in the near future to further plan and design the proposed park; which, would include: representatives of DeSoto Greenways, County Road Department, Levee Board, Engineering and Design, Sheriff's Department and representative of the County Board of Supervisors.

## Day Hiking Tips and Trail Safety

Hiking isn't typically dangerous and can be a great pleasure, even an adventure. But you're outside, sometimes far from 'civilization' and you can get injured or worse. It pays to heed some common sense while hiking and not end up with a bad experience. Use these day hiking tips and safety tips on your next trip.

- Proper planning is important. Obtain trail maps, guidebooks, trail distance, estimated time required and any other information before you leave on a hike.
- Keep trail maps and guidebooks in a waterproof zip lock bag.
- Check weather conditions and forecast. Consider the ability level of everyone in your group, when choosing a hike.
- It's very important to tell someone of your plans and when you expect to return. In an emergency, this could help with the rescue. Check in with them when you get back.
- Never hike alone. Always go with a friend.
- Don't pack too heavy. Keep

your pack weight as light as possible.

- Take plenty of water. Staying hydrated will help maintain your energy level.
- Start early so that you have plenty of time to enjoy your hike and the destination. Plan to head back so you finish your hike well before dark.
- Hike only as fast as the slowest member of your group. Pace yourself. Don't hike too quickly. Save your energy.
- Stay on trails unless you have excellent navigational skills.
- Never approach wild animals. They may look cute and harmless but they are very unpredictable and can be very territorial and protective. Always be alert and aware of your surroundings. In most cases, the animals are more afraid of us and will run away. Do not attempt to feed wild animals. Most injuries occur when people try to feed them.
- Look out for snakes, spiders and other critters. Watch where you are walking, be careful when picking up sticks

or rocks and look around before taking a seat. Again, snakes are usually more afraid of us, but if they feel threatened or if you make sudden movements they may strike. Stay calm and slowly move away from them.

- Be careful where you are walking. Look out for brush with thorns and learn to identify poisonous plants.
- Keep track of your progress on the map so that you know where you are at all times.
- Pack high energy snacks like granola, energy or fruit bars, gorp trail mixes, fruit, candy, beef jerky, bagels, or pita bread, etc.
- Don't drink soda or alcohol when hiking. They will dehydrate you.
- Use a purification system for water from a natural resource.
- For blisters or hot spots use moleskin or bandages immediately to stop further damage and to relieve pain. Keep your feet dry – change socks often.
- Protect yourself against other

insects such as bees, ants, mosquitoes, flies, ticks, etc. Not only can they be annoying, but they can cause quite a bit of pain and discomfort. Again be aware of your surroundings. Refer to Keeping the Bugs Away for more details.

- Remember to bring sunscreen!
- Bring a whistle on hikes. Three short whistles mean you are in trouble and need assistance.
- Learn to identify the many things you will discover as you hike

*Adapted from Lovetheoutdoors.com*

<http://www.lovetheoutdoors.com/>



## Special Section: Wilderness

—By Larry Jarrett

There's nothing wrong with just wandering along a trail in a park or through the woods, but some of us often feel the necessity of exploring wilderness. Whether backpacking in the tundra high in the mountains of Montana, climbing up "fourteeners" in Colorado, or just watching wildlife while hiking in a national park or forest - this is hiking at its best.

People often ask why do we have wilderness? Why do you go?

Once you experience the beauty, strength and inspiration of wilderness and immerse yourself within its domain there is something about its power that will consume you and keep you coming back. For several years now, I have made it a point to try and visit as many wilderness areas as my schedule allows—no roads, signs, lights or traffic—just wide open spaces, wildlife, mountains, trees and an occasional hiker.

The Wilderness Act became law in 1964. That year, in a nearly unanimous vote, the United States Congress enacted landmark legislation that permanently protected some of the most natural and undisturbed places in America.

The definition of Wilderness as described in the legislation is: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not

remain."

The United States was the first country in the world to define and designate wilderness areas through law, and several countries have followed with similar legislation. The Wilderness Act of 1964 continues to be the guiding piece of legislation for all wilderness areas.

America's wilderness areas are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and National Park Service.



According to [Wilderness.net](http://Wilderness.net) at the University of Montana the areas protected by the wilderness act have grown almost every year and now include 757 areas (109,505,482 acres) in 44 states and Puerto Rico; however, only about 5% of the entire United States is protected as wilderness. Because Alaska contains just over half of America's wilderness, only about 2.7% of the contiguous United States is protected as wilderness.

Here in Mississippi we have three designated wilderness areas—Black Creek, Leaf, and Gulf Islands—all located in Southeast MS and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

*"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."*  
 —The Wilderness Act of 1964

Many people believe that nature has intrinsic value in some way, independent of human needs. For example, natural forests are important to people for visual and aesthetic forest qualities, wildlife habitat, outdoor recrea-



Glacier Wilderness—Montana

tion, water quality and quantity, and contribute to a quality of life in more ways than simply providing income and employment.

Wilderness is one of the prime examples of demonstrating the intrinsic value of nature. The

Wilderness Act recognizes the multiple benefits of wilderness areas including the intrinsic value. Wilderness is often associated with expansive natural landscapes, large trees, free flowing streams or beautiful sunsets. While some people will never visit a wilderness area, they can still appreciate its value. Even from a distance, the magnificent scenery is sometimes compelling, awe-inspiring and humbling. In addition, although we are initially attracted to grand scenery, we sometimes discover the subtle beauty of the small wonders that add to the wilderness experience. Forest aesthetics not only include visual qualities; but also encompasses many aspects of the experience of a landscape including sound and smell.

Nature Writers have long been promoting wilderness set asides. Writers John Muir and Edward

Abbey argued that wilderness has a right to exist for its own sake, independent of whether mankind values it or not. Both writers had the uncanny ability to describe nature, and for them, the natural world was sublime; it was beyond

## Special Section - Wilderness, Continued

beautiful, with a quality of greatness and vast magnitude in physical, moral, intellectual, meta-physical and artistic terms.

*"thousands of tired, nerve shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."*

- John Muir

Results from a recent Forest Ethics and Stewardship Survey indicate that the overwhelming majority of the people agreed that National Parks, wildlife preserves, and certain forests should be preserved just because they exist. Also, a large majority of the overall respondents indicated strongly agreed that it is important to have places where native wildlife and plants are preserved, even if someone never goes there to actually see them.

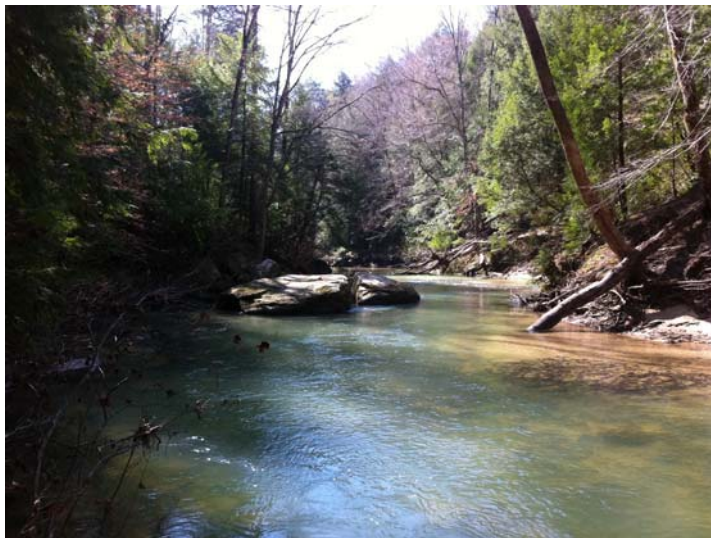
Wilderness contributes to the ecologic, economic and social health and well being of our citizens. In addition to providing "outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation," the Wilderness Act specified that wilderness "may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, education, scenic, or historical value." Overall, wilderness areas

provide a host of both direct and indirect benefits to humans.

### Sipsey Wilderness—Alabama

One of the closest and most popular wilderness areas in the Southeastern U. S. is the Sipsey Wilderness, located about three hours away from DeSoto County, MS in Northwest Alabama. My first visit was nearly 15 years ago and it's still calling me back for a visit at least once a year.

This wilderness area, located in



Sipsey River—Alabama

the foothills of the Appalachian mountains within the Bankhead National Forest, was created in 1975 as part of the "The Eastern Wilderness Act" and is managed by the US Forest Service. The original designated area was 12,000 acres, and in 1988 the area was increased to 25,000 acres—the second largest wilderness east of the Mississippi River. Hiking, Hunting, camping and other recreational activities are

permitted. Horseback riding, and pack stock use is only permitted on the trails designated for these activities. All motorized and bicycle travel are prohibited.

The area was settled in the early 1800's for farming and timber production. It has evolved into a forest of second growth trees and some scattered virgin timber. There are several acres located in some inaccessible gorges that have some old growth trees, primarily hemlock



One of many waterfalls

and poplar. As well, sinkholes, wildflowers, small caves, and scenic overlooks are plentiful.

There are old logging roads located within the wilderness area that have been converted to trails, which are the only exceptions to the "Roadless" area status. The Sipsey, which has been designated a wild and scenic river, runs through the area.



Champion Yellow Poplar

East Bee Branch feeds into the Sipsey. Its canyon is about three-quarters of a mile long, quite spectacular at the end with waterfalls, bluffs, caves, and the Sipsey Wilderness' greatest hit, the Big Tree. This is a popular destination with numerous campsites surrounding this area. The Big Tree, a yellow poplar, stands at nearly 150 feet in height with a circumference at the base of about 25 feet, and is the largest poplar in the state of Alabama.

<http://www.sipseywilderness.org/>

*"A civilization which destroys what little remains of the wild, the spare, the original, is cutting itself off from its origins and betraying the principle of civilization itself. "*

-Edward Abbey, Writer and Naturalist

# DeSoto County Earth Day

DeSoto County Courthouse, 2535 Hwy. 51 S., Hernando, MS

## Children's Activities Free Eco-Fun for Everyone!

puppet show • hands-on nature and eco-exhibits

student art contest • gardening activities • solar displays



Come celebrate DeSoto County Earth Day on April 30 2011. It's a great time to learn about our planet and how to take care of it!

Leadership DeSoto is hoping to get parents involved by developing messages for school children, like the **DeSoto County Stormwater "No Clutter in the Gutter"**. Many children's activities will be offered.



Come out and meet **Sam E Soil** and make edible mud pies!

*Sammy E. Soil  
says:*

*Stop erosion,  
because our food  
can't grow*

*without soil!!*

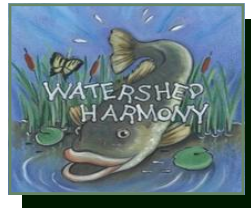


**DCRUA Kids Corner**—An area for kids to find out just what happens to their waste water.

### DeSoto Dewater Bug



**Watershed Harmony** – Musical puppet performance. Audiences of all ages will delight as **Bobby Bass and his River Town friends** share their experiences in environmental stewardship through this toe tapping musical. Please join us on this musical adventure which teaches that each of us can help keep our water clean.



**MDOT Go Green Anti-litter Campaign** - MDOT's "**Myrtle the Turtle**" considers all of Mississippi her home and encourages them to take responsibility to keep their home, Mississippi, clean and beautiful for all to enjoy.



### DeSoto County

### First Annual Earth Day Celebration Children's Event Schedule

8:00 & 11:45 — Anti Litter (MDOT)

8:15 & 10:45 — Sam E. Soil

(DeSoto County Soil & Water Conservation District)

8:30 –9:00 – Watershed Harmony

10:00 – 10:30 — Watershed Harmony

9:15 & 11:00 – Board Game (DCRUA)

9:30 & 11:30 – Ozone Puppet Show (DeSoto County Ozone Action Group & MDEQ)

9:45 & 11:15– Enviroscape (DeSoto County Environmental Services)

### Also...

**Composting • Backyard Conservation**

• **Lasagna Gardening • Recycling**

**Rain Barrels • Green Cleaning**

**Homer Skelton Ford—Energy Efficient Vehicles • And More!**



## Father and Son Team up to Exercise, Have Fun and Spend More Quality Time Together

Doug and Nic Thornton have found a cure for a modern ailment. For parents who worry that they don't spend enough quality time with their children, they might want to try walking to school together. "it's fun!", said Nic, as we walked the mile to Oak Grove Central Elementary from the Thornton home in downtown Hernando. Nic also indicated that walking saves fuel, cuts down on pollution, and gives he and his dad a chance to exercise. But it is clearly the time spent together that is important to both of them.

"Once we walked through the cemetery (Springhill) and looked at the graves. That was inter-

esting," said Nic. Doug also noted that they had ventured through the Hernando Community Garden on the way to school. That is one of the many advantages of walking to school over driving or taking the bus – all those little adventures that give you something to think about or discuss.

It took a little getting used to at first. Not for Doug and Nic, but for those who saw them along the way and thought they might be walking due to a broken down car. "A lot of folks stopped to ask us if we needed a ride," said Doug, a local architect who built the first LEED certified building in DeSoto County and one of the few in

the midsouth. Walking with Nic to school is an extension of the green ethic that spurred him to renovate "green" and walk or bike to many destinations.

Of importance to both Nic and Doug is being outside. Doug mentioned that a person tends to see things differently when walking as compared to driving. Nic said it is just nice to get outside and see the county. Both are thrilled that there will be new sidewalks installed along their walk as part of the City of Hernando's Safe Routes to School Program. Although traffickers along our walk were respectful, sidewalks will make the walk so much safer, as will traffic signals

and crosswalks.

Although two girls were walking just ahead, it is not the norm for kids to walk to school anymore.

Hernando is dedicated to becoming a more walkable and bikable community. "We know walking and biking to school gives kids another chance to exercise and can help reduce childhood obesity," said Mayor Chip Johnson. "Hopefully, the Safe Routes to School project in the Oak Grove Central area will make walking safe enough for parents to feel comfortable with their children walking to school. Watching for school buses and "eyes on the street" can also make the walk safer."

## Upcoming DeSoto Greenways Events

### **Mountain Bike Ride at Arkabutla**

Weekly each Thursday

For all mountain bikers, Stan Cook and others meet at Bayou Point every Thursday at 6:00pm. Contact Stan at stancook76@comcast.net.

### **Hernando Bicycle Club**

#### **Courthouse Ride**

Weekly on Sunday, Saturday  
Meet at the courthouse at the square in Hernando, MS at 7 a.m.  
Route to be determined the morning of the ride. For more information contact: Bo McAnich at 901-299-7940 or HernandoBike@aol.com

### **Horn Lake's Arbor Day "Celebration in the Park"**

9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. April 17, 2011,  
Latimer Lakes Park



### **Earth Day**

**Friday, April 22, 2011**

### **DeSoto County MS Earth Day Celebration**

Saturday, April 30, 2011  
Hernando Court House Square

### **National Trail Day**

Saturday, June 4, 2011



### **National Public Lands Day**

Arkabutla Lake Trails  
Sunday, October 2, 2011

### **Wolf River Conservancy**

Birding Canoe Trip, April 9th  
Dinner on the Greenway, April 30th

### **Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference**

Auburn Alabama on July 21 - 23,  
2011 <http://www.southeasternequestriantrails.com/>

### **Romp on the River**

Tunica River Park  
Saturday October 1, 2011

Please email and let us know about upcoming Greenways related events!

DeSoto Arts Council presents  
**EARTH DAY APRIL 30, 2011**

**High School Student Art Contest  
 at DeSoto County Earth Day Celebration in Hernando Square**

**PRIZE AWARDS:**

**1st Place: \$125**  
**2nd Place: \$100**  
**3rd Place: \$ 75**  
**Honorable Mentions (2) \$50**

**Each High School with a  
 Top 3 Place Award  
 will receive a \$150 bonus!**



**CONTEST RULES:**

- Must be high school student (Gr 9-12) enrolled in DeSoto County: Public, Private or Home School
- **ONE artwork entry per person - UP TO FIVE (5) students per school**
- Prizes will be awarded to artwork with earth day, conservation, or green energy theme
- Scoring is based on Originality, Use of Medium, Composition, Conveyance of Theme
- Frame not required; Mat required for watercolor, chalk, charcoal, pencil, photograph;
- Artwork must be ready to hang (option: you may bring your own easel to display your work); Sculptures must be able to stand on ground/floor
- **Artwork must be delivered to Hernando Court Square, DeSoto Arts' tent by 10:00 a.m. Saturday, April 30th - Judging at 11:00 a.m. - Awards @ Noon**

Prizes announced at Noon at DeSoto Arts Tent on Hernando Square. Awarded art will be invited to show at the DeSoto Arts SPRING SHOW April 30th 5:00—8:00 at the DeSoto Arts Gallery

**In the event of rain—we will exhibit/judge at the Hernando Library 2nd floor**

**SCHOOLS MUST REGISTER ENTRANTS BY APRIL 15**

**Register: [dac@desotoarts.com](mailto:dac@desotoarts.com) Subject: Earth Day**

**Sponsored by a community arts grant from Entergy**

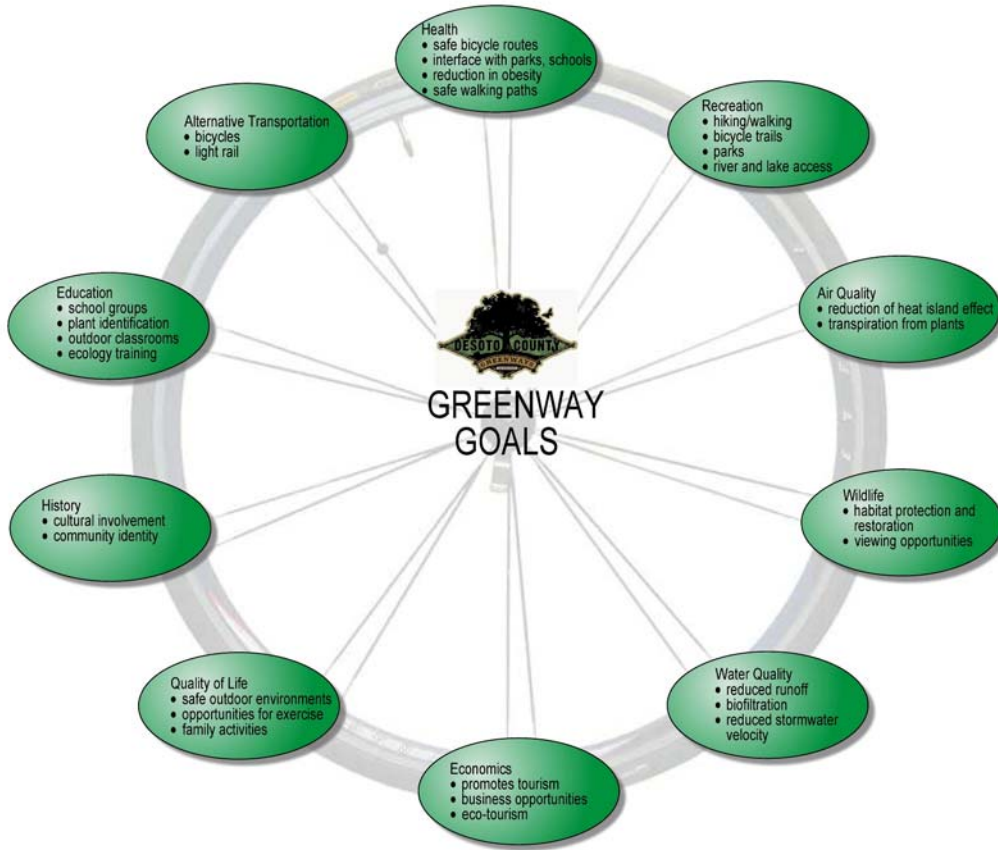
DeSoto Arts Council - 660 W. Commerce St - Hernando, MS

662-404-5458 [www.desotoartscouncil.com](http://www.desotoartscouncil.com)

DeSoto arts is funded in part by the

Mississippi Arts Commission and the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors





**DeSoto County  
Greenways**

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**Experience Nature First  
Hand-Get Outdoors !**



We're on the Web!

[www.DeSotogreenways.org](http://www.DeSotogreenways.org)

[Join us on Facebook](#)



**About Us**

The mission of the DeSoto County Greenways program is to establish a greenway system that connects public and private open and green spaces with sidewalks throughout DeSoto County Mississippi while protecting, restoring, and linking the natural features and their functions in order to achieve a healthy natural environment and ecological diversity.

The DeSoto County Greenways program encompasses scenic pathways, protected green space and trails designed to help improve the quality of life for the people of DeSoto County Mississippi. The Greenways system takes advantage of nature and its beauty as well as

encompassing a variety of multipurpose trails and green space suitable for hiking, skating, jogging, walking, running, equestrian use, canoeing and kayaking and biking.

DeSoto County Greenways operates under the umbrella of the DeSoto County Economic Development Council. The program is supported by state and county elected officials, an advisory council plus numerous public and private DeSoto County individuals. The Greenways Advisory Committee meets regularly and encourages you to get involved to make DeSoto County a better place to live now and in the future. Everyone is welcome to help so call

662-489-9708 or visit [www.DeSotogreenways.org](http://www.DeSotogreenways.org) online to find out how you can help make this plan a reality.



**Join the [DeSoto County Economic Development Council](#) !**

<http://www.DeSotocounty.com/>