



Greenways Connections

DeSoto County Greenways Plans Interpretive Hike and Volunteer Training June 18

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HERNANDO, MS – Explore and Discover the natural history of the Coldwater River Nature Trail System with an interpretive hike and training event for DeSoto County Greenway adult volunteers. This volunteer training program provides the DeSoto Greenways and its partners a means to establish a pool of well-trained adult volunteers to support our mission with high quality training by natural resource professionals. The one day training program is designed to build upon participants' current knowledge about the landscape and natural history of local environments. Participants will learn about the natural processes that formed and affect the landscape around them, the habitats and organisms that

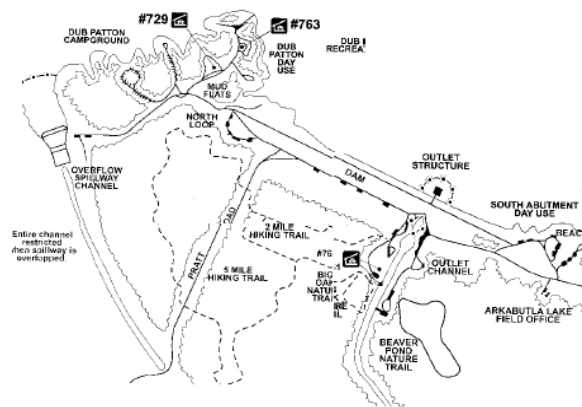
make up and live within the landscape, and key social and environmental issues affecting our community.

passes 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



Wetland along the Coldwater River Nature Trail

The network of trails encom-



Coldwater River Nature Trails

area includes pristine bottomland hardwood and pine forests where an abundance of wildlife and native plant species can be found throughout. We will identify plants and signs of animal life found on the trail. In addition, we will talk about the unique history of the property. The hike will start at 8:30 A.M. We will meet at the picnic area near the spillway below the dam. Information on how to register at the bottom of this article.

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DeSoto Greenways Connections

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Larry Jarrett
DeSoto Greenways
Coordinator



Continued from page 1

This will be a moderate hike and the training will conclude no later than 3:00 P.M.

What to Bring: Closed-toed walking shoes, a water bottle, insect repellent and medication (if necessary). DeSoto County Greenways will furnish snacks, water, educational materials, journal, notebook and pens.

Cost: Free but you must register to attend and the class will be limited to the first 15 participants that register.

For a brief preview, a self-guided interpretive booklet is available for download by selecting the link below. [Download Booklet.](#)

Directions to Arkabutla Lake: Arkabutla Dam is located in North Mississippi west of Interstate 55. The trails can be reached using the Hernando (Exit 280) or Coldwater (Exit 271) exit off I-55.

Welcome to DeSoto Greenways Newsletter Connections! By Larry Jarrett

This issue of *DeSoto Greenways Connections* is focused on equestrian trails and our continued outreach efforts that focus on Greenways volunteer involvement awareness.

In this issue we are including a variety of greenways news and related articles from around DeSoto County, and a special section on equestrian trails.

DeSoto County celebrated its first Earth Day Celebration on April 30. Thanks go out to the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors and County Administration, DeSoto County Economic Council, and the Cities of Hernando, Horn Lake, Olive Branch and Southaven for their efforts.

The work that DeSoto County Greenway does—every day—has many benefits. Clean water, places for people and wildlife to live, breathe and recreate, are just a few. Some of the benefits we don't often think about, because it is less physically tangible, is that DeSoto Greenway's work builds community.

DeSoto Greenways provides "common ground." This edition of Greenways seeks to convey a strong sense of community, built through volunteer activities, educational programs and special events that celebrate open space. It recognizes partnerships that accomplish preservation and stewardship, it tells about the ways that DeSoto Greenway uses the land we

protect to bring people together working collaboratively to play an essential role in increasing community awareness and involvement. We invite you to join us—and consider the many ways that you can get involved.

Our goal is to initiate creative thinking and active engagement of our readers that will ultimately improve our greenways system here in DeSoto County. to offer!

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

You can email at desotogreenways@gmail.com

DeSoto Greenways Volunteer Recognition

DeSoto Greenway volunteers make an important contribution to our work in a variety of ways. For example, at our recent Earth Day Celebration, a DeSoto County Leadership team designed and distributed a brochure that served to increase Greenways awareness and targeted elementary-age Students for 2011 Earth Day Celebration.

The Hernando Green Tigers, a local school volunteer group is working to raise awareness of little things Students can do to improve the environment, and also help with school paper recycling efforts. The Green Tigers, along with Hernando Middle School Students Bailee Pipkin, Shelby Loftin, and teacher Nicole Byford, helped to distribute greenways information at our booth during the Earth Day celebration.



Hernando Green Tigers

Our volunteers multiply the help of our program, and ensure that this important work gets done. The next time you enjoy a DeSoto County Greenway trail think about all of the volunteer efforts that go into caring for the land and what you can do to help!

Our success depends on a community of volunteers that sup-

port special events, and educational programs along the Greenways and in the community.

DeSoto County Greenways especially thanks each of our volunteers for their unique partnership in our mission.



DeSoto County Greenways to add Additional Bike Routes

Hernando- DeSoto County Greenways committee, at its recent meeting, approved a project that involves adding signs along two county bike trails near Walls -Lake Cormorant and along Center Hill Rd just east of Olive Branch.

The contract for installation is expected to be awarded in June, and installation of the signage should be completed by early Fall.

Larry Jarrett, DeSoto County Greenways Coordinator, noted that the bike routes will feature bike signs, the DeSoto County Greenways logo, 3 ft markers and mileage marker signs placed at strategic intervals along each of the bike routes. These two routes add to the three previous bike routes where signage was completed in April of this year.

Jarrett said that "adding signage along existing trails already frequented by area cyclists will

bikeways, greenways and trails available in DeSoto County, as part of the DeSoto County Greenways system.



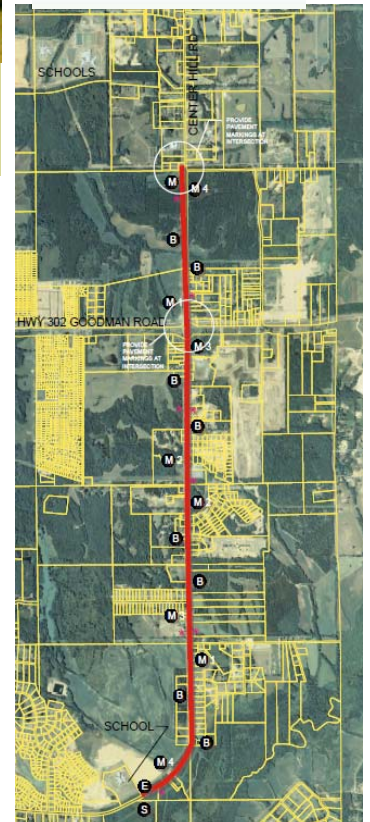
Recently Installed sign on Craft Rd



Old Highway 61 Bike Route

ensure they enjoy a safer and more scenic travel environment and having these types of bike trails also promotes tourism for our region."

"By developing the Center Hill bike route, DeSoto County Greenways is expanding the trail system and providing recreational activities for the eastern residents of the county". said David Baker, Olive Branch resident and frequent cyclist. " This route connects 2 school sites along Center Hill. The northern and southern portions of the route are relatively flat with the middle section providing a challenging hilly section" .



Center Hill Bike Route

The newly designated bike paths are just a small part of the many more miles of the scenic



Special Section - DeSoto County Equestrian Trails

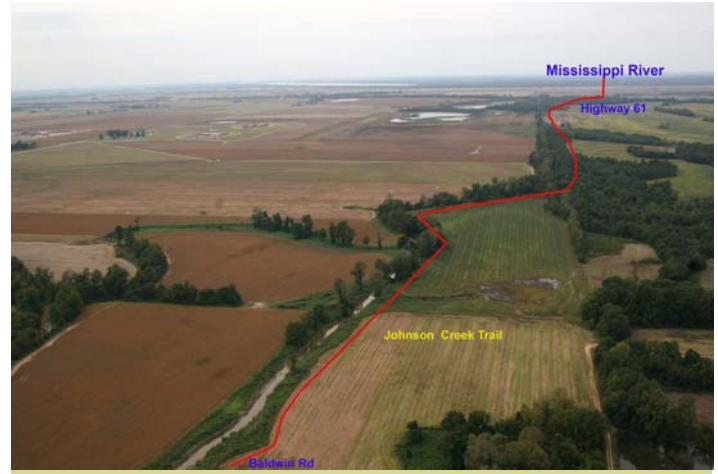
Hernando -

Riding horses on trails is a traditional activity that is part of our trail heritage. Trails have always been a part of America since the first Europeans brought their horses and began to explore. Denise Maxwell, President of the Illinois Trail Riders and trails advocate, in an article written for American Trails said that "until the 1900's there was at least one horse for every five persons counted in the census. Starting in the 1920's the population of horses plummeted until only a few horses remained at the time of the depression. By 1959 the Department of Agriculture could find no more than 3 million horses on the nation's farms and stopped counting them." During the 1970's and early 1980's the trail movement began to take shape and organizers apparently overlooked the horses and the horsemen who had always utilized and kept the trails open. In the late 1990's the Mid America Trails and Greenways group began formation and included some of the Indiana Horse Council members. The rest is history and during the last ten years we have seen a resurgence of horse trails and riders all across the country.

DeSoto County has no shortage of equestrian enthusiasts looking for places to ride. A shortage of public use trails and public lands in DeSoto County makes it even more challenging for riders in our area, which is one of the reasons for constructing the [Johnson Creek Multi-use trail](#). Construction is set to begin this fall on the Johnson Creek Greenway project; which, begins along Johnson Creek on U S Highway 61 and runs easterly along the creek towards the City of Horn Lake.

The trail will include portions of the Entergy Utility easement on the south side of the creek and portions of the Desoto County Regional Utility Authority easement currently under construction on the North side of the creek. Parking areas and trail-heads are planned at Highway 61 and Baldwin Rd during the first phase of construction.

When planning the Johnson Creek Trail with our landscape architects, our goal is to enable accessible, safe, and pleasurable trail riding opportunities with few environmental impacts. [American Trails.org](#) has been a valuable resource for planning the DeSoto County Greenways projects.



Johnson Creek Multi-use Trail

Throughout our region, public and semi-private horse trails are available. For riders living in DeSoto County it's a short drive to the North Cypress non-motorized trail located in Holly Springs National Forest, just East of Oxford. The 3-mile-long loop trail is located in the Upper Sardis Wildlife Management Area. This is the only trail in Holly Springs National Forest that allows horseback riding. The trail is open to all non-motorized uses.

As well, DeSoto county offers a number of private and semi-private facilities that offer Boarding, Training, Horseback Riding, Lessons, Clinics, Riding Arena and Trails:

[Fellowship of the Hoof in Southaven](#) has 85 acres for you and horse to train and work on for a small monthly fee. Their services include Boarding, Training, Horseback Riding, Lessons and Trails

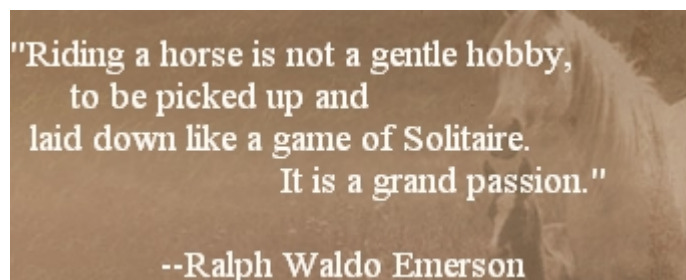
[Hillside Stables in Byhalia, Mississippi](#) offers trail access at two

locations. The Polk Lane property offers Pasture Board and Self-Care Board and consists of 60 acres fenced with three ponds with an additional 140 acres for trail rides. Their services include Boarding, Lessons, Trails, training and riding arena for a monthly fee.

[Rain Tree Equestrian Center](#) in Olive Branch offers trail access. Their services include Boarding, Training, Horseback Riding, Lessons, Clinics, and Trails for a monthly fee.

[Mid-south Dressage Academy](#) located just South of Hernando is a world-class facility dedicated to making the sport of dressage accessible to the mid-south region. They are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and they work with horses and riders of all shapes and sizes. Their services include Boarding, Training, Horseback Riding, Lessons, Clinics, Riding Arena and Trails for a monthly fee.

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Special Section - DeSoto County Equestrian Trails

A number of web sites offer equestrian riders access to valuable information, trail locations, including directions and descriptions. A few of the most popular sites are:

Mississippi Tourism

The Mississippi Development Authority division of Tourism lists a number of trails across the State.

Horse and Mule Trails

Horse & Mule Trail Guide US lists horse and mule trails organized



Metal Art at Clifton Farms

by State and includes trails, campgrounds, trail rides, overnight hosts.

Horse and Travel

Is a directory for horse owners

and horse lovers. It offers a state by state search for horseback riding destinations. Categories include: Horseback Riding, Dude Ranches, Riding Stables, Overnight Stables, Boarding Stables,

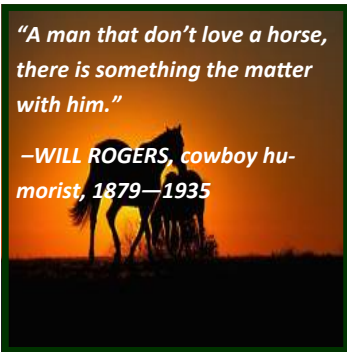
Camping with Horses, Bed and Breakfast, Horse Trailers, Horse Race Tracks, Cattle Drives, Summer Camps, Horseback Riding Lessons, and Horse Movies.

Equine Now

Equine Now is an online classified site featuring horses for sale if you are looking to buy or sell a horse.

American Trails

American Trails is the world's most comprehensive online go-to source for planning, building, designing, funding, managing, enhancing, and supporting trails and greenways.



"A man that don't love a horse, there is something the matter with him."

—WILL ROGERS, cowboy humorist, 1879—1935

Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference set for July 21-23

Auburn, AL-

The annual Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference will be held at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center on July 21 - 23, 2011. The conference will promote and discuss the creation and maintenance of sustainable horse trails, their heritage, and their economic advantages to Alabama and the Southeast.

Equestrian Trails Conference (SETC) is to bring together people who are concerned about the future of the natural and

cultural heritage of the trail experience from the back of a horse.

SETC strives for equestrian self-evaluation, learning, and the development of a conservation force that will influence land-use policies at local, state, regional, and national levels.

While the SETC focuses on the issues surrounding the use of horses on trails in the southeastern United States, the Conference is open to anyone interested in natural resource conservation.

People from outside of the South-

east are encouraged to attend to share their experiences and learn

Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference



more about the southeastern trail issues. In addition, people who are not equestrians are en-

couraged to attend to share their perspectives with and to learn from those who value the opportunity for recreational use of horses on trails.

The conference offers some exciting field trips including a visit to the Tuskegee National Forest and the 14 mile Bold Destiny/Bedford Cash Memorial Trail and also a campfire cooked dinner and social featuring cowboy poetry, and fireside music at nearby Chewacla State Park.

DeSoto Greenways Announces Earth Day Grant Winners

Hernando, MS

Angela Thompson, Hernando Hills Elementary 3rd Grade Special Education teacher, and Randi Sluder, Oak Grove Central Elementary 5th Grade Gifted teacher, are the winners of our DeSoto County Greenways and Earth Day essay contest. The four judges chose their entries out of 45 essays received from teachers all over the County. They will use the money in their classroom however they choose.

Each winner received a \$500 check presented on April 29, 2011.

The grants were made available to the teachers as part of the Desoto County Greenways efforts to increase community involvement and awareness with community outreach and education.

Each teacher submitted a brief written composition on why DeSoto County Greenways and Earth Day are important, and how they planned to encourage their students to attend the Earth Day event. Below is each teachers submission for everyone to enjoy.



Essay Winners : Randi Sluder and Angela Thompson

Wikipedia that the phrase is a plan that "urges people to consider the health of the entire planet and to take action in their own communities and cities." DeSoto Greenways, in its efforts to introduce citizens to the pleasures and benefits of nature with minimal abuse or maltreatment of the environment, is a prime example for my students of problem-solving close to home. My students have already expressed their frustration at being "only kids" and being helpless to do much to protect the earth and its bounties. I have challenged them to support the organizations that are taking steps to safeguard the natural world, and I am guiding them to information that tells how children can make a difference. Earth Day is the one time during the year when most people actually take a moment to consider the current status of our planet and to commit to supporting sustainability. Although only one of my classes will actually be under my instruction on Earth Day, I am urging them all to become part of the Earth Day event in Hernando. They will have the opportunity to hand out the fliers they made promoting wise choices that result in environmental well-being. The gifted students will also be promoting the celebration to the other students at O.G.C.E. My gifted classes are preparing a presentation that can be shown in each classroom, and we are asking that classrooms decorate their doors with messages pertaining to Earth Day. O.G.C.E. wants all youth to be "global guardians." Our students understand that, as The Lorax tells us, "UNLESS someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Randi Sluder
5th Grade Gifted Services
Oak Grove Central Elementary

Desoto Greenways and Earth Day Essay

-by Randi Sluder

I have the privilege and challenge of teaching fifty-seven gifted fifth grade students at Oak Grove Central Elementary. In gifted education in our county, each teacher designs his/her own curriculum around numerous thinking strategies. Our current study is titled Global Guardians. We began the study three weeks ago and will continue this specific unit until the end of the year. I chose to stretch the time line for the study because there is such a vast amount of information that can be explored concerning the problems facing our globe. There are four basic objectives for students during this study:

- to demonstrate consumer responsibility in order to protect our

finite planet,

- to determine ways to enhance the quality of life for all global citizens,

- to determine ways to promote social justice for all global citizens, and

- to discuss the concerns of a diverse and interdependent world that are relevant to the present-day and future lives of our youth.

These students will be the problem-solvers for world issues in the future. I hope that our study will guide them in a positive direction toward this aim. The students have already explored how the globe's "pie" is sliced

unfairly as to distribution of wealth and available food sources, they have explored the message of The Lorax by Dr. Seuss and compared that fictional environmental destruction to what is happening in our world today, and they have discussed the top ten problems facing the world and how those problems might be addressed. Fifth grade students are extremely concerned about "saving" the environment, and I fully intend to capitalize on their interest.

Although the origin of the phrase "Think Globally, Act Locally" is in dispute, my students have discovered from



DeSoto Greenways and Earth Day Essay—by Angela Thompson

Earth Day 2011, Hernando, MS

I think it is crucial to educate students about protecting and preserving our environment. Today's learners are tomorrow's leaders! What children learn from educators and their parents will determine the quality of life we will experience and the eventual fate of our planet. Events, such as the Earth Day celebration in Hernando, allow families to get together with community leaders and witness some of the many ways that even the smallest child can impact the world in which we live. In the classroom, one of the best ways to get children engaged in academics is to make the material relevant to them.

However, spending a day with family and friends experiencing the joys of selecting new produce from the local Farmer's Market can be very enriching. They can solidify social studies lessons as they meet and understand the importance of various types of community members, while supporting the local economy. Their mathematic skills become more relevant when they are allowed to purchase recycled arts and crafts for personal enjoyment. Science content such as renewable and nonrenewable resources is cemented while participating in recycling and tree planting activities. Desoto County Greenways

continues to support projects that help create and maintain environmentally friendly parks and trails for family enjoyment. Supporting groups like this keeps Earth beautiful and supports healthy living. When families and school groups have places like this to visit, they better understand ecology and can be more physically fit when they hike, bike, run, and play in the fresh air. With Desoto County Greenways supporting Earth Day festivities, the whole child is nurtured; just as in our school vision!

I would encourage students and their families of Desoto County to attend the celebration at

school and via social networking. I think using technology is effective and also important to our future, while eliminating potentially cumbersome amounts of additional litter with flyers. I have already joined the group on Facebook and have invited more than 100 families in our county. I hope to see them all there! And who knows...a few extra credit points for finding me there couldn't hurt either!

Angela Thompson

Hernando Hills Elementary

3rd Grade Special Education
Teacher

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 McNich at 901-299-7940 or HernandoBike@aol.com

DeSoto County MS Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 30, 2011
Hernando Court House Square

National Trail Day

Saturday, June 4, 2011



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

National Public Lands Day

Arkabutla Lake Trails
Sunday, October 2, 2011



Wolf River Conservancy Cycle the Greenway

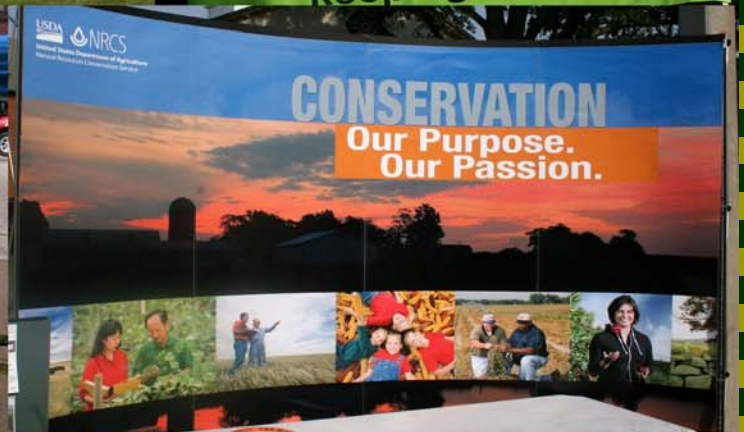
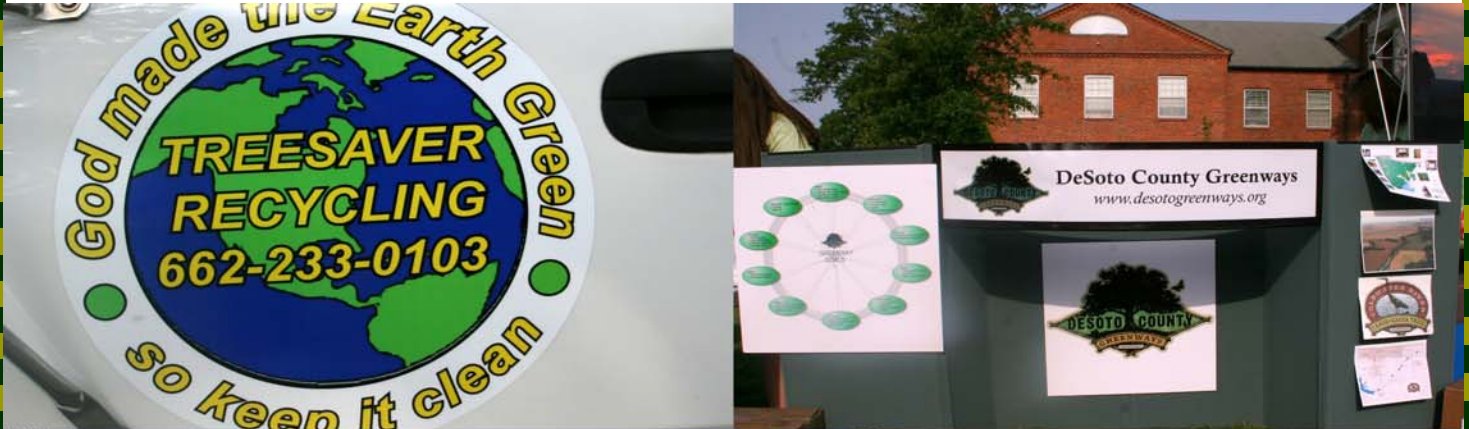
June 5, 2011
Germantown Greenway
7250 Wolf River Blvd.
Germantown, TN

Earth Day DeSoto County, MS

Saturday, April 21, 2012

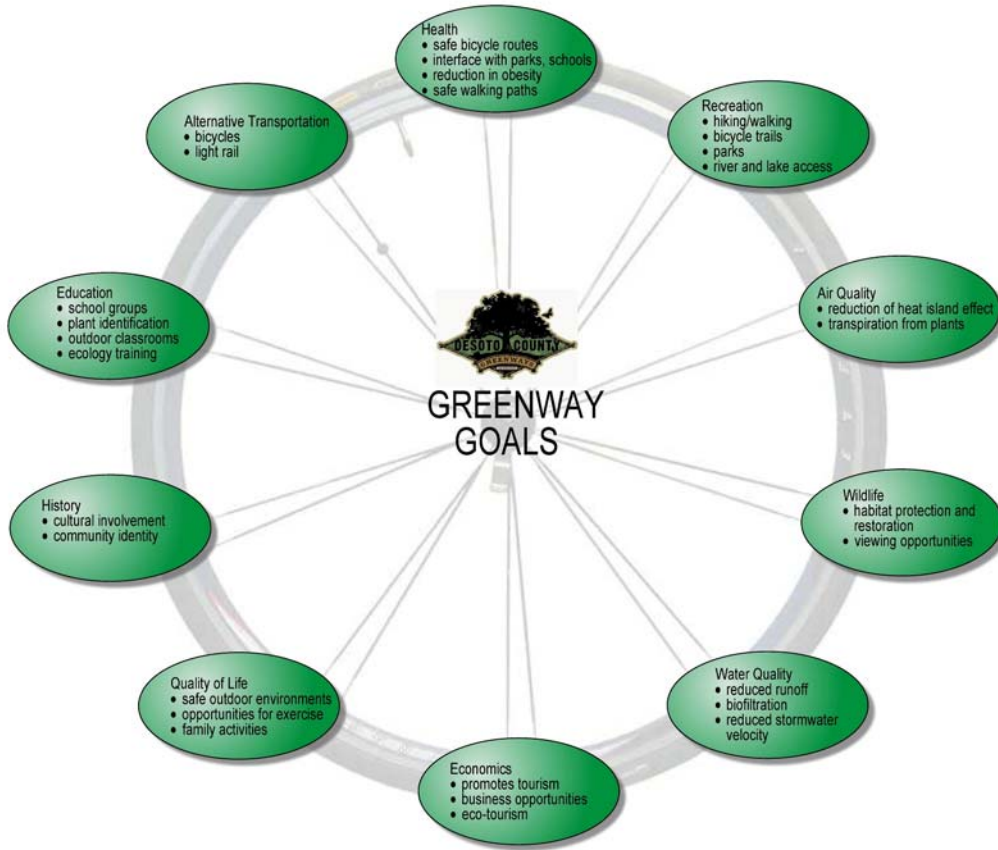
Please email and let us know about upcoming Greenways related events!

DeSoto County Earth Day 2011



DeSoto County Earth Day 2011





**DeSoto County
Greenways**

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

We're on the Web!

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 online to find out how you can help make this plan a reality.



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

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

Call:662-429-4414

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Hernando, MS 38632