Mississippi Restoration Area

Becky Stowe with the Nature Conservancy

WHO WE ARE

The Trustee representatives for the Mississippi Restoration Area are:

- Marc Wyatt, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Jon Hemming, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Dan Van Nostrand, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Michele Laur, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Troy Pierce, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT WE DO

Restoration work in the Mississippi Restoration Area will focus on living and coastal marine resources such as sea turtles, marine mammals, birds and oysters. We will also restore and conserve wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats. Restoration work will also include nonpoint source nutrient reduction to watersheds and will include partnerships to conserve habitats on federal lands. There will be opportunities to enhance recreational uses.

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EARLY RESTORATION PROJECTS

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS	ESTIMATED COST
REPLENISH AND PROTECT LIVING COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES			
Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat Project	This project will provide valuable habitat for small crustaceans and mollusks, as well as juvenile shrimp, crab and oysters by restoring nearshore artificial reefs.	◉	$2.6M
Mississippi Oyster Cultch Restoration Project	This project enhances reefs within harvestable areas in the western Mississippi Sound. Crushed oyster shell and limestone placed over 1,430 acres of existing reefs provides a place for oyster larvae to attach and grow.	◉	$11M
RESTORE AND CONSERVE HABITAT			
Hancock County Marsh Living Shoreline Project	Located within the Hancock County Marsh Preserve, this project will provide for construction of up to 5.9 miles of living shoreline and approximately 46 acres of marsh. Forty-six acres of subtidal oyster reef will be created in Heron Bay. Anticipated outcomes are shoreline erosion reduction, creation of habitat for oysters and other secondary productivity, and protection and creation of marsh habitat. Additionally, the project will help protect the Hancock County Marsh complex that includes freshwater, estuarine, marine, and submerged habitats.	⟳	$50M
Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries	This project will restore reef habitat through the placement of reefs and the use of living shoreline techniques including breakwaters in four bays in Mississippi. Over time, the breakwaters, intertidal and subtidal restoration areas will develop into living reefs that support marine reef habitat productivity. Breakwaters will also reduce shoreline erosion and marsh loss.	⟳	$30M
PROVIDE AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES			
Pascagoula Beachfront Promenade Project	Located immediately south of and parallel to Beach Boulevard on the Mississippi Sound, the project is helping restore lost recreational uses of the shoreline by providing access to the beach. People will access the beach using a 10-foot wide, 8,200-foot pathway that is lighted. Improvements may include features such as shower stations, fire pits, pavilions and other amenities that will be determined at final design.	⟳	$3.8M
Popp's Ferry Causeway Park Project	Visitors to Popp's Ferry Causeway Park will be able to fish, crab and enjoy boardwalks and nature trails designed for viewing the waterfront and marshes. Improvements will include roadway repair and lighting, a concession and bait stand, kayak rentals, construction of fishing piers and boardwalks. Also included is the construction of an interpretive center. The project will give people a way to enjoy what is known as the "best fishing spot without a boat in Biloxi, Miss."	⟳	$4.7M
Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center Project	This project will increase appreciation and awareness of the Gulf of Mexico's natural resources by enhancing and expanding the state-of-the-art interactive science, education and interpretive research center. Visitors to the INFINITY Science Center, located in southern Hancock County, will gain increased access to coastal estuarine habitats, wildlife viewing areas and educational features including marsh ecosystems, Gulf species and restoration monitoring.	⟳	$10.4M

⟳ In progress ◉ Monitoring ✓ Complete