

# PASCAGOULA RIVER

## MISSISSIPPI

**Project Name:** Pascagoula River Water Trail

**Project Type:**

- Education
- Recreation (River Access)
- Youth

**Project Description:** The Pascagoula River Water Trail will promote public use and enjoyment of the entire Pascagoula River and its natural resources. The Pascagoula River is widely recognized as the last large unimpeded river system in the contiguous United States. This 81-mile-long water trail will provide opportunities for people to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Pascagoula River watershed through a system of trails, camping and picnic sites connected via water trail launch points across the entire reach of the river from its headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico.



*National Park Service*

Although many sites support recreational activities along the river, much of the existing recreational infrastructure was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The water trail will help foster a conservation ethic in communities throughout the Pascagoula River Watershed. The Pascagoula River Basin Alliance, working with many diverse project partners, will take the lead in educating citizens about the valuable natural resources of the river and seek to instill a sense of stewardship for these natural resources. The National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program will assist project partners in building both the communication network of agencies and organizations that work on the Pascagoula River and the physical network of recreational trails and open spaces.

**Lead Federal Agency:**

- National Park Service

**Non-Federal Partners**

- Pascagoula River Basin Alliance
- George and Jackson Counties
- Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

**Outcomes for 2012:**

- Engage youth in riparian habitat restoration
- Convene stakeholders through various water trail mapping workshops and outdoor trail scoping classrooms
- Develop working base map identifying opportunities for priority water trail segments, key launch sites and potential interpretive sites along the water trail
- Host community trails workshops as part of the Pascagoula River Education Adventure Fest
- Design and install Pascagoula River water trail directional and interpretive signage
- Develop web-based water trail information portal