



News Release

Contact: Gene McGee, Mayor
601.856.7113 (Office) / 601.856.7819 (Fax)
Mayor.mcgee@ridgelandms.org

New Trail Facility to Officially Open in Ridgeland March 19

Ridgeland, Mississippi (Feb. 15, 2013) - A new facility for the multiuse trail system in Ridgeland will officially open Tuesday, Mar. 19 at 2 p.m. The public is invited to attend an opening ceremony and tour the open-air pavilion that includes two picnic tables, two restrooms, bike rack and bicycle service stand. The facility is located at the trailhead, 860-A Rice Road near the Harbor Drive intersection.

"The pavilion and restroom facility is another example of Ridgeland's commitment to its citizens and guests to provide convenience in utilizing our outstanding trail system," said Gene McGee, Mayor, City of Ridgeland.

"The new trailhead facility is a great addition to the trail," said Ashton Page, President, Jackson Metro Cyclists. "Having a covered pavilion to take a break from the sun and restrooms can mean the difference between going home or staying out for another hour of exercise and fresh air. With improved parking it also becomes a great place to meet friends for a ride on the trail. This should make it easier to encourage beginners to get out on the trail; it takes away some of their excuses."

The 1500 square-foot stained concrete block pavilion features a tongue and groove wooden ceiling under a metal roof, according to Chris Bryson, city engineer. Decorative bike racks, new trash receptacles, fresh landscaping and a resurfaced parking lot will enhance the usability and attractiveness of the facility. The bicycle service stand donated by Jackson Metro Cyclists will include the tools necessary for performing basic repairs and maintenance such as changing a flat tire and adjusting brakes.

The total cost of the project was \$170,401. A recreational trails program grant in the amount of \$100,000 was awarded by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Recycled asphalt was used for the parking area. Waggoner Engineering, Inc. was the engineer and Bulldog Construction, Inc. was the primary contractor.

Opening ceremony speakers include Gene McGee, Mayor, Ridgeland; Jean Caraway, Recreational Trail Program Administrator, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; and Ashton Page, President, Jackson Metro Cyclists. Speakers will begin at 2 p.m. followed by refreshments and a tour of the facility.

Construction began in November 2012. "We wanted to minimize inconvenience to users of our popular trail system, so we chose wintertime for the construction period," Bryson added.

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mailing address: p.o. box 217 • ridgeland, ms 39158
street address: 304 highway 51 • ridgeland, ms 39157
ph: 601.856.7113 • www.ridgelandms.org

Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • Paula W. Tierce, phr – human resources director/city clerk

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