

MISSISSIPPI RESTORATION REVIEW

A publication about MS Gulf Coast restoration news from Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Summer 2016

A strategic science-based approach to **Making Mississippi Whole**

A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR GARY RIKARD

MDEQ and our partners have been working diligently to ensure that BP is held accountable for the Deepwater Horizon disaster. As we look towards the future, we are excited about the projects that will be funded through Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, the RESTORE Act, and the Mississippi Legislature. We are excited for the work that has already been done and are looking forward to the work ahead of us. In November 2016, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will host a Restoration Summit where our community will be able to

get together to learn about existing restoration efforts, as well as provide input on future efforts. In addition to the Restoration Summit, MDEQ will publish a newsletter that will highlight various projects and events. I am looking forward to continuing the great work that has already been done as we **MAKE MISSISSIPPI WHOLE.**

- Director Gary Rikard

Mark your calendar
for the inaugural

RESTORATION SUMMIT

NOVEMBER 15 2016

www.restore.ms/restoration-summit/

NFWF HIGHLIGHT >> **ROUND ISLAND**

The Round Island expansion is a \$12 million project funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). This project is purposefully coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and leverages an additional \$12 million worth of dredge material to create 220 acres of island and marsh habitat. The newly created marsh will become habitat to many species of birds, as well as attract fish and other marine life.

The first phase of this project involves building a sand berm that will then be filled with beneficial use dredge sediments from the Pascagoula navigation channel. Round Island proper has almost been completely eroded away. In fact, the Round Island lighthouse had to be relocated to mainland Pascagoula in 2010.

This project is a collaborative effort between MDEQ, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Jackson County Port Authority, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Construction of Round Island started in March of 2016.



An aerial view of Round Island's sand berm during construction, June 2016.



WWW.RESTORE.MS



NRDA HIGHLIGHT >> INFINITY SCIENCE CENTER

INFINITY SCIENCE CENTER'S BIOME BOARDWALKS ARE NOW OPEN!

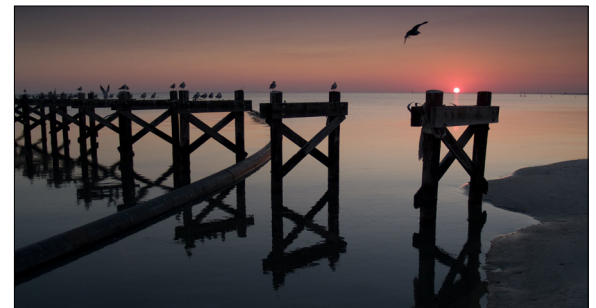
Guests are invited to explore over 1,400 linear feet of boardwalks, which are shaped in an analemma – which is a diagram showing the sun's position in the sky at various times of the year. It's also the symbol for INFINITY. The Biome Boardwalks feature 2 observation decks and a woodland aggregate pathway that allow visitors to meander through a variety of natural habitats including pitcher plant bogs, coastal swamps and lowland pines. Guided tram tours will soon be offered down INFINITY's Possum Walk Trail. The 7-mile excursion onboard an eco-friendly electric tram will share the history of the area including former communities that inhabited the region prior to the advent of the space program. Guests will learn about coastal estuarine habitats, invasive species and the role that INFINITY plays in Environmental Monitoring and STEM education.

For more information, visit www.visitinfinity.com.



RESTORE HIGHLIGHT >> MULTIYEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP) was approved by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in May 2016. The following projects were listed on the MIP: Stennis International Airport Hangar, Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion, Improved Fiber Optic Infrastructure, Mississippi Aquarium, Jackson County Corridor Connector Road – Phase I, Work-Ready Community Program, Accreditation Support for William Carey University School of Pharmacy, Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Program, Strategic Stream Restoration, and Planning Assistance for Project Management System and MIP Amendment Development. These projects total \$54.1 million. All of the projects listed on the MIP have entered the grant application phase and funds will be awarded following approval of the grant applications by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.



We're updating our website!

Visit
WWW.RESTORE.MS
for up-to-date information
on all restoration projects.

