

BENEFITS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The benefits of this project will help to enhance the quality of life in and around the City of Natchez - Adams County by providing the public with a means to access the Mississippi River frontage, recently reclaimed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This area has not been presently available, so with the creation of a river trail, the newly reclaimed area can now be used for the first time. Additionally, other areas of the river trail, mainly the middle tier and the lower section that will utilize a timber walkway, will be usable once again since these areas are currently highly vegetated. The historic downtown trails would also present the opportunity to explore Natchez's rich heritage and history as never presented before. The creation and daily use of these trails would help maintain the area and preserve the historically significant areas along each trail. This project would be beneficial to the community in terms of offering a wide range of recreational activities that expands the opportunities for public emphasis on health, fitness, and education of our visitors and residents. A centrally located pedestrian/bike trail for walking, running and cycling would greatly improve the health and well being of our residents by assisting the ongoing campaign to combat obesity and encourage regular exercise.

Given that Natchez is an international destination for tourist and visitors, these trails would attract more tourism activity to our area resulting in increased commerce for the City of Natchez and State of Mississippi. The proximity of these trails with historic downtown coupled with the Mississippi River creates yet another reason to visit and enjoy Natchez. Bringing in people to the downtown area helps the local economy. Natchez has always been considered a walking city due to a dense number of historical properties to view and with the addition of these trails, reemphasizes the advantages of not driving your car thus creating congestion and air pollution, but walking and cycling instead. In effect, this project is a prime candidate for promoting intermodalism. This project would also serve as an educational opportunity to learn about Natchez and experience its tradition and history as never before. With the use of signage, brochures and properly spaced kiosks describing the historical, archaeological, natural, and geographic significance of each trail, the education process can begin.

Public support is wide spread locally and is gaining momentum with area businesses. This project has been created by the trail's committee of the Natchez Adams County Community Alliance with strong attendance via working committees with the Natchez Adams County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Natchez, the Historic Natchez Foundation, the Natchez Downtown Development Association, the Convention & Visitors Bureau, Dunleith Plantation and other private entities. It is realized that this project has great potential as an economic tool as well as physical fitness, outdoors, and educational.

Copies of support letters are enclosed as Attachment D-2.

ATTACHMENT D-1: NOTABLE BENEFITS

1. Physical Fitness
 - Jogging
 - Walking
 - Bicyclists
 - Skating

2. Outdoors
 - Wildlife Observation
 - Photography
 - Family Outings
 - Site Seeing
 - Fishing
 - Weddings
 - Romantic Get-a Ways
 - Sports

3. Educational
 - Outdoor classroom for families and schools
 - Archeological Sites (Natchez Indians)
 - Historical Sites (National Landmarks)
 - Geological Formations
 - Landscape (MS River, Natchez Bluffs, Downtown)
 - Architectural Sites

4. Economical
 - Revitalization of Historic Natchez Under-the-Hill District
 - Promotes Commerce and Trade with local Merchants
 - Incentive for Developers to invest with Natchez
 - Trails adjacent to Convention Center
 - Promotes Tourism
 - Increases Marketability