

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Goal: The City of Natchez, the Natchez Adams County Chamber of Commerce, the Natchez Downtown Development Association, the Historic Natchez Foundation and the Trails Committee of the Natchez Adams County Community Alliance desires to have available a combination walking and bike trail located directly in beautiful historic Natchez Downtown. These groups of community minded citizens have come together to undertake an ambitious goal, thus by doing so, will create a healthy, informative and enjoyable way to experience Natchez in the heart of it's historic districts. This project will expose to visitors as well as to locals a recreational opportunity to enjoy the environment, learn and appreciate the community's local history and provide fitness at the same time.

General Description: The project will consist of two (2) distinct trails, the River Front trail and the Historic Downtown trail. Both trails will originate at the Gazebo, located on the Old Spanish Promenade Ground adjacent to Broadway Street on top of the Natchez Bluffs. These two main trails will consist of multiple routes that traverse numerous areas in the central business district, the riverfront and surrounding historic districts that emphasize points of environmental and historic interests along each route. Each trail will point out numerous national historic landmarks. An additional feature of the trails is a Museum of Streets that will display informational kiosks containing "before" and "after" photographs of period streetscape scenes for the pedestrians to observe along each trail. This Museum of Streets concept will show a glimpse of the past viewed by vintage, turn of the century photographs as compared to the present as seen from the users vantage point. All trails point out the numerous national historic landmarks abundant in the area along each route. Each trail route will be identified through a series of color coded emblems in the sidewalk located at key locations of specific interest that correspond to the informational brochure and kiosks. All routes will converge back at the Gazebo on top of the historic Natchez bluffs. The trails will utilize existing sidewalks and lighting where possible. Modifications will be made to existing sidewalks where changes are required. For example, existing sidewalks along the bluff would be widened to a width of ten feet to accommodate bicyclists. Trails where existing sidewalk is not presently available would be constructed of a combination of concrete, asphalt and/or crushed limestone with rustic wooden borders and planted landscape. Where new lighting is required, it will consist of period style lighting designed to match that of Historic Under the Hill. Each trail will furnish informational brochures that have the potential to be upgraded to audio. These brochures will be developed to inform the users of the many items of interests in the route, the Museum of Streets, and the particular route they are on. A combination of pedestal mounted kiosks or kiosks mounted on building facades will inform the travelers of what our city once looked like as compared to the present. These kiosks will also describe the historical, archaeological, natural and geographic significance of the immediate area. Restrictions to bicyclist may be applicable to certain reaches of trails that may involve wooden steps. All sections are open to walking. All trails will be clearly marked by number on a map as presented in the brochure. Sidewalk directional arrows with corresponding map numbers will allow users to easily reference each point of interest. Users of the trail can enjoy a self-guided walking/bike tour that will serve the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Restrooms and rest stops will be made available at certain locations. Parking is available adjacent to Broadway Street. Right-of-Way and/or easements required for this project are located on existing City properties with the lone exception

of the area of the timber walkway. Verbal approvals to obtain easements have been acquired. Total length of all trails is 5.6 miles.

Description of the River Front Trail: The River Front trail will consist of three (3) separate trail routes each with its own unique characteristics. Although these three trails begin as one at the Gazebo on the top of the Natchez Bluffs, they transform into separate routes, with its own elevation levels. As compared to each other, these routes offer drastic elevation differences utilizing the existing topography of the bluffs. As you leave the Gazebo and descend down Roth Hill road, you enter the mid level tier, which offers the greatest chance to enjoy the outdoors. This mid level route will be located on a plateau surrounded by native wildlife and vegetation. This area is relatively undisturbed and has been considered a wild life sanctuary. Leaving this route, users arrive at the lower level. The lower level traverses and is immediately adjacent to the Mississippi River and offers the closest view of the river. As it follows the rivers edge, it will eventually become a twelve-foot (12') wide timber walkway as it meanders through a low lying wooded area. Then, one ascends Learned Mill road and enters the upper level along the bluff's brow. This route of the River Front trail, that returns back to the Gazebo, will afford the greatest opportunity to view the mighty Mississippi River as a whole, a view unparalleled by any other vantage point, as well as skirt the edge of the city's historic downtown. Relaxation areas, kiosks and shaded benches will be furnished for the entire length of the walkway plus designated lighted areas for safety and security will be provided. The lower and upper route will provide restroom facilities as well.

Description of Historic Downtown Trail: This trail will be comprised of two (2) distinct trail routes for use by both tourists and area residents. The north section will be labeled the Green route and the south section will be called the Blue route. These trails will cover the main downtown area from Broadway Street at the Mississippi River bluff to Martin Luther King Street, and may be walked in segments or in total by following color coded arrows which lead walkers through a self guided tour complete with kiosk marked points of interest. The trail routes will be identified by color-coded directional arrows marked on the sidewalks. Each trail will have numerous informational kiosks at the beginning and along the trail. The information on the kiosk will include the trail route, maps, the Museum of Streets and their locations, and other public events information. The mileage distance of the Blue route is 1.50 miles and the mileage distance of the Green route is measured at 1.46 miles. Corresponding brochures will be developed to map out the two (2) trail routes, locations and lengths. The brochures will be placed at the Visitor Center, the Convention Center, and other area locations. An additional feature of the trails is a Museum of Streets that will display informational "before" and "after" photographs of streetscape scenes for the pedestrians to observe along each trail. Brochures will be developed to inform travelers of the many points of interests.