



George County Board of Supervisors
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Lucedale opens new Nature Trail this Saturday, March 30

Lucedale's newest nature trail- the Greenway Preserve- will officially open to hikers and walkers this Saturday, March 30 at 10 a.m. at the Lamar Street entrance. The Greenway Preserve Nature Trail is the latest edition to the City's trail system which follows Depot Creek.

"We appreciate all the hard work of the volunteers and we just want folks to come and enjoy the peaceful trails or simply sit and listen to the birds and wildlife in the area," explained Dr. Dayton Whites, Greenway Preserve Co-Coordinator.



Following the ribbon cutting, Cub Scout Pack 525 will host guided tours highlighting birds, animal habitats, and water features. The Greenway Trail ties directly into the City Park trail, features topography changes, trail signage, and a lookout bridge which crosses over Depot Creek.

"The County was proud to partner with Greenway Preserve organizers to help with the construction of the trail's bridge and signage in time for the grand opening," Board President Kelly Wright explained. "I've walked this trail and the volunteers deserve all of the credit for this great recreational addition to our County."

The City of Lucedale will be providing free shuttle service starting at 9:30 a.m. from George County Regional Hospital with stops at Depot Creek Pavilion, Lucedale City Park, and Lamar Street Greenway Preserve Trailhead (site of the ribbon cutting ceremony).

Liz Smith-Incer of the National Park Service – Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program says, "This is a great way to get kids and people of all ages reconnected to their natural world. The Greenway offers a close-to-home place to exercise."

To request more information about the Lucedale Greenway Preserve Ribbon Cutting ceremonies call (601) 947-2755.



Cutline:

Supervisor Kelly Wright and Dr. Dayton Whites cross the lookout bridge on the new Greenway Preserve Nature Trail. The trail officially opens on Saturday, March 30 at 10 am.

Trail History:

Thanks to the great vision of retired Judge Bill Bailey and his enthusiasm for getting the children of Lucedale reconnected to their great outdoors, the Lucedale Depot Creek Greenway was opened in 2003.

Judge Bailey, working with Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, Mississippi Department of Transportation, the Luce Family and the City of Lucedale, created a community space that offers handicap and woodland trails, a large educational pavilion and two small ponds for fishing accessible via an elevated boardwalk. While hiking along the paths, visitors can enjoy viewing, turtles, cranes, frogs, duck and migrating birds of all types.

Building on Judge Bailey's vision, the City of Lucedale and George County received funding from the Department of Marine Resources to preserve an outstanding natural area, the Lucedale Greenway Preserve, that includes two spring fed streams, over 20 species of large hardwood and pine trees, habitat for all sorts of birds and wildlife and trails accessing rolling hills and creek lowlands.

