Lee Hinson, Board Chair
Diana Threadgill, President
connecting people to the great river

www.msriverTN.org

Jim Fullen Ramp, Lauderdale County
Mission Statement:

To identify, conserve and interpret the region’s natural, cultural and scenic resources to improve the quality of life and prosperity in West Tennessee.
Milestones and Awards

2002
Initial concept to create a Mississippi River Corridor in Tennessee

2006
Conceptual Master Plan

2007
MRCT receives non-profit designation from IRS

First Place – Communications and PR Campaign

2008
Environmental Systems Enhancement Plan

2008-09
Corridor Management Plan

2009
National Scenic Byway Designation for the Great River Road- TN

2010/11
Pilot Award – MS River Parkway Commission
PRIMARY ROLES OF THE MRCT

Champion for Corridor Asset Creation & Enhancement

Initiator for Corridor Economic Development

Primary Marketing Resource for the Mississippi River in Tennessee

Developer of Educational & Public Outreach Programming for the Corridor
Concept

Unify the assets into a single product recognized as an international, national and regional destination, which will provide a major economic stimulus, thus enhancing the quality of life within the Corridor and the region.
Seven Project Categories

• Economic Development
• Transportation and Infrastructure
• Land Conservation
• Recreation
• Heritage Development and Cultural Amenities
• Health and Wellness
• Education
The Mississippi River Corridor Tennessee Incorporates Six Counties

Obion
Lake
Dyer

Lauderdale
Tipton
Shelby

Fishgap Hill Overlook
Obion County

Discovery Park of America, Union City
PARTNERS: Walton Foundation, Ritchie Smith Associates, USFWS & TWRA
Lake County: $1.5M NSB Grant for a New Visitors & Interpretive Center at Reelfoot Lake State Park
• Connection to existing Boardwalk into natural area
• New 3500 SF Interpretive Center with overlook through natural area to lake
• Exterior Interpretive area – open at all hours and full of natural exhibits
• Support Areas/ Administration/ Mechanical/ Receiving Areas/ Exhibit Storage/ Toilets
• Renovated Gathering Building/ New metal roof/ meeting area enlarged/
  New Outside Patio
• Demolish existing exhibits building and create a new arrival area with covered connector from existing spaces to new exhibit area
• Create new main entry for Gathering Facility
• Enlarge Parking area and create new main entry onto TN-21/22
• Arrival Plaza/ Sidewalk

**Proposed New Interpretive Center**
Reelfoot Lake State Park
Tiptonville, Lake County, TN

PARTNERS: TDOT, NSB, TDEC - State Parks & ANF Architects
Dyer County: River Center

PARTNERS: TDEC Recreational Trails Program, USDA, Walton Family Foundation & MRCT’s Dyer County Task Force
Lauderdale County
An Environmental & Economic Study of the Bottomlands

THE STUDY’S MISSION

UTILIZING LAUDERDALE COUNTY’S MISSISSIPPI RIVER WETLAND ENVIRONMENT AS AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSET
Lauderdale County

PARTNERS: The McKnight Foundation, A2H Engineers & Architects, Mississippi River Trust, American Society of Ecotourism & Memphis Regional Design Center
Ft. Pillow State Historic Park

MRCT has received two grants to update and redevelop the exhibit space in the lobby area of Ft. Pillow State Historic Park.

Partners: Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, National Scenic Byways & TDEC Tennessee State Parks
Development of bike excursions from Memphis to Randolph Bluff on the Mississippi River Trail.

**Partners:** Dixon Hughes Goodman, FedEx, Memphis Area Association of Governments and TN Department of Tourist Development
Shelby County

Surveyed the 50 miles of MRT in Shelby, rerouting sections and adding a new southern connection to the State of Mississippi.
Harahan Bridge Project
Loosahatchie River Bridge
Making New Bike/Ped Connections in Shelby County
Harahan Bridge Project
Shelby County Partners
Hyde Family Foundations, FedEx, Shelby County Government, Sustainable Shelby, John & Estie Sheahan, The Harahan Bridge Project & the Mississippi River Trail
Lower Mississippi River Resource Assessment (LMRRA)

The purpose of the study is to develop recommendations for:

- the collection and use of information needed for river-related management;
- the planning, construction, and evaluation of potential restoration, protection and enhancement measures to meet identified habitat needs;
- potential projects to meet identified river access and recreation needs.

Partners:
Led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and sponsor The Nature Conservancy with partner entities Mississippi River Corridor-Tennessee, Audubon Society, Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee, Delta Wildlife, Mississippi Wildlife and Quapaw Canoe Company.
Economic Impact

The Economic Impact of MRCT will have a monumental influence on the region for generations to come.
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OVER $6 BILLION

Based on a total investment of $70 million over 20 years
This equates to a payback of $85 for every $1 invested