

Photo caption: Jon Bond, Stone County Engineer (left) and Duncan Hatten, Chairman of the Stone County Board of Supervisors, examine a map of the Red Creek Watershed at the Partnership's first public meeting on June 2.

Building a Watershed Partnership for Red Creek

At its first public meeting, the Watershed Partnership for Red Creek, sponsored by the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain, asked Stone County residents how they envisioned the future of Red Creek. In an energetic after-dinner discussion, and through questionnaires, The Land Trust and the Partnership received an enthusiastic response from Stone County residents who clearly love Red Creek. Concerns were expressed about water quality, erosion, and protecting the sandbars, fish and wildlife. Residents also wanted to combine better public access to the Creek with an educational program that would make sure Red Creek receives the care and respect it needs to stay clear and cool, for people and wildlife alike.

The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal plain has facilitated a grant from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to help Stone County achieve its goals for the Creek. The steering committee and the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal plain invite the public to an open forum on September 21 to discuss the implementation of the preliminary set of goals, and to add to them.

Maybe you remember floats down the creek, or perhaps you and your family sometimes picnic on a sandbar and show the children how the sand "woofs" under their bare feet. Or you may just enjoy the peaceful view of the Creek from many bridges in Stone County. However you appreciate Red Creek, please come share your insights about how to keep it healthy and beautiful.

Join us for dessert and discussion, 6:30-8:30 on Thursday, September 21, at the Stone County Fairgrounds.