

Coastal Georgia Greenway
Liberty County Meeting
Chamber of Commerce / Development Authority Offices
Tuesday, June 20, 2007 2-4pm

Meeting summary

10 were in attendance

Status of Coastal Georgia Greenway Trails in Liberty County

- Jo Hickson presented plans of the Coastal Georgia Greenway trailhead sites in Liberty County including: LeConte-Woodmanston; Riceboro Creek she also discussed the Cay Creek Wetland Center (currently closed by the City of Midway due to fire damage to the boardwalks). She mentioned the Geechee Kunda Museum as a potential trailhead as well.
- Currently there is \$34,141.94 dedicated funding for the LeConte-Woodmanston trailhead. The project was bid, but no takers.
- The Riceboro Trailhead was also bid, but due to a need to include minority contractors, no bids were awarded.
- Cay Creek Wetland Interpretive Center: a coastal incentive grant was awarded in 03-04 and 04-05 for \$25,000 each. I will check to see what funds remain in the DNR accounts for this project.
- Jo announces that the Gullah-Geechee Heritage Corridor has been designated by congress. A board of advisors will be appointed by NPS this fall. Liberty County has significant Geechee heritage sites, including Geechee Kunda.
- Jo talks of Highway 17 as corridor for heritage and eco-tourism.
- Jo describes the Midway Master Plan and mentions that the proposed Visitor Center off of I-95 needs to be located on the SW (vs. the NW) side of the intersection with US 84.

Jo Hickson then led a facilitated discussion including small group sessions.

- Top reasons for attending the meeting:
 1. Existing (not constructed) projects: LeConte-Woodmanston TH; Riceboro Creek TH; Cay Creek Wetland Interpretive Center.
 2. Alternative Transportation
 3. Quality of Life
 4. Learn what it (the CGG) is about

Jo reviewed our existing To Do list:

- Build the trailheads already designed
- Seek Funding for Phase II of the Cay Creek Trailhead and for the equestrian route along SR 119
- Build support in Liberty County
- Seek funding for trail through Midway

Other Projects / Tasks

- Communicate with City and County about alternative transportation and coordinate with their existing plans
- Need Midway and Riceboro involvement
- Integrate with Hinesville: 84, 119 or 196
- Tie identified trailheads into the "Liberty Trail" driving tour
- Rails to Trails south of Riceboro to McIntosh

Achievable goals for the next 2 years

- Construct LeConte-Woodmanston Trailhead – Liberty County

- Construct Picnic Pavillions at Riceboro Creek Trailhead - Riceboro
- Re-construct (due to fire damage) and finish construction of boardwalks at Cay Creek Wetland Interpretive Center – Midway
- Integrate Geechee Kunda into a CGG trailhead

LeConte Woodmanston

Challenges

- Project is too small to get a contractor's interest
- See challenges for Riceboro Creek re: minority participation

Strategies

- Need to group construction of this project with construction of other trailheads, to get contractor interest
- Connect to Geechee Kunda via Sandy Run Road
- Connect via equestrian trails: Proposed visitor center SW of I-95 at Cay Creek Road; Cay Creek Wetland Interpretive Center via Charlie Butler and Cay Creek Road; Riceboro Creek Trailhead via Cay Creek Road, crossing at SR 119 and proceeding to Barrington Ferry Road then return to trailhead; Camp Blue Heron (Boy Scout Camp) via Sandy Run Road to ab. Rail corridor south to LeConte-Woodmanston; Brairbay Park via Barrington Ferry Road south to LeConte-Woodmanston. LeConte-Woodmanston via Sandy Run Road to US 17 then (south?) to Geechee Kunda. ([See This Google Earth Map](#))
- Connect via water trails: Cay Creek Wetland Interpretive Center to Riceboro Creek Trailhead on US 17

Riceboro Creek

Challenges

- Legal / procedural issues (need minority participation) County Engineer, Trent Long has bid the project 3 times with no takers
- Raise funds – TE application? Recreational Trails Grant?
- I just spoke with Wright Aldridge, Moreland Altobelli, GDOT project Manager about this TE project: PI 0000(538). There is \$136,820 remaining in the project!
- There needs to be a Letter of Agreement between Liberty County and Chatham County (Sponsor) to allow Liberty County (or Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission) to manage the project for construction
- Final Construction Plans need to be submitted to Wright Aldridge for GDOT review and approval. A Certificate of Ownership needs to be executed by the County Attorney. GDOT needs to authorize the County (or LCPC) to bid the project.

Riceboro Creek

Strategies

- Do "in=house"? (NO according to GDOT)

Riceboro Creek

Strategies

- Need to group construction of this project with construction of other trailheads, to get contractor interest. Need to address required minority participation.
- TE application?
- Recreational Trails Grant? With the funding in hand (\$34,141.94 + \$25,000 +/- CIG) as the local match, Liberty County (or LCPC) could apply for \$100,000 additional funds for construction of trailheads and equestrian facilities in Liberty County.

Cay Creek Wetland Interpretive Center

Challenges

- Boardwalk is burned (extent is unknown)
- Center is closed (need volunteers to take on the site to keep it open to the public – according to the Mayor of Midway)
- DNR Coastal Incentive Grant was awarded, but not used yet
- Handicap access

Strategies

- Communicate with Midway about whether they have insurance for burn damage
- Communicate with GDNR about authorized Coastal Incentive Grant funding for the project (\$25,000 - \$50,000?)

What opportunities to collaborate

- Liberty Consolidated Planning Commission
- Geechee Kunda
- Liberty County, Riceboro and Midway
- Coastal GA RDC
- Coastal GA RC&D Council
- East Coast Greenway Alliance
- The Center for a Sustainable Coast
- Liberty Development Authority / Liberty Trail
- Liberty County Convention and Visitors Bureau (new 501 c (3))
- Liberty Chamber of Commerce
- Keep Liberty County Beautiful
- Bike / hike / equestrian clubs

What opportunities might we address together?

- Communicate with Riceboro and Midway
- Provide non-motorized citizen access to trails
- LeConte-Woodmanston Trailhead
- Landscaping and beautification
- Gullah/Geechee National Heritage Corridor
- Geechee Kunta
- \$ to completion
- New Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Work with GDOT Maintenance Dept. to pave bikable shoulders on US 17 between Riceboro Creek Trailhead and Geechee Kunta Trailhead
- Designate Riceboro Creek and Geechee Kunta Trailheads to the ECG

Herb Hiller provided an overview of the trails movement including the development of the rails to trails movement and the subsequent development of the East Coast Greenway Alliance, organized with the goal of connecting over 3000 miles of off road paved trails from Calais, Maine to Key West, Florida, now almost 25% complete.

Next meeting date was discussed, and we agreed to meet sometime in October. We will provide full details when plans have been set.

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