

Green Infrastructure Planning in Mississippi

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Green Infrastructure Planning in Mississippi – the ecological framework needed for environmental, social and economic sustainability. The green infrastructure approach to conservation and development can be used to connect environmental, social, and economic health across urban, suburban, and rural settings and can serve as a tool for land –use decisions and to build consensus among diverse interests. Green infrastructure planning differs from conventional approaches to open space planning because it looks at conservation values and actions in concert with land development, growth management and built infrastructure planning. We will briefly discuss successful case studies, including recent Green Infrastructure Planning in Desoto County, MS.

Larry Jarrett owns and operates Pine Ridge Marketing, LLC, a consulting company focusing on natural resources and sustainable Development. He is currently under contract with the Desoto County, MS Economic Development Council to develop the Desoto County Greenways program and the formation of the North Mississippi Land Trust. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, in conjunction with the North Central Resource Conservation and Development Council has also contracted with Pine Ridge Marketing, LLC to research educational materials, establish a curriculum, plan and facilitate Green Infrastructure training meetings throughout Mississippi. He is a landowner and his forestland was green certified through the Forest Stewardship Council and Rainforest Alliance. In addition to his forestland, he owns commercial and residential real estate in the North Mississippi area.

Larry received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Mississippi State University in 1972. He received his master's degree in environmental studies focusing on Sustainable Development at Prescott College in Prescott, AZ in June 2008. Larry is active with conservation issues. He serves on The Audubon Mississippi Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy of Mississippi. He serves on the board of directors for the Southern Forests Network based in Asheville, NC and WildLaw, a regional non-profit environmental law firm based in Montgomery, AL, The North Mississippi and Mississippi Resource and Conservation Development Districts.

As founder and current Chair of the non-profit Natural Resource Initiative, www.nrims.org he is very active in promoting the diversity, multiple uses and protection of our State's Natural Resources as a means to enhance our State's economic development efforts. He has two grown children and four grandchildren. In addition to living on and managing forestland, he enjoys reading, hiking, nature photography, and travel and is active with environmental and conservation issues both at the state and national levels.