



# Mississippi Restoration Area

## Clower Thornton Nature Park Trail Improvement

June 2022

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Clower Thornton Nature Area is approximately 17.5-acres of forested coastal habitat within an urban setting in Gulfport, Mississippi. This renowned birding site is listed on the Audubon Mississippi Coastal Birding Trail and currently has a paved walkway around the entire perimeter of the park and additional unimproved trails throughout the park's interior.

The project will enhance Clower Thornton Park through the installation of new trail/boardwalks and other amenities as budget allows (e.g., educational kiosks, signage). New eco-friendly interior walking trails will intersect and traverse the interior of the park.

The project will improve the connection between communities and natural resources and will ultimately strengthen the community's stewardship of coastal Gulf resources that were injured, and, therefore, inaccessible during the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The project will restore lost recreational uses by improving recreational access to Gulf Coast natural resources.

### IMPLEMENTING TRUSTEES AND PROJECT PARTNERS

The Implementing Trustee for this project will be the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

### LEVERAGING

Using GOMESA funding, an invasive species management plan was developed and is currently being implemented on the site.

### ALLOCATION

\$630,000

#### CHRIS WELLS

Executive Director

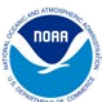
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