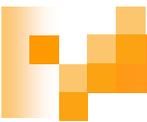


Center for Urban Rural Interface Studies





Introduction:

- The Center for Urban Rural Interface Studies was founded under the umbrella project “Mitigating Coastal Development Impacts on Rural Communities in the Northern Gulf of Mexico”.
- Established in year 2005 prior to Hurricane Katrina.
- Funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA



- The center serves as a resource for developers, public officials, stakeholders, and citizens on sustainable development practices. The regional scope of the center consists of the coastal areas of Alabama Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida.



Mission:

- To provide a clearinghouse for information regarding smart growth, sustainable development and socio-economic resources that will assist with planning and policy decisions related to the improvement of quality of life in the Gulf Coast region of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.



Personnel

Principal Investigators:

Dr. Christine Coker

Associate Research Professor, Urban Horticulture

Dr. Ben Posadas

Associate Research and Extension Professor, Agricultural
Economics

Project Director

Assistant Director



Projects

(1). The Mississippi Coastal Birding Trail: A Socioeconomic and Biological Assessment

Partner: The University of Southern Mississippi

(2). Smart Growth Education Projects for Tangipahoa, Washington, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany Parishes.

Partner: University of New Orleans

(3). Mississippi: Smart Growth Lecture Series

Partner: Town Planning & Urban Design Collaborative

(4). Sustaining Chipley: Proposal for planning, visioning, and housing concepts to advance economic vitality in Chipley, Florida.

Partner: University of Florida



- **(5). Gulf Coast Regional Needs Assessment Survey**

Partner: David Phillips, Consultant

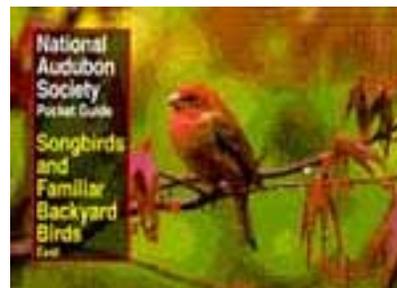
- **(6). Smart Growth and Ecotourism: A Greenprint for Growth for Brewton, AL (Escambia County)**

Partner: Auburn University

(1). The Mississippi Coastal Birding Trail: A Socioeconomic and Biological Assessment

Partner: The University of Southern Mississippi

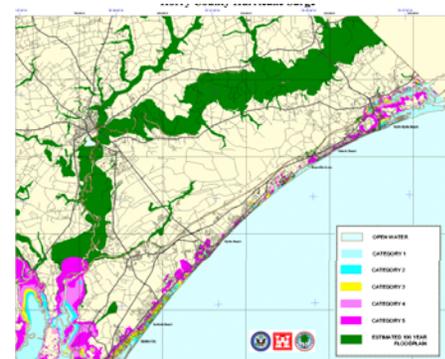
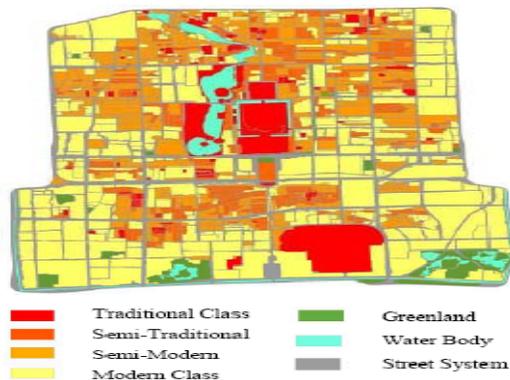
- To investigate the socio-economic impact on the Mississippi Coastal Birding Trail
- Based on investigation to formulate programs to encourage ecotourism in coastal counties.



(2). Smart Growth Education Projects for Tangipahoa, Washington, St. John the Baptist and St. Tammany Parishes.

Partner: University of New Orleans

- Use of GIS and satellite imagery to understand development growth of the region in terms of land use, social, cultural, economic, and environmental parameters that are fundamental to the principles of smart growth.



(3) Mississippi: Smart Growth Lecture Series

Partner: Town Planning & Urban Design Collaborative

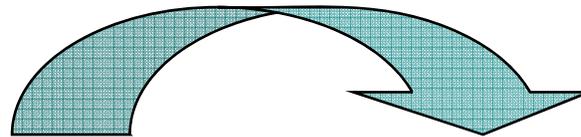
- Educate and inform public officials, stakeholders and the general public of Mississippi of the principles of Smart Growth and why such as approach to development is an appropriate course of action and a viable option for the region.



(4). Sustaining Chipley: Proposal for planning, visioning, and housing concepts to advance economic vitality in Chipley, Florida.

Partner: University of Florida

- Urban Planning Analysis and design visioning study to generate future development and investment strategies that promote community and economic vitality and in downtown Chipley, Florida.





(5). Gulf Coast Regional Needs Assessment Survey

Partner: David Phillips

A comprehensive, regional needs assessment survey is the logical first step in acquiring the necessary data for these communities to have in order to best serve their residents' needs. Each community will have area specific issues, just as there will be overarching problems that can and should be addressed more holistically.



(6). Smart Growth and Ecotourism: A Greenprint for Growth for Brewton, AL (Escambia County)

Partner: Auburn University

The goal of this project is to incorporate smart growth and Low impact Development (LID) principles in a city improvement/ development project. The following impacts of this project will provide benefits to the environmental and health of adults and children:

1. Better air quality can be beneficial to the respiratory systems of children if the availability of safe walking trails decreases vehicular traffic;
2. Shade created by trees can reduce sun exposure and promote air quality;
3. Rain garden, permeable pavement, and constructed wetland areas (Best Management Practices known as BMPs) are Integrated Management Practices (IMPs) that reduce non-point source pollution and will improve water quality where children play;
4. The physical activity of community members, especially children, will be increased by use of the walking trails. Increased walking will improve the overall sustainable health of the youth and other citizens in the Brewton community;
5. Participation of Brewton citizens, especially children, in planning and understanding smart growth projects will encourage them to be better environmental stewards.
6. "Green" economic growth strategies, such as, ecotourism will be introduced as a potential new focus for tourism.

