



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Chaille Clements, Communications and Marketing Specialist
Phone: (601) 359-1140
E-mail: chaille@mdac.ms.gov

Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Holds Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening of Newly Renovated Nature Trail

Jackson, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum’s Recreational Trails Project and grand opening of the newly renovated Nature Trail on Monday, October 6, at the Small Town Pavilion. The project was made possible with assistance from the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, which is funded through the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith stated, “We are very appreciative to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for the opportunity to expand and improve the Nature Trail areas. The new additions enhance the museum grounds and also provide visitors with a tool to learn more about forestry and its important ties to agriculture.” Through the project, the Museum renovated the wooden Nature Trail as well as constructed 2,070 feet of new trails to connect existing Museum walkways to the Nature Trail. Director of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Lise Foy explained, “We are excited that the completion of this project is a major step in implementing the Museum’s new master plan. The new trails connect different educational facets of the campus while guiding visitors through the story of Mississippi’s agriculture and forestry.”

The project includes educational signage for both the barnyard and pasture in addition to signage identifying over 20 different types of trees and plants along the Nature Trail. Renovations to the barnyard and fencing for the livestock pastures were also included in the scope of this project.

The Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, which features the National Agricultural Aviation Museum, portrays the important role that the agriculture and forestry industries have played in Mississippi’s history and how these industries have shaped Mississippi’s economy through the years through both indoor and outdoor exhibits. The Museum, located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson, is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information about the Museum, call (601) 432-4500, visit www.msagmuseum.org, or “Like” the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Facebook.

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Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith and Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum staff were joined by Ambassadors of the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership for the ribbon cutting ceremony marking the grand opening of the newly renovated Nature Trail. The project was completed as part of the Recreational Trails Program, which is funded through the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Those pictured include (fourth from right) Sandy Havard, Director of Operations of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum; (third from right) Cindy Hyde-Smith, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce; and (far right) Lise Foy, Director of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.