

RED CREEK



MAP LEGEND

- Mile Marker
- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Blueway Trail
- Point of Interest

LEVEL Beginner to Intermediate

START/END Starts in Lamar County and Ends at the headwaters of Black Creek. Segments can be done within that range as well

TRAIL MILES 29.9 miles in length

PADDLING TIME 22 hours one-way

DESCRIPTION Black water, flowing through DeSoto National Forest, some times of the year water level in some sections is low

SCENERY Natural Springs, sand bars, bluffs and some small Rapids

ACCESS Public Boat Launch

Red Creek is a coastal blackwater stream that forms near Lumberton in Lamar County and ends when it meets Black Creek near the Pascagoula River in Jackson County. It gets its name from the reddish stain that naturally occurring tannins impart to the water. In 2004, the watershed was documented as 66% forested with a 100 foot, well-forested riparian zone extending from Highway 26 (west of Wiggins) to its confluence with Black Creek. This section of Red Creek is a public waterway and according to Ernest Herndon's *Canoeing Mississippi*, is a beautiful float trip.

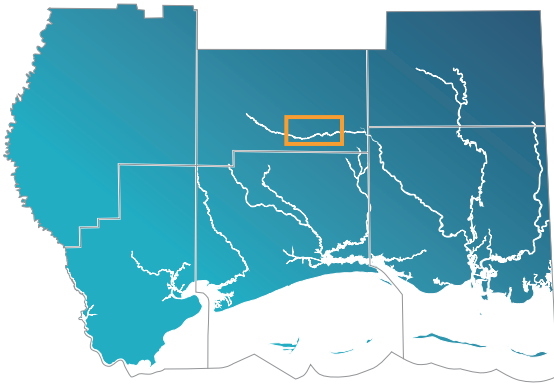
The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science has documented 61 species of freshwater and diadromous fish with a recreational fishery for at least 5 species. Red Creek has been designated as one of Mississippi's Scenic Streams. Red Creek is in the East Gulf Coastal Plain Ecoregion and is a major tributary in the Pascagoula River watershed.

The entire drainage area of Red Creek is over 400 square miles. Red Creek flows through Lamar, Stone, George, and Jackson Counties. It also touches Pearl River and Forrest Counties. It is an important sub-basin of the Pascagoula River Watershed, a nationally significant eco-system with the largest unimpeded river in the continental United States.

The 0 mile marker is at the junction with Black Creek in Jackson County

59 Clay Shelves Segment

A 9.7 mile float from Highway 26 to Highway 49. To float a flat bottom boat plan for 9.5 hours. Canoes and kayaks plan for 7.5 hours. While floating this upper reach segment you'll discover first hand how Red Creek got its name. As you traverse along the red clay shelves, you'll also encounter several small rapids.



GPS Coordinates for Launch Locations:

- Hwy 26 at mile marker 59** – 30° 51' 06" N, 89° 12' 52" W
- Old Hwy 26 at mile marker 58** – 30° 50' 45" N, 89° 12' 18" W
- Hwy 49 at mile marker 49** – 30° 47' 32" N, 89° 08' 09" W
- City Bridge Road at mile marker 43** – 30° 46' 14" N, 89° 03' 27" W
- Cable Bridge Road at mile marker 34** (approach from the south)
30° 46' 31" N, 88° 57' 03" W
- Hwy 15 at mile marker 29** – 30° 46' 24" N, 88° 54' 46" W



49 Railroad Trestle Segment

A 6.2 mile float from Highway 49 to City Bridge. To float a flat bottom boat plan for 6 hours. Canoes and Kayaks plan for 5 hours. Discover large white sandbars and Red Creek meanders its way through the sandy soils of mid Stone County. You'll also pass beneath the high railroad trestle still in service today.

43 Red Buff Segment

A 9.6 mile float from City Bridge to Cable Bridge. To float a flat bottom boat plan for 8.5 hours. Canoes and Kayaks plan for 6.5 hours. You will navigate through the remains of several old rail dummy lines bearing witness to the vast timber harvest of the early 1900's. If you're lucky, you'll see glimpses through the trees of the famous "Red Bluff."

34 Natural Springs Segment

A 4.4 mile float from Cable Bridge to Highway 15. To float a flat bottom boat plan for 4 hours. Canoes and kayaks plan for 3 hours. Enjoy a short but picturesque float through the Desoto National Forest. Floaters will discover the natural springs feeding the creek as they get closer to the historical site of the Ramsey Springs Hotel.

29 Hwy 15 Situated just below the hill from the historic Ramsey Springs Hotel, this refurbished boat/kayak launch is the take out point for several float segments. If putting in at this launch, be prepared for an overnight trip. Careful planning is recommended before enjoying this segment of the creek. As Red Creek winds toward the Pascagoula River, you will see why it is classified as a 'black water river' as the waters slow down and get deep.

Points of Interest

1 Kirby Creek	30°49'20" N	89°10'50" W
2 Four Mile Creek	30°48'43" N	89°09'28" W
3 KCS Railroad Trestle	30°47'32" N	89°07'57" W
4 Old Hwy 49	30°47'21" N	89°07'51" W
5 Ten Mile Creek	30°46'57" N	89°07'16" W
6 Flint Creek	30°46'19" N	89°03'48" W
7 Old City Bridge	30°46'13" N	89°03'23" W
8 Long Branch Island	30°45'17" N	89°00'40" W
9 Old Creek Island	30°46'13" N	88°57'51" W
10 Cypress creek	30°46'30" N	88°57'07" W
11 Little Sandy creek	30°46'22" N	88°56'38" W
12 Ramsey Spring Hotel	30°46'16" N	88°54'55" W



AVOID PADDLING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL. ALWAYS WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET AND CARRY A WHISTLE OR OTHER SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE, PREFERABLY ATTACHED TO YOUR LIFE JACKET. PADDLERS SHOULD CHECK WATER LEVEL AND TIDES, WEATHER, AND WATERWAY CONDITIONS PRIOR TO EVERY TRIP. REMOVE WHAT YOU BRING, CLEAN UP MORE IF YOU CAN. AVOID TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE LANDS. PLEASE BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND ALWAYS RESPECT THE WILDLIFE. REPORT ANY PROBLEMS YOU ENCOUNTER TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF APPROPRIATE.

