

## **ABSTRACT**

*As coastal populations are growing and the number of coastal disasters is escalating, communities are starting to look for ways to increase coastal community resilience following catastrophic events. This is especially true in places where hard infrastructural barriers have failed in the midst of disaster, e.g. New Orleans' flood wall during Katrina. While greenways are known to connect communities, ecosystems, and destinations, and boost the local economy, their influence on coastal community resilience has not been discussed in the literature. Greenways, being long linear connective tissue, could act as a landscape infrastructure and help promote symbiotic relationships between ecological and social systems and become catalysts for building stronger community.*

*Using the Mississippi Coastal Heritage Trail (MCHT) master plan as a model, the study attempts to bridge the gap, presently observed in the literature, between the theory of coastal community resilience and coastal recreational trail planning. It focuses on developing a methodology for greenway planning with the main goal to stimulate coastal community resilience. To achieve this goal, the study first employs review of community resilience focused planning literature to aid in formulation of the goals and objectives for the master plan. Secondly, the identified objectives guide all the phases of MCHT planning and design process, from suitability analysis to design proposals. The methodology, explored in the study, can provide an efficient way for landscape architects and planners to account for larger regional interests in the stimulation of coastal resilience during the design phase of a multi- jurisdictional trail.*