

# Workshop Summary

**Monday, December 8, 2008, 9:00am-4:00pm**

***Land Use Codes and Ecological Services: Actively Engaging the Opportunities and Constraints of Restoring Ecological Function through Responsible Site Design***

Workshop Organizers:

**Jason B. Walker**, Mississippi State University Landscape Architecture Facility

**Timothy Schauwecker**, Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station, Landscape Architecture Facility

Workshop Presenters:

**Charles Taze Fulford III**, Department of Landscape Architecture, MSU

**Austin Moore**, MLA Candidate, Department of Landscape Architecture, MSU

**Timothy Schauwecker**, Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station, MSU

**Michael Seymour**, Department of Landscape Architecture, MSU

**Jason B. Walker**, Department of Landscape Architecture, MSU

The primary goal of the workshop is to create a dynamic learning experience that examines the role of ecological services in the built environment. The workshop will focus on integrating ecologically sound water management approaches into site design. After the workshop, attendees will be familiar with the following concepts and technical issues:

- Knowledge of the stormwater treatment chain
- Knowledge of the impact of land use codes on ecological services
- Application of simple stormwater calculations for ecological site design
- Application of a design process in mitigating the effects of stormwater on-site
- Knowledge of the relationship between land use codes and design for ecological services

Agenda Topics:

1. Stormwater Treatment Chain
2. Land use codes
3. Ecological site design
4. Site Design Retrofit

Discussion:

Funded research through the partnership between the Northern Gulf Institute (NGI) and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) investigating the relationship between land use ordinances and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) influence on water quality provides the underpinning for this proposed workshop. With the implications of a changing climate and a growing population, the landscape and its ecological and social processes require analysis and understanding in order to promote and ensure their stability and resilience. Because the human population is increasing and because trends show much of this increase occurring in coastal areas, it is important to understand the affects of growth on water quality. The division of political boundaries range from federal, state, county down to municipal governances, and thus requires a holistic approach for understanding watershed regulations and codes. Community resiliency can only occur through wise management and public responsibility in regards to regional watersheds and water quality. Enacting a code or ordinance and its subsequent enforcement is important, but may be difficult to due to budget, equipment, and well-trained personnel and may not adequately address ecological services. The workshop will significantly benefit the communities where workshop attendees provide civil, professional, or volunteer services by increasing their understanding of integrating ecological services with site design. In addition, the workshop will benefit the attendees by enhancing their awareness of the influence and impact regulatory codes, ordinances and NGO efforts have on watersheds by improving their understanding of the relationship between regulatory action and water quality.