



# BUCK ISLAND

&

*the Lower Mississippi River Water Trail*

## *A New Public Resource for the Mississippi Delta Region*



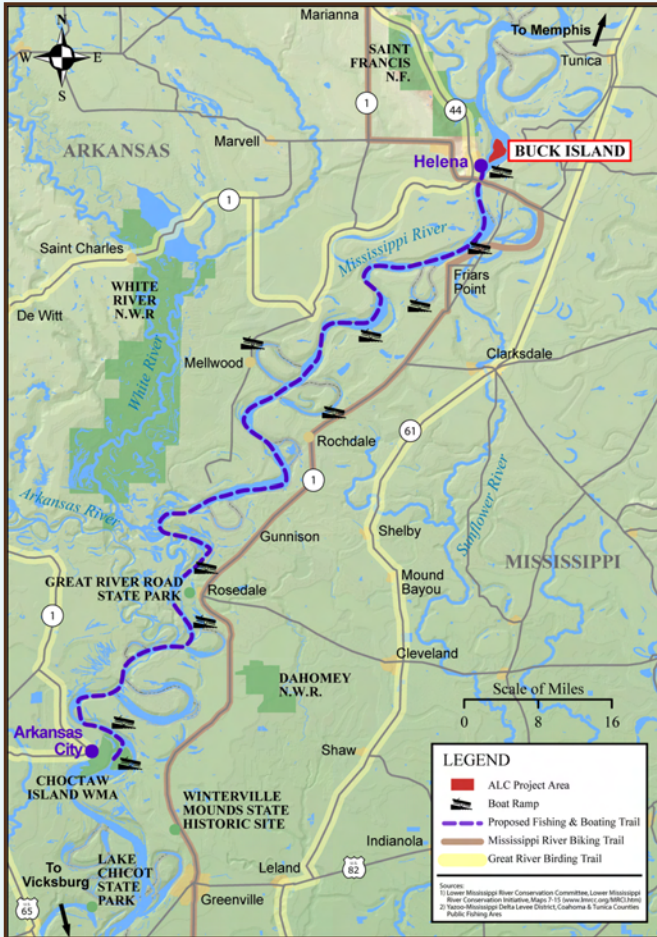
**Buck Island** is a 1,500-acre forested wilderness island near Helena, Arkansas, just ninety minutes south of Memphis and two hours from Little Rock. The island is now publicly accessible and serves as the anchor for the new Lower Mississippi River Water Trail, providing an exciting gateway to the natural wonders of America's greatest river.

Just a short boat ride from the public boat ramp in Helena Harbor and five miles south of the St. Francis National Forest, Buck Island features 880 acres of native forests, 620 acres of white sand beaches, five miles of hiking trails, and a three-mile side channel. Visitors can enjoy excellent camping, wildlife viewing, hiking, paddling, swimming, and fishing, with possible hunting access in the future.\*

American Land Conservancy acquired the island at auction in 2005 at the urging of the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee. Forest resources on the island were protected in 2010 through a conservation easement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service using federal Recovery Act funds. In March 2011, the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission purchased a conservation easement on the entire island and secured permanent public access rights to Buck Island.

*\* Public activities subject to Arkansas Game and Fish Commission regulations*





## BENEFITS:

- Stop-over site for migratory birds along the Mississippi Flyway
- Habitat for endangered least tern and pallid sturgeon as well as beaver, bats, and other wildlife
- Active side-channel provides high-quality fishing for catfish, bass, crappie, and walleye
- Nature tourism attraction that will support local economies with revenue and jobs
- Near Delta Heritage Trail and interpretive facilities for St. Francis National Forest
- Complements nearby attractions including blues hotspots, Civil War and historic sites in Helena
- Water trail provides link to the confluence of the White and Arkansas Rivers downstream, or a launching point for a 106-mile boat trip from Helena to the Choctaw National Wildlife Management Area near Arkansas City

**A**merican Land Conservancy has been active along the Mississippi River since the Great Flood of 1993, working collaboratively to help restore the river's ecological health through land conservation and habitat restoration. ALC has conserved nearly 25,000 acres of islands, side-channels, wetlands, and native forest in the middle Mississippi watershed, providing numerous environmental and recreation benefits while maintaining the river's commercial viability as a transportation corridor.



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