



August 17, 2023

Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
PO Box 7395  
Madison, WI 53707-7395

Dear Commissioners:

The Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum in Leland, Mississippi is an excellent museum that interprets the history and heritage of wildlife in Mississippi, particularly the Delta region. Located on Broad Street ("old" Highway 61 - aka the Great River Road) it meets many of the themes of the overall criteria, particularly Theme 1: The Mississippi River is a ribbon of life for people, plants and animals; and Theme 2: As the river has influenced people, people have influenced the river.

Their exhibits chronicle the wildlife and their habitat, many of which are dependent upon the Mississippi River for their existence. In addition to these rich biotic resources, the exhibits chronicle the adaptations of hunting, fishing, and a great variety of watercraft and water-related material culture, which add to a greater understanding of the Mississippi River ecology.

As their impressive visitor log demonstrates, the museum attracts visitors from all around the world who are exploring the Mississippi Delta and the mighty Mississippi River. The River has international importance as a migratory corridor for mid-continent water-fowl populations and this story is told through the lens of duck hunters. The river corridor is also important for maintenance, conservation, and preservation of diverse mid-continent fish and wildlife populations which is documented in the myriad displays of fish and fishermen.

The Museum Director, Billy Johnson, spoke to MRPC members at their meeting in Clarksdale. At that time, he was encouraged to apply for Interpretive Center status. The Mississippi Commissioners have included the Wildlife Museum on our state map of Interpretive Centers and we strongly support its elevation to National status.

Thank you for your consideration of the Wildlife Heritage Museum as a Great River Road Interpretive Center.

Sincerely,

Shelley Ritter  
Executive Director  
MRPC Commissioner, Mississippi