



Tishomingo County
Development Foundation

FY 2019 Annual Report

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Theresa Cutshall,
Administrative Assistant
Jim Gibson, Assistant

We thank our economic development partners listed here and on the next two pages. None of the projects in this report would be possible without their help.



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Board of Aldermen:
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Representative Donnie Bell
House District 21
Senator J. P. Wilemon,
Senate District 5

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Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith
Senator Roger Wicker

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Administrator
Jim Gibson, Assistant

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ASSOCIATION BOARD OF
DIRECTORS:**

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PARTNERS IN PROGRESS:

2019 Members of the Tishomingo County Development Foundation

A & B Distributing
Ables Real Estate
Aerial Advertisement
Aqua Yacht Harbor
B & G Equipment of Iuka
BANCORPSOUTH
City of Belmont
Belmont Parts Supply
Belmont Pharmacy
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Bestway, Inc.
James Bethay
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Cornelison Law Office
Cornerstone Insurance & Financial
Country Squire Restaurant
Peyton Cummings
D. L. Cutshall & Sons Logging
Cutshall Funeral Home
Neil Davis
Dead Serious Security
Leroy Dean
Deaton Funeral Home
Dennis Country Store
DHP, Inc.
Eagle Radio Group
Fairless Hardware
Ralph & Dorothy Farr
Fast Pace Urgent Care Clinic
Fellowship Christian Retreat
Fidelity National Loans
First American Insurance Services
First American National Bank
First Franklin Financial Corp
Paul Fisher Oil Company
Fite Building Company
Forest Resource Advisors, Inc.
G & G Steel Mississippi Works
Gatlin's Pharmacy
Harold Gist
Goat Island Campground, Inc.

City of Golden
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James T. Grisham
Robert Grisham
HAGO Automotive
Hamilton-Ryker Group
Hampton Inn of Corinth
Harbin Heating & Air Conditioning
High Maintenance Salon of Iuka
Highpoint Timber Management
Boyce Hollingsworth State Farm
Hometown Pizza Belmont
Industrial Electronics Repair
International Converter/NOVOLEX
Intuition Nutrition
Island Cantina Restaurant
City of Iuka
Iuka Discount Drugs
Iuka Hardware
JACOMA Construction
Jekyll & Hyde Market, Bar & Grill
Jeremy Johnson
John's Garage/J&S Auto Sales
Jourdan Lumber Company
Lisa A. Koon, Attorney
Malcolm Kuykendall
Dr. Ben Kitchens
KX Technologies LLC
La Mina Mexican Restaurant
Littrell Lumber Mill
Harold Lomenick State Farm
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Mississippi Medical Associates
Mississippi Silicon
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North MS Primary Health Care
Northrop Grumman
Scott Nunley
Nunley Trucking Company
James D. Nunnally
Miles D. Nunnally
O'Claire's Boutique
Office Pro
Old Country Store & Deli
On Point Dance Studio

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City of Paden
Parson's Earth Works
Peden's Prop Shop
Dr. Jim Perkins, Iuka Animal Clinic
Petals & Pearls
Pickwick Cabin Rentals
Pickwick Premier Properties
Piggly Wiggly Belmont
Piggly Wiggly Iuka
Plant Process Support
Pray Pottery
Billy Rainey
Redmont Heating & Cooling
Renasant Bank
Rushing Drugs/Ben Burns
Jimmie Seago
Martha Segars
Scott Segars
Tyler Segars
Sids Trading Company
Silver Dollar Sales
Skyline Steel
Southern Forestry, Inc.
Sparks CPA Firm, PC
Subway Burnsville
Subway Iuka
Sun-air Products, Inc.
The Family Resource Center
Tempur Sealy/Comfort Revolution
Tennessee Valley Authority
TIMCO, Inc.
City of Tishomingo
Tishomingo County Board of Supervisors
Tishomingo County Electric Power Association
Tishomingo Health Services--Iuka Hospital
TOLTEC Company
Tri-State Educational Foundation
Tri-State Recycling
Truck Bodies & Equipment Int.
Union Harbor Marina & Resort
Universal Faith Missions & Southwind A&D
Viva la Casita Mexican Restaurant
Mack & Jeanette Wadkins
Beth Booker White
Whitaker's Cleaning Service
Wiley Discount Tobacco & Beverages, Inc.
Quaye Yarber
Yellow Creek Coating Services
Dan & Betty Young



TRAXYS. A ribbon cutting was held for TRAXYS, Tishomingo County's newest industry. Located north of Mississippi Silicon in Burnsville, the new industry will manufacture additives for the steel and aluminum industries.

Beginning as Project Float in 2016, TRAXYS considered sites in several states before finally selecting the Tishomingo County site in Burnsville.

TRAXYS is leasing a 100,000 SF industrial building from Yellow Creek Port Authority. The company will be using the barge facility on the Tenn-Tom Waterway at Burnsville as well as the new rail spur, both of which are owned and operated by Yellow Creek Port Authority.

Yellow Creek Port Authority, the Mississippi Development Authority, Tishomingo County, and the Tishomingo County Development Foundation provided assistance.

Plant Manager Jennifer Black said "we thank Burnsville, Tishomingo County, Yellow Creek Port, and the State of Mississippi for welcoming us to the area. We are very pleased to be here and have found the labor force to be both motivated and creative problem solvers. We look forward to additional growth and a bright future here at Yellow Creek Port South."

TRAXYS is headquartered in Luxembourg with over 20 facilities worldwide. The company's focus is primarily on the marketing and sourcing of base metals and concentrates, minor and alloying metals, industrial minerals and chemicals, and materials for steel mills and foundries.

Learn more about TRAXYS at www.traxys.com.



YELLOW CREEK PORT AUTHORITY. Yellow Creek Port Authority is offering frontage on U. S. Highway 72 in Burnsville to truck stops and/or hotel developers. The site is for lease or sale. The price is determined by the appraisal at the time of lease or sale.

The site is located in a Federal Opportunity Zone and New Markets Tax Credit Area. The site consists of a minimum 7.5 acres with additional acreage available if justified. Traffic count is 12,000 vehicles per day of which approximately 40% are heavy trucks.

For more information, contact Robert Dexter, Executive Director, Yellow Creek Port Authority, 43 CR 370, Iuka, Mississippi 38852 USA, 662-423-6088, e-mail robert@yellowcreekport.com.



HAGO AUTOMOTIVE. A ribbon cutting was held for the expansion of hago Automotive. The 50,000 SF addition is leased from Tishomingo County. The company will create 60 new jobs to add to the 180 already employed. The company received assistance from Tishomingo County, the Mississippi Development Authority, and Tishomingo County Development Foundation.

The company located in Tishomingo County in 2015 and is the first hago Automotive manufacturing facility outside of Germany. hago Automotive manufactures stamped metal parts for the transportation industry, primarily BMW.

hago Automotive began its apprenticeship program in 2018. Joshua Johnson, Tristan Daniel and Dakota Tucker, all graduates of Tishomingo County schools, have signed a four year agreement with hago Automotive to begin as apprentices in order to learn highly technical trade skills for industry. Joshua will apprentice in the area of Tool & Die Making while Tristan and Dakota will join the Industrial Maintenance & Mechatronics department.

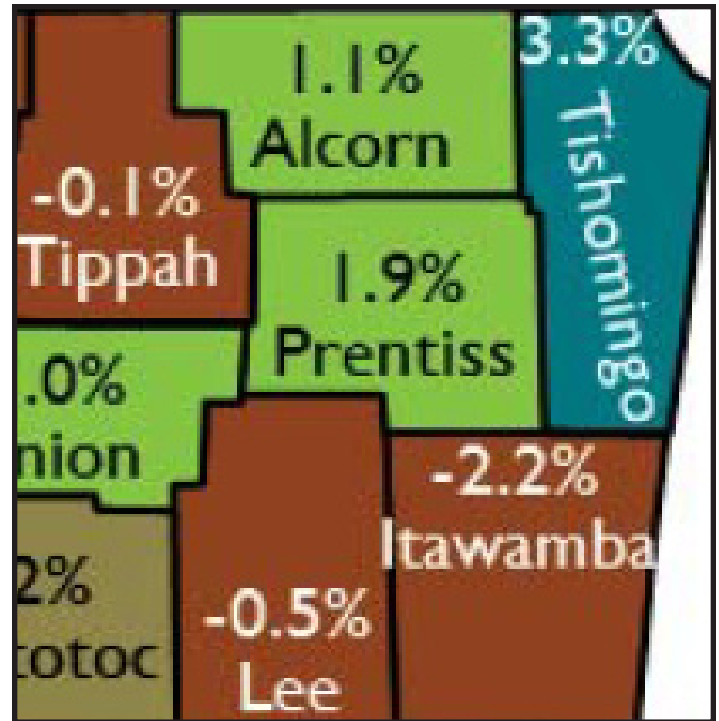
In conjunction with fully paid course study at Northeast Mississippi Community College Booneville, each apprentice will receive paid on-the-job training under the direction of seasoned journeymen at hago Automotive. They will also be given opportunities to train at various related businesses throughout the US and abroad as relevant to their department. Upon successful completion of the program, each participant will have obtained a minimum of an Associate Degree and a nationally recognized certificate from the Department of Labor for their accomplishments.

The newly formed Youth Apprentice Program at hago Automotive was organized as a workforce development initiative to encourage students between the ages of 16 – 23 years old to pursue careers in the areas of Tool & Die Making, Quality Management, or Industrial Maintenance & Mechatronics. David Quigley, hago's COO, states: "We understand that the success of our business is largely dependent upon the employees and are excited to be implementing this apprenticeship program within the organization. A strong curriculum in conjunction with practical experience in the automotive industry is invaluable to both the student as well as the organization. We look forward to being an active participant in the development of all apprentices that are chosen to participate now and in the future."

Going forward, hago will accept three additional students per year. Applications will be available in January 2020. Applicants must meet the age requirement, possess a high school diploma within six months of application, qualify for admission to NEMCC, accomplish a Silver score or better on the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate, provide a state issued photo ID and a Social Security card, and pass a background check and drug screening test.

hago Automotive specializes in stamping and light assembly for the automotive industry. The hago facility in luka is a subsidiary of Feinwerktechnik hago GmbH located in Kussaberg, Germany.

Visit www.hagoautomotive.com or email information@hagoautomotive.com for more details.



TISHOMINGO COUNTY JOB GROWTH AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE STATE. The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics recently issued the “2018 percent change in county employment” for all USA counties. In Mississippi, the majority of counties lost jobs. Tishomingo County experienced an increase of 3.3%.

NORTHROP GRUMMAN EXPANDS AGAIN. Aerospace and defense leader Northrop Grumman, formerly Orbital ATK, continues to work on its expansion in Iuka, investing \$15 million and creating 50 jobs. In late 2019, the company committed to another expansion that will create another 40 jobs and a private investment of \$8 million.

Northrup Grumman manufactures large composite aerospace structures for Antares, Pegasus and Minotaur launch vehicles and has implemented a large national aerospace and defense program at its 320,000-square-foot Iuka facility.

"This expansion signifies the commitment Northrup Grumman has to the employees, community and state of Mississippi to continue bringing high quality manufacturing work into the area," said John Kain, Northrup Grumman's Aerospace Structures Division's director of operations - Iuka. "We value our partnership with the state, city and county officials and thank them for their continued support of our facility in Iuka."

The Mississippi Development Authority provided assistance for infrastructure and facility improvements. Tishomingo County also provided assistance.

Northrup Grumman is one of the world's largest defense contractors with over 60,000 employees.

For more information on Northrup Grumman Innovation Systems, visit the web site at www.northropgrumman.com/AboutUs/BusinessSectors/InnovationSystems/Pages/default.aspx.

Prior to 2009, Tishomingo County experienced one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, as high as 25.3%.

Unemployment rates change from month to month, sometimes dramatically in counties with low population numbers.

The numbers indicate that Tishomingo County is making real economic progress although more needs to be done to increase small business creation, increase job skills, and improve work ethics.

The most productive long-term economic development efforts include teaching entrepreneurial skills to elementary and middle school students and conducting business and industry tours for ALL students and teachers. Apprenticeships, internships, part-time student jobs, and greater co-operation between schools and the private sector are essential for both schools and businesses.

Counties that focus primarily on industrial recruitment and expansion of branch manufacturing plants are often the first to feel a recession and the last to recover. Diversification of the local economy is pivotal to continued economic growth and more money in the pockets of citizens of Tishomingo County.

For a map of job losses and increases in all Mississippi counties visit *Mississippi's Business* at www.mississippi.edu/urc/downloads/business/0719msbs.pdf.



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER. A ribbon cutting was held for the luka office of the Family Resource Center of North Mississippi.

The free services of Families First for Mississippi are available to residents of Tishomingo County. These services and programs include promotion of literacy; accredited high school; parenting skills; positive Youth Development Classes; child in the Middle Program; addiction assessments and education; job readiness; improving job skills; and finding jobs or better jobs.

Families First, in general, attempts to fill gaps left by other social programs.

The local resource office is located at 236 Kaki Street in luka. Services are free and confidential.

Please refer potential clients to Tonya McAnally or Pam Morris at 662-423-3836 or e-mail tcmcanally@frcnms.org / pmorris@frcnms.org. Visit the web site at www.familiesfirst-forms.org.



BELMONT FAMILY MEDICAL CLINIC. A ribbon cutting and open house were held for Belmont Family Medical Clinic, a division of Tishomingo Health Services.

Over 250 people attended the open house. Mac McAnally was the honored guest. Formerly Senter Clinic, the clinic has been extensively renovated and is managed by North Mississippi Health Services.

Whitney Sparks, NP-C, and Chelsea Wells, NP-C, are the medical staff at the new clinic.

The clinic is located at 26 Third Street in Belmont. The open hours are 8 AM to 5:30 PM Monday thru Friday. Same day appointments are available and walk-ins are welcome. The telephone number is 662-454-4520. Visit the web site at www.nmhs.net/belmont-clinic.



FAST PACE URGENT CARE CLINIC. A groundbreaking was held for Fast Pace Urgent Care Clinic on October 18. The clinic is a state-of-the-art walk-in health care clinic located at 1709 West Quitman Street in luka.

Fast Pace Medical has over 100 clinics in four states. The clinics offer a broad array of walk-in, urgent, primary, preventative, and occupational health care services. The clinic hours are 8 AM to 8 PM Monday thru Friday, 8 AM to 6 PM Saturday, and 1 PM to 5 PM Sunday.

Learn more about Fast Pace Urgent Care at www.fastpaceurgentcare.com.



GOVERNOR'S JOB FAIR. The Governor's Job Fair Network held a job fair on October 17 at the Burnsville Chamber of Commerce.

Participating employers included BMSI, Contract Fabricators, G&G Steel, Hago Automotive, Hamilton-Ryker, Mississippi Highway Patrol, Mississippi Silicon, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Skyline Steel Nucor, Samuel Roll Form Group, Tempur+Sealy, TRAXYS, Vanleigh RV, VM2, and Wise Staffing.

Over 150 job applicants visited during the three hour job fair.



MAX HOME. Max Home shut down operations in August. The 96,000 SF industrial building is being marketed to other manufacturers.

The building is air conditioned and heated and has 32 truck docks. The building also has a recently replaced roof and most of the HVAC units are new. A shrink wrap packing machine and fiber picker come with the building.

The building and equipment are owned by the Tishomingo County Economic Development Authority. Board members are listed on page 2 of this document.

Max Home started upholstered furniture manufacturing in Fulton in 2003 and in Tishomingo County in 2007. Max Home will continue its operations in Fulton, Mississippi, and Sulligent, Alabama.

Learn more about Max Home at www.maxhome.com.

The above drone photo was taken by Coby Tapp of Aerial Advertisement.



TISHOMINGO COUNTY COMMUNITY COALITION. Volunteers from the community organized a community coalition to identify issues in the community and try to target resources to solve those issues. The objectives and goals of the coalition are to:

1. Identify available resources in the county;
2. Educate the public about those resources;
3. Determine current needs; &
4. Seek additional funding to meet those needs.

The board of directors includes Denise Timbes, Tonya McAnally, Renee Shulls, Barb Glover-Twaney, Shane Crowe, Wayne Crum, Tommy Daughterty, Jared George, Lori Lawson, Keith Curtis, Ferrin Rainey Burress, Daniel McKee, Shana Hollon, Mike Wixom, Lance Heavner, and Jena McNatt.

Kathy Best is the director of the Tishomingo County Community Coalition. Her contact number is 228-217-4220 and e-mail tc3coalition@gmail.com. Visit the web site at www.tc3coalition.org.



From left to right, standing, Michael Busby, District 3; Brandon Grissom, District 1; Nicky McRae, District 2; Jeff Holt, District 4. Seated, Peyton Cummings, Chancery Clerk; Greg Collier, District 5 and President of the Board; and Phillip Whitehead, Board Attorney.

TISHOMINGO COUNTY RATED MOST EFFICIENT FOR FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW. Tishomingo County has been rated by New York City financial consulting company SmartAsset as one of the most cost efficient counties in the USA. All counties in the USA are rated each year. The numbers are used by SmartAsset in advising their clients. Tishomingo County rates second in the state for giving taxpayers value for their tax dollars.

Rank	County	Property Tax Rate	School Rating	Crimes Per 100,000	Overall Value Index
1	Tippah	0.72%	7.00	23	100.00
2	Tishomingo	0.48%	9.00	82	99.96
3	Greene	0.75%	6.00	145	99.32
4	Choctaw	0.49%	9.00	778	98.64
5	Rankin	0.66%	10.00	349	98.45
6	Hinds	1.04%	4.00	153	97.81
7	Harrison	0.75%	10.00	548	95.55
8	Itawamba	0.72%	9.00	1212	93.81
9	Lee	0.81%	9.00	794	93.25
10	Jackson	0.82%	9.00	1051	90.64

The results, including an interactive map and the methodology, can be found on the website at <https://smartasset.com/taxes/mississippi-property-tax-calculator#map>.



TISHOMINGO COUNTY RANKS TOP THREE IN ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Each year the Mississippi Department of Revenue ranks each county based on unemployment rate and per capita income compared to the other 81 counties.

In 2019, Tishomingo County was ranked # 37, an increase from # 32 in 2018, and a increase from # 14 in 2009 (higher numbers indicate lower unemployment and higher per capita income).

The data document that Tishomingo County is making substantial economic progress. In fact, the improvement in employment and per capita income for Tishomingo County over the past ten years exceeds the economic improvement of all other counties in Mississippi except two (Webster and Tippah).

With less than 20,000 citizens, a high percentage of the working age population not in the workforce, and a high percentage of retired and disabled persons, Tishomingo County faces substantial socio-economic challenges.

Among the most pressing challenges include:

- Lack of available labor;
- Lack of job skills;
- Lack of modern rental and owner housing; and
- Few home-owned businesses.

More effort is required to address these issues to prevent the county from sliding backwards.

You can learn more about the ranking system at www.dor.ms.gov/Individual/Pages/County-Rankings.aspx.



2018 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BREAKS HISTORIC RECORDS. Economists consider an unemployment rate below 5% to be full employment.

The annual unemployment rate for Tishomingo County in 2018 was 4.6%, the lowest unemployment rate since such statistics have been kept.

The latest monthly (August 2019) unemployment rate for Tishomingo County is 5.5% and is increasing as the economy slows and the trade war impacts spread.

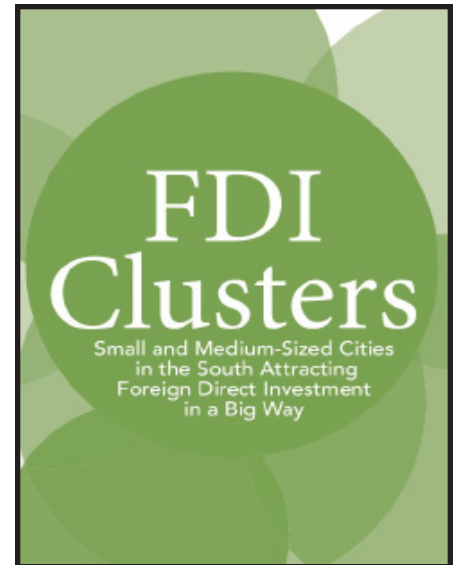
The unemployment rate can change dramatically from month to month as businesses and industries add or lay-off workers in response to economic conditions.

The highest unemployment rate for Tishomingo County was 25.3% in 1984.

The lowest unemployment rate during the TVA nuclear power plant construction was 13.0% and during the NASA construction period 6.3%. Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

The unemployment rate is good news for those in the workforce but bad news for employers struggling to find qualified workers. One local employer is busing workers from a neighboring state.

Attracting workers from outside the region is difficult due to perceptions of life in Mississippi, the lack of modern affordable rental and owner housing, and the preference of young people and professionals to live in larger communities.



FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT CLUSTERS. *Southern Business & Development* (SBD), the recognized authority on economic development in the southern USA, has again recognized Tishomingo County as one of the most successful counties in the southern USA in recruiting industry.

SBD studied small and medium-sized communities in the south attracting the most foreign direct investment.

In Mississippi, three communities made the list:

- Columbus-Starkville-West Point;
- Tishomingo County; and
- Tupelo-Lee County.

Creating over 2,300 new manufacturing jobs and \$380 million in private investment over the last decade, Tishomingo County has competed for and won foreign investment from Germany, Brazil, Canada, and Luxembourg.

Tishomingo County has been rated # 1 for creating more new manufacturing jobs per capita over the last decade than any other county in the southern USA according to SBD.

Visit the county's web site at www.tishomingo.org/PDFs/INDUSTRY%20LIST.pdf to find out which Tishomingo County companies have corporate headquarters outside the USA.

Business Directory

Tishomingo County, Mississippi, USA



Report changes to 662-423-9933 or e-mail info@tishomingo.org
Listing is free to Tishomingo County businesses.
Bold type indicates TCDF members.

Compiled by:
Tishomingo County Development Foundation
1001 Battleground Drive
Iuka, Mississippi 38852
www.tishomingo.org www.tishomingofunhere.org
info@tishomingo.org 662-423-9933
2019

BUSINESS DIRECTORY. The seventh edition of the *Tishomingo County Business Directory* will be published in late 2019 or early 2020. The publication lists retail and service businesses located in Tishomingo County or TCDF members. The *Business Directory* is by far the most expensive publication of TCDF.

The purpose of the *Business Directory* is to make it easier to find goods and services in Tishomingo County, to encourage individuals to start new small businesses, and to encourage businesses to expand.

Small businesses create most of the jobs and personal wealth in the USA. 99.7% of all businesses in the USA are small businesses--that is 288 million businesses.

Business listings in the directory are free to Tishomingo County businesses and TCDF members.

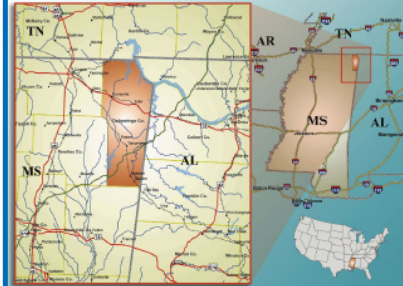
Copies of the publication are free and can be picked up at TCDF, local groceries, city halls, banks, and other locations.

The online directory can be found at www.tishomingo.org/pdf_docs/Business%20Guide%20Latest%20Update%20282%29.pdf.

For more information, call 662-423-9933 or e-mail info@tishomingo.org.

Visitor's Guide

Tishomingo County, Mississippi



TCTC Tishomingo County Tourism Council



1001 Battleground Drive
Iuka, Mississippi 38852
662-423-0051
info@tishomingo.org
www.tishomingofunhere.org
Find us on Facebook

VISITOR'S GUIDE. Tishomingo County Tourism Council updated and published the popular Visitor's Guide.

Up to 10,000 copies are provided to the state's 13 visitor centers and numerous other locations frequented by travelers. Numerous copies are mailed in response to requests from all over the USA and other countries.

Free copies are available at the TCDF office. See the new guide at www.tishomingofunhere.org/pdfs/2019-TC-VisitorsGuide.pdf.

With 50,000 acres of lakes, two state parks, several Corps of Engineer parks, seven marinas, the Tenn-Tom Waterway, several museums, the Natchez Trace Parkway, beautiful scenery, picturesque downtowns, several retirement & vacation communities, and lots of special events, tourism has the greatest potential for growth and wealth creation for residents and local businesses of any economic sector in Tishomingo County.

WHAT CAN WE SEE?



TCTC Tishomingo County Tourism Council

1001 Battleground Drive, Iuka, Mississippi 38852
662-423-0051
www.tishomingofunhere.org
info@tishomingo.org

"WHAT CAN WE SEE" GUIDE. Tishomingo County Tourism Council updated and published the popular "What Can We See Guide".

Up to 5,000 copies are provided to the state's 13 visitor centers and numerous other locations frequented by travelers.

Free copies are available at the TCDF office. See the new photo guide at www.tishomingofunhere.org/pdfs/WhatCanWeSee2019.pdf.



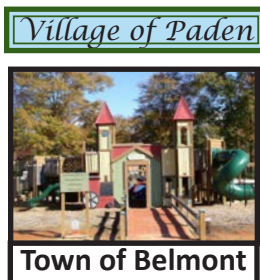
TOURISM REPORT. The 2018 Tourism Economic Contribution Report was issued by the Mississippi Development Authority in early 2019.

Tourism spending in Tishomingo County in 2018 was \$16,640,911, an increase of \$958,066 over 2017 (in spite of record rainfall).

State park visitation also increased. J. P. Coleman State Park had 55,915 visitors, an increase of 6.4% over 2017. Tishomingo State Park had 75,385 visitors, an increase of 14.9% over 2017.

Find the report at visitmississippi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/19-0028-TourismEIR-redo-for-the-web.pdf.

TCTC Tishomingo County Tourism Council



TOURISM. TCTC assisted in promotion of the Heritage Day Festival, Burnsville Waterway Festival, Bear Creek Festival, and events at the two state parks, as well as other events in the county. TCTC sponsored the 13th annual Trash & Treasures along the Tenn-Tom Waterway. Numerous emails, mail-outs, and magazine, radio, and newspaper ads were used to assist in promoting these events. The council placed ads in regional and national publications and updated the website at www.tishomingofun-here.org in order to help showcase Tishomingo County.

TCTC continued a social media campaign to increase awareness of special events. TCTC promoted many events through Facebook ads and received several thousand views from these ads. Trash & Treasures along the Tenn-Tom (TTTT) was a success again this year, due in part, to our Facebook ads, reminders, and ongoing calendar which generated over 80,000 views. Visit the Facebook page at [facebook/vissittishomingo](https://facebook.com/vissittishomingo).

TCTC was awarded an \$8,000 Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area matching grant to develop a GeoCaching Trail as part of the Tennessee River Valley Geotourism campaign.

TCTC stocks visitor information at the state's 13 visitor centers and other visitor centers, restaurants, hotels, and other places frequented by visitors. TCTC also revised and reprinted a photo guide to Tishomingo County, the visitors guide, and a restaurant guide.

The tourism council worked regionally in coordinating marketing efforts with the Natchez Trace Compact, the Mississippi Hills National Heritage Area Alliance, Mississippi Tourism Association, Tenn-Tom Tourism Association, Master Gardeners Annual Conference, Tennessee River Valley Geotourism, and the Mississippi Development Authority Department of Tourism.

The Tishomingo County Tourism Council thanks all the organizers and the many volunteers for 2019 events.

