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*“Code enforcement has been instrumental in stimulating commercial and residential redevelopment in Biloxi and in protecting property values in neighborhoods by expediting the cleanup and recovery process.”*

– Jerry Creel, Biloxi Community Development Director

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## **The Environment**

The City of Biloxi actively supports preservation and enhancement of the natural resources that provide so many recreational and commercial opportunities to its residents and visitors. The City is a partner of the **Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain** that was established to conserve and protect local open spaces of ecological, cultural or scenic significance.

Biloxi is a **Tree City, USA** and was one of the first cities in the state to adopt a tree protection ordinance to safeguard its magnificent Live Oaks, magnolias and other significant trees. The comprehensive land development ordinance requires a specific ratio of pervious surface to impervious area for each residential and commercial parcel developed in the City, which enhances **stormwater management** efforts in compliance with the state-mandated plan.

The City contracts for a weekly **recycling** pickup service, which is offered at no additional cost to residents.

Biloxi’s **Community Court** system has greatly improved the safety and appearance of neighborhoods throughout the City. Enforcement of local codes in 2006 resulted in 936 properties being cleared of debris, abandoned vehicles or weeds and overgrown grass.

Located directly off Point Cadet, the City annexed **Deer Island** in 1999, which was then purchased by the state to be preserved as a natural resource for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Recent designation of several of Mississippi’s barrier islands as part of the **Gulf Islands National Seashore** ensures that these offshore resources will be protected through reef re-establishment, erosion control and other island enhancement programs for the continued enjoyment of the general public.

