A local environmental group is pushing for the creation of a guide that would highlight a 328-mile trip around the Atchafalaya Basin modeled after the successful Alaskan Milepost.

"It's a circular route, 328 miles. It goes through some beautiful areas of the basin," said Harold Schoeffler, president of local Sierra Club. "(There's) an awful lot to see."

The trip would begin at the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville and wind its way through 13 parishes before ending back in St. Martinville. The mile markers and guide would highlight local points of interest such as museums, parks, boat landings and other distinctive features that many people may be unaware of.

The idea is not new. Schoeffler said it was supposed to have been done years ago following the 1998 legislative creation of the Atchafalaya Trace. Members of the newly founded Atchafalaya Trace hired a consulting firm, but the firm steered the group away from creating the Trace and recommended making it a heritage area instead, which is what happened, Schoeffler said.

Members of the Atchafalaya Trace did not return calls for comment.

The Trace currently has an "Explorer's Map of the Atchafalaya Heritage Area," but Schoeffler said the guide he hopes to create would be more informative. He said he hopes to work with them in the future.

The group plans soon to meet with parish officials to enlist their support.

Meanwhile, Stuart Johnson, assistant secretary for the office of state parks, said anything that will help bring more attention to the area is bound to be beneficial and worthy of support.

"I think it's a very good idea, good for our people, our own citizens to gain knowledge of what's in the area and good for the tourists who come in," he said.

The ultimate goal is to highlight the basin for what it is, "a unique geological feature, a treasure like Yellowstone." "There's no place like it on Earth and all the wildlife that comes with it," Schoeffler said.