



# Nebraska News



Unveiling Monument Valley Pathways signs, Scotts Bluff National Monument. Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



■ NPS Unit  
★ State Capital

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. North Folk Riverfront Overlay District  
City of Norfolk
2. Omaha Urban Youth and National Park Experience  
Salvation Army North Omaha Community Center
3. Safe Connections Rockbluff Road Pedestrian Trail  
Safe Connections
4. Scotts Bluff National Monument Trails Plan  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Architecture

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

## Recent Successes

### New Signs Installed Along Community Trails, Monument Valley Pathways

Scotts Bluff National Monument and the city of Scottsbluff, Nebraska have installed ten wayside signs showcasing local attractions and history in the area. The new signs can be found along the Monument Valley Pathways

highlighting the historic emigration trails that passed through western Nebraska. Funding was provided by a national Connect Trails to Parks grant, for which RTCA planning and application assistance.

*“We don’t think a lot of outside tourists use the pathway right now, but by calling attention to the history available along this pathway, tourists will start using this. We then plan to grow that into a bigger trail system.”*

The sign project is part of a larger

plan put together by the Monument and local communities to increase trails and environmental education resources in the region. Scottsbluff’s main city park, Riverside Park, has a new playground and botanical teaching garden. The garden highlights plants that pioneers would have found along the Platte River, as it meanders across Nebraska. The Monument is working on its own trail plan to enhance recreational experiences at the park and link with existing community trails.

- Ken Mabery, Superintendent, Scotts Bluff National Monument

## We're Here For You.

Could your project could benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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## 2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 2,154 Miles of Trail Developed
- 1,074 Miles of River Conserved
- 70,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
- 94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects

## 1. North Folk Riverfront Overlay District

Project Partner: City of Norfolk  
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson  
Location: Norfolk  
Congressional District: NE - 1

### Project Goal

A long-term community planning effort has revealed opportunities for linking Norfolk's downtown retail center to the river. The planning district will include housing, transportation and recreation trails, a rehabilitated riparian corridor, and river access for paddling and fishing .

### NPS Role

Development of a zoning overlay district that will guide future development between the river and Norfolk's downtown.

## 2. Omaha Urban Youth and National Park Experience

Project Partner: Salvation Army North Omaha Community Center  
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson  
Location: Omaha  
Congressional District: NE - 2

### Project Goal

RTCA staff will partner with the Salvation Army, Live Well Omaha Kids, and Omaha Public Schools to engage youth between the ages of 7-13 years. The children will learn about outdoors and healthy choices for physical activity and nutrition right in their neighborhood. The second year multi-agency project is called "Summer Wilderness Adventure Group."

### NPS Role

RTCA staff, Mary Hanson and Kenny Points, and a Student Conservation Association employee will work to include new partners and create new experiences for the youth. The main emphasis is to show that recreational and natural resources experiences exist in all neighborhoods. The Lewis and Clark National Historical Trail, a local NPS unit, is engaged as a partner.

## 3. Safe Connections Rockbluff Road Pedestrian Trail

Project Partner: Safe Connections  
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders  
Location: Beaver Lake  
Congressional District: NE - 1

### Project Goal

Construction of a 3-mile hard surface trail that provides a safe connection for children and adults from their neighborhood to the main clubhouse and other parts of the neighborhood.

### NPS Role

Assist with the planning and development of a 3-mile trail that provides a save connection for the local community to two geographically separated areas of the community.

## 4. Scotts Bluff National Monument Trails Plan

Project Partner: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, College of Architecture  
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson  
Location: Gering  
Congressional District: NE - 3

### Project Goal

Over the past ten years, the park has assisted bordering communities and the State of Nebraska with trails and natural resources planning. Now, the park is ready to update its own trail plan. A preliminary trails study will be completed by fifth-year Landscape Architecture students as their capstone project.

### NPS Role

RTCA staff will act as a consultant to the students providing information and coordination on the Monument's trail planning with the surrounding community trails network and Future Wildcat Hills Backcountry Trails. RTCA will assist in planning and implementing public meetings. Students will work with park and regional staff to meet the needs of environmental assessments and generate potential alternatives.