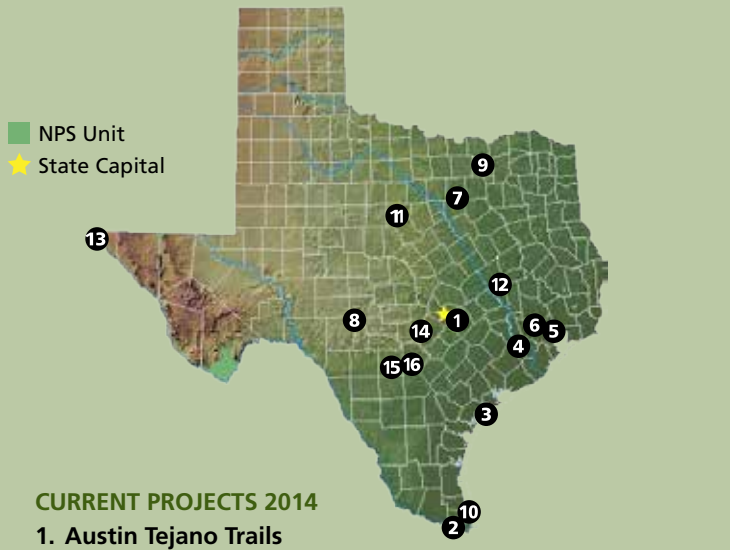




Texas News



Experiencing Greens Bayou paddle trail. Photo: Grady Hicks



CURRENT PROJECTS 2014

1. Austin Tejano Trails
2. Connecting Brownsville's Historic Battlefield Trail
3. Green Lake County Park
4. Fort Bend Brazos River Recreation
5. Greens Bayou Paddle Trail
6. Strollin' & Rollin' Bikeways and Pathways
7. Lake Arlington Shoreline Trail
8. Llano River Biodiversity Trails
9. Plano Paddling Trails
10. Port Isabel Arturo Galvan Coastal Park
11. Bosque River Trail
12. Turkey Creek Corridor
13. Franklin Mountains Landscape Conservation
14. Dripping Springs Trails
15. Alternative Transportation at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
16. Education & Outreach Partnerships at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Greens Bayou Inaugurates its First Canoe-Kayak Launch

In Spring 2013, the Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition completed its first improved canoe-kayak launch site on the proposed 25-mile Greens Bayou Paddle Trail. The partners had the opportunity to celebrate by hosting a visit from National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis on April 24.

Director Jarvis enjoyed a paddle trip to see the nearby resident eagles and spoke to a gathering of project partners. Jarvis emphasized how part of the National Park Service mission is to connect Americans to resources at the community level through programs like NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance. The overall paddle trail is receiving NPS strategic planning assistance.

"We bring expertise in how you do community planning, how you engage communities in envisioning what the future is about..."

- John Jarvis, Director of the NPS

The Thomas Bell Foster Park is a great example of how partnerships come together to create successes. Non-profit leaders, citizen and business group volunteers and donors, and enthusiastic emerging youth leaders from San Jacinto Junior College have all participated in improving this key access point to Greens Bayou. A local kayak touring service has taken almost 700 people on the bayou since the site was completed.

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Current Projects



Brazos River bike-kayaker. Photo: Fort Bend Green

1. Austin's Tejano Trails

Project Partner: East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team
NPS Contact: Justin Bates
Location: Downtown Austin
Congressional District: TX - 35

Project Goal

Develop a series of historic walking trails that highlight the history and culture of East Austin. These routes will use innovative wayfinding signs, interactive interpretive displays, and trail corridor improvements.

NPS Role

Help the Tejano Trails Steering Committee finalize trail sites and routes, identify necessary wayfinding and interpretive signage, and build partnerships that will help promote and encourage use of the trails.

2. Connecting Brownsville's Historic Battlefield Trail

Project Partner: City of Brownsville
NPS Contact: Krista Sherwood
Location: City of Brownsville
Congressional District: TX - 34

Project Goal

Enhance the connection between the Historic Battlefield Hike and Bike Trail to connect between key historic sites in Brownsville, including the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park.

NPS Role

Facilitate project planning for pursuing trail connections between the trail and the national park, work with key partners to enhance access, recreation, and educational opportunities along the trail and between key sites and provide guidance for potential funding sources.

3. Green Lake County Park

Project Partner: Calhoun County
NPS Contact: Justin Bates
Location: Green Lake County Park
Congressional District: TX - 14

Project Goal

Develop a 6,434-acre county park with trails, wildlife observation stations, camping areas, water access, and other improvements in Calhoun County, Texas.

NPS Role

Assist Calhoun County and its partners as they develop a conservation and management plan that will allow public access and recreational use while protecting the significant natural resources found on the site. The NPS will help the county identify conservation priorities and preferred recreational uses and will help convene key stakeholders.

4. Fort Bend Brazos River Recreation

Project Partner: Fort Bend Green
NPS Contact: Marta Newkirk
Location: Fort Bend County
Congressional District: TX - 22

Project Goal

Create a stakeholder-based recreation master plan for a 90-mile stretch of the Brazos River in Fort Bend County to recommend water and land trails and recreation improvements.

Current Projects cont.

NPS Role

Assist partner communities and stakeholders in identifying recreation and conservation opportunities along the Brazos River in Fort Bend County. The NPS has helped to conduct public outreach events, surveys and community workshops to identify a number of stakeholder-based highest priority recreation and conservation projects for implementation.

“Fort Bend Green has been fortunate to be the recipient of NPS assistance. The NPS has undertaken our very large project and has been instrumental in each step of the process, showing outstanding knowledge and professionalism.”

- Kim Icenhower, Community Liaison
Director, Fort Bend Green, Inc.

5. Greens Bayou Paddle Trail

Project Partner: Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition
NPS Contact: Kathryn Nichols
Location: Harris County
Congressional District: TX - 18, 29

Project Goal

A 25-mile paddling trail with suitable access sites in the Houston area. Develop best management practices and obtain designations as a Texas Paddle Trail and National Water Trail.

NPS Role

Help the coalition engage stakeholders and citizens in the planning process, prioritize paddle trail projects and phases and draft a strategic plan for

implementation and management. Identify funding sources and partners. The NPS will advise on designation applications and best management practices for recreation, stewardship, education, and promotion.

6. Strollin' & Rollin' Bikeways/Pathways

Project Partner: University of Houston
NPS Contact: Justin Bates
Location: Southeast Houston
Congressional District: TX - 18

Project Goal

Develop a signed network of bike routes and pathways that connect key community and recreation destinations in inner southeast Houston.

NPS Role

Help the Strollin' & Rollin' committee with organizational development, stakeholder engagement, and data collection in order to develop preferred biking and walking routes through the neighborhood.

7. Lake Arlington Shoreline Trail

Project Partner: City of Fort Worth
NPS Contact: Marta Newkirk
Location: Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex
Congressional Districts: TX - 6, 33

Project Goal

Develop 15 miles of trail around the shoreline of Lake Arlington in Fort Worth and connect, via trails, with the neighboring communities of Arlington and Kennedale. Develop a plan for the restoration of 40 miles of riparian shoreline on Lake Arlington.

NPS Role

Assist project partners in forming a partnership with the various stakeholders in the region. Develop implementation strategies for a 15-mile trail and for the restoration and conservation of the shoreline of the 143-square mile lake.

8. Llano River Biodiversity Trails

Project Partner: Texas Tech University
Llano River Field Station
NPS Contact: Marta Newkirk
Location: Junction, Kimble County
Congressional District: TX - 11

Project Goal

Develop 3.2 miles of land trails on the Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station property in Junction, which will connect with a newly designated 4.4-mile paddle trail along the Llano River. Highlight six demonstration areas of best management practices for native plant gardens, rainwater harvesting systems, mesquite brush control, wildlife water guzzlers with game cameras, invasive species management, and instream fish habitat improvement structures.

NPS Role

Assist with the development of a stakeholder-based vision plan for a land and water trail system on the Llano River Field Station property. The trail system will be an interpretive experience that highlights different habitats and ecosystems representing the Texas Hill Country. Secure implementation resources for various components of the vision plan. The jewel of the envisioned trail system is a two-level tower structure that will offer viewing of surrounding vistas and resources, and demonstrate solar power, rainwater harvesting, and phenology gardens.

9. Plano Paddle Trails

Project Partner: City of Plano Parks and Recreation Department
NPS Contact: Kathryn Nichols
Location: Plano
Congressional Districts: TX - 3, 24, 32

Project Goal

A paddle trail system with access to the City of Plano's 5 creeks and 5 ponds, which cover over 35 miles and 67 surface acres.

Current Projects cont.

NPS Role

Identify issues, opportunities, and engage community stakeholders in a consensus-building planning process for the Plano paddle trail system. Help local leaders assess navigability and access sites, prioritize paddle trail segments, and incorporate implementation and management strategies into a strategic plan. Provide guidance on access facilities and operations.

10. Port Isabel Arturo Galvan Coastal Park

Project Partner: City of Port Isabel
NPS Contact: Krista Sherwood
Location: Port Isabel
Congressional District: TX - 34

Project Goal

Improve an approximate 8-acre property, adjacent to the Laguna Madre Bay, as a waterfront park. Promote recreation and ecotourism in the Port Isabel community by providing for outdoor recreation and ecological education opportunities.

NPS Role

Provide assistance in developing a park strategic plan and conceptual design. Identify and recruit additional project partners, assist in community engagement, identify park and community connection opportunities, assist with youth engagement and educational opportunities, and provide guidance for potential funding sources.

11. Bosque River Trail Corridor

Project Partner: Keep Stephenville Beautiful
NPS Contact: Kathryn Nichols
Location: City of Stephenville
Congressional District: TX - 11, 25

Project Goal

Create 7 miles of new land trail along the Bosque River, 2 miles of paddling trail, park nodes and connections, and educational programs.

NPS Role

Assist in the development of the river corridor's master plan and implementation strategies, including identifying funding opportunities and encouraging adoption by various government partners.

12. Turkey Creek Greenway

Project Partner: Turkey Creek Recreation and Conservation Coalition
NPS Contact: Kathryn Nichols
Location: City of Bryan and Brazos County
Congressional District: TX - 17

Project Goal

Protect a several hundred acre greenbelt zone for recreation and conservation in the floodplain of almost 8 miles of Turkey Creek from downtown Bryan to the Brazos River. Partners are seeking to preserve habitat for wildlife and provide trail connections in an urbanizing area.

NPS Role

Help partners define a vision for the Turkey Creek greenway that will guide public access and resource

“Superior leadership from the NPS has played a significant role in helping make our vision become a reality.”

- Metta Collier, Project Coordinator, Keep Stephenville Beautiful.

management policies in urban, suburban, and rural zones. Structure public engagement opportunities to refine and support the greenbelt protection plan. Help partners create legal mechanisms to protect the greenbelt. Identify funding strategies and guide landowner participation and city roles.

13. Franklin Mountains Landscape Conservation

Project Partner: Frontera Land Alliance
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: El Paso, Texas; Las Cruces, NM
Congressional District: TX - 16

Project Goal

The Franklin - Organ Mountains Landscape Conservation Collaborative



Future site of the proposed Arturo Galvan Coastal Park in Port Isabel, Texas. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

aims to identify, prioritize, and protect key lands for conservation purposes including wildlife habitat and migration, watershed health, and recreation. The most important deliverable is an anticipated interactive landscape conservation map available to the public, development community and conservation supporters.

NPS Role

Support the Frontera Land Alliance in building broad-based support for landscape conservation with the City of El Paso and Dona Ana County, New Mexico. The NPS will provide meeting and group facilitation to the Landscape Collaborative and support community involvement opportunities to identify key conservation lands.

14. Dripping Springs Trails

Project Partner: City of Dripping Springs

NPS Contact: Justin Bates

Location: Hays County

Congressional Districts: TX - 21, 25

Project Goal

Develop a vibrant trail system designed to link pedestrians and bicyclists

with parks, shops, schools, and other interesting locations throughout Dripping Springs.

NPS Role

Help the City of Dripping Springs advance their city-wide trails plan by engaging with stakeholders to identify priority trail corridors, develop implementation strategies for trail development, and identify potential funding sources.

15. Alternative Transportation at San Antonio Missions NHP

Project Partner: San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

NPS Contact: Krista Sherwood

Location: San Antonio

Congressional Districts: TX - 23, 28, 35

Project Goal

Enhance alternative transportation access to the national historical park and improve visitor wayfinding between park sites. Improve bike and pedestrian connections between the park and the surrounding community.

NPS Role

Provide project management, planning development, public outreach, civic engagement, and partner coordination. Pursue funding for efforts aimed at enhancing alternative transportation access at the national historical park.

16. Education & Outreach Partnerships at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Project Partner: San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

NPS Contact: Krista Sherwood

Location: San Antonio

Congressional Districts: TX - 23, 28, 35

Project Goal

Expand recreation, conservation, outdoor education, and outreach efforts at the national historical park, developed through partnership involvement.

NPS Role

Provide support and technical assistance as needed for project development and partner coordination.



Students participating in a partnership developed education program at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You!

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



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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide 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.

www.nps.gov/rtca

Recent Successes cont.

Llano River Field Station Receives \$230,000 for Green Energy Building Power

The Texas Tech University Llano River Field Station (TTU-LRFS), in partnership with the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program and multiple public and private stakeholder groups, have developed a vision plan for the Discovery Point Trail System. This land and water trail system on the TTU-LRFS property will demonstrate various best management practices including renewable energy technologies.

In October 2013, the TTU-LRFS was awarded a \$230,000 Innovative Energy Demonstration Grant from the Office of the Texas State Comptroller's Energy Conservation Office. This grant will help fund the installation of solar panels and a wind turbine. This project makes two buildings at the TTU-LRFS the first in the entire Texas Tech University system to run on renewable energy using sun and wind.



Llano River Field Station hosts groups learning about riparian areas. Photo: NPS

"We are developing a Discovery Point Trail System that will have demonstration stops along the trail," said Tom Arsuffi, director of the field station. "The renewable energy solar panels, solar tracker, and wind turbine will be components of the trail."

"We will partner with departments and colleges on the main campus, including Texas Tech University Engineering, Arts and Sciences, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Education and Architecture, for class field trips to learn about the LRFS renewable energy project in the context of conservation and sustainability of natural resources," Arsuffi said.



Rus Miller. Photo: Meredith Miller

US Army Nurse Joins NPS Team

Specialist James 'Rus' Miller, a nurse with the United States Army, has temporarily joined the staff of the Texas Field Office. Rus is on detail to the NPS through the Warrior Transition Brigade program, which helps wounded soldiers through a time of rehabilitation and healing. During his time with the NPS - Texas, Rus will be helping project leaders to bring health organizations to the "partnership table" and to develop health-related goals and outcomes on their projects.