

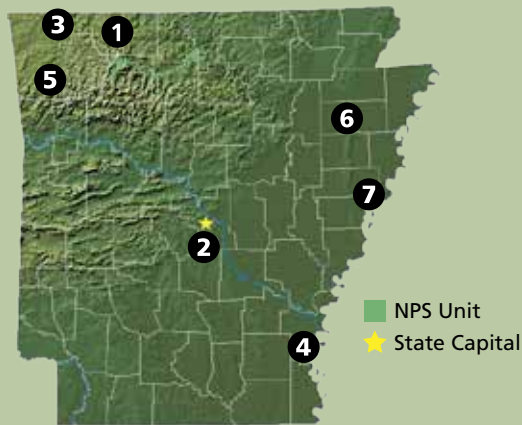


Arkansas News



Historic District of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Eureka Springs Historic District Trails**
City of Eureka Springs
- 2. Fourche Creek Park and Water Trail**
Audubon Arkansas
- 3. Little Sugar Creek Water Trail**
Little Sugar Creek Stream Team
- 4. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
- 5. Mt. Kessler Reserve - Outdoor Classroom**
Mt. Kessler Greenways
- 6. The Good Road Trail**
East Arkansas Planning and Development District
- 7. West Memphis Trail Network**
City of West Memphis

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

West Memphis Trails Efforts Get a Boost from Across the Mississippi River

The University of Memphis was recently awarded a \$50,000 sub-planning grant to develop the West Memphis Eco-Park and a long-term development plan for its environs. The University of Memphis' Department of City and Regional Planning will lead a team of professors and students on the project, in cooperation with the West Memphis Department of Planning and Development. Together, a master plan for the eco-park and interpretive trail system will be developed for the area at the terminus of Harahan Bridge on the West Memphis side. Features and amenities proposed in the project plans include an educational center, outdoor open and recreational space, and a refuge for wildlife. Agriculture will also play an integral role in the educational and recreational spaces described in the plan. Through the installation of multi-functional agricultural and social farming exhibits, the eco-park will provide an opportunity to learn about local agricultural practices and history.

Since the Harahan Bridge corridor will become the main pedestrian connector between Memphis and West Memphis, the study area that encompasses the West Memphis Eco-Park was chosen to ensure that the City of West Memphis is positioned to build on the opportunities determined by the project. The trails developed starting at the terminus of the Harahan Bridge on the West Memphis side will be planned as connectors to areas of higher population densities and potential new development.

Current Projects

1. Eureka Springs Historic District Trails

Project Partner: City of Eureka Springs

NPS Contact: Guy Headland

Location: Eureka Springs

Congressional District: AR - 3

Project Goal

Develop trail links with a new north-south trail spine to connect outlying parking areas to the central historic core. Establish safe walking and biking routes that include effective wayfinding in coordination with the National Register of Historic Places.

NPS Role

Assist in the development of a master trail plan, help plan and facilitate public meetings, work to engage civic leaders, and assist with finding funding resources for the project.



Stakeholders participate in a trail planning meeting for the Eureka Springs Historic District. Photo: NPS

2. Fourche Creek Park and Water Trail

Project Partner: Audubon Arkansas

NPS Contact: Guy Headland

Location: Little Rock

Congressional District: AR - 2

Project Goal

Designate Fourche Creek as a water trail by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

NPS Role

Facilitate up to two public input meetings; assist Audubon Arkansas in convening up to two potential partner and stakeholder meetings; assist in developing graphic concept plan; and assist in researching potential funding opportunities.

“The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program has been an invaluable resource for our communities’ effort to formulate a master plan for our trails system. The NPS fills a void in smaller communities that otherwise lack the staff or resources to provide the necessary elements to produce professional planning documents.”

- Bruce Levine, Director of Parks and Recreation Commission, Eureka Springs



Little Sugar Creek located in Bella Vista, Arkansas. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

3. Little Sugar Creek Water Trail

Project Partner: Little Sugar Creek Stream Team

NPS Contact: Guy Headland

Location: Bella Vista

Congressional District: AR - 3

Project Goal

Achieve consensus from community participants on a vision for establishing Little Sugar Creek as an Arkansas designated water trail. Provide water trail access; navigation guidance; safety, conservation, and boating technique education; information about seasonal changes; and counsel on how to respect private property.

NPS Role

Identify and convene key stakeholders and property owners to gather support for a water trail; present information on benefits of water trail amenities; facilitate public meetings for proposed project input; and establish a working group to use the agreed-upon vision to develop cooperation with land owners, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and other partners.

4. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative/Mississippi River Trail

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: Mississippi River, source to mouth

Congressional District: AR - 1, 4; IA - 1, 2, 4; IL - 12, 16, 17; MN - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; MO - 1, 2, 3, 8, 9; WI - 3, 7

Project Goal

Outreach to local communities to encourage improvements to the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) for recreation, tourism, and community development; continued technical assistance in the development of the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative (MRCC) and increased long-term organizational viability;

further develop the Mississippi River blueway portion of the trail system; and develop a geotourism initiative with the National Geographic Society.

NPS Role

Assist the MRCC with organizational development, outreach to other organizations and agencies, and development and implementation of their strategic and operations plans. Increase the MRT's capacity to help develop water and land-based trails along the Mississippi River. Specifically, over the next year, assist the MRCC with the development of a sustainable destination tourism (geotourism) initiative in partnership with the National Geographic Society.

5. Mt. Kessler Reserve - Outdoor Classroom

Project Partner: Mt. Kessler Greenways

NPS Contact: Guy Headland

Location: Fayetteville

Congressional District: AR - 3

Project Goal

Develop a K-12 teacher's guide for use of the site as an outdoor classroom promoting appreciation of natural

resources and natural heritage. Design and build one to two miles of hiking trails with interpretive elements corresponding to the teacher's guide.

NPS Role

Convene educators, experts, and youth in the development of an outdoor lab to identify resources and create narratives highlighting those resources. Provide assistance for improvement of existing trails and for the development of additional trails corresponding to the objectives of the outdoor classroom and lab teacher's guide.

6. The Good Road Trail

Project Partner: East Arkansas Planning and Development District

NPS Contact: Guy Headland

Location: Marked Tree, Tryonza, Gilmore

Congressional District: AR - 1

Project Goal

Develop 6 to 12 miles of multi-use trail connecting three Arkansas cities.

NPS Role

Achieve community consensus about a vision for the development of a



Students from the University of Memphis' Department of City and Regional Planning tour the Mississippi River floodway trails site with their professor, Antonio Raciti and Paul Luker, Director of Planning & Development. 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

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Current Projects cont.

trail along "The Good Road." Create an organization or collaboration of continuing partners poised to implement the community and/or regional vision, as well as to maintain the finished trail long-term.

7. West Memphis Trail Network

Project Partner: City of West Memphis
NPS Contact: Guy Headland
Location: Crittenden County
Congressional District: AR - 1

Project Goal

Build a trail system in West Memphis, Arkansas that serves as a recreational facility connecting users to the Mississippi River. Develop the

Harahan bike and pedestrian bridge in coordination with the proposed trail system. Such a trail will provide opportunities to learn about the river's history and ecological communities, as well as experience views of downtown Memphis.

NPS Role

Assist the town's planning department in the area assessment for the selected trail development. Help search for potential funding resources and provide conceptual planning, organizational development, and capacity building guidance and expertise.



Sketch illustrating trail concept for approach to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Photo: NPS

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.