



Oklahoma News



★ State Capital



Sallisaw Landing at Robert S. Kerr Lake

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Sulphur-Chickasaw Natural Resource Protection Partnership**
City of Sulphur, Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- 2. Greenway of the Cherokee Ozarks**
Blue Sky Water

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.

Current Projects

1. Greenway of the Cherokee Ozarks

Project Partner: Blue Sky Water
RTCA Contact: Joy Lujan
Location: Northeastern Oklahoma

Project Goal

Create a greenway and trail corridor that will provide recreational opportunities, enhance wildlife habitat, connect parks and open space, and highlight Cherokee history and culture.

RTCA Role

Assist Blue Sky Water and the Cherokee Nation in identifying significant resources to tie together through a greenway and trail corridor. Identify and facilitate partnerships and convene the resources necessary to make the greenway vision a reality.



Cherokee Ozarks

We're Here For You.

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

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2009 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,411 Miles of Trail Developed

2,664 Miles of River Conserved

87,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

97% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



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Current Projects cont.

2. Sulphur-Chickasaw Natural Resource Protection Partnership

Project Partner: City of Sulphur, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

RTCA Contact: Alan Ragins

Location: Sulphur, OK

Project Goal

Identify alternative strategies for securing long-term, clean, reliable sources of drinking water for people, water to supply agriculture and industry, and water to support the recreation and tourism benefits of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The Chickasaw National Recreation Area is struggling to fulfill its mission of natural resource protection as springs fed by groundwater dry up.

RTCA Role

Facilitate a series of meetings with representatives of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, the City of Sulphur, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Resources Conservation Service, the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District, local rural water districts, the Chickasaw Nation, and other stakeholders to identify and evaluate long-term water resource issues in the region. Help participants to better understand the issues, each others' positions on those issues, and brainstorm alternative solutions.



Spring pool located in Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Apply for RTCA Assistance

RTCA staff help with partnership-building to achieve community-set goals, organizational development, assessing resources, developing concept plans, public education and participation, and identifying potential sources of funding. The project applicant may be a state or local agency, tribe, non-profit organization, or citizens' group. Federal agencies, including the National Park Service, may apply only in collaboration with a non-federal partner. RTCA does not provide financial assistance to support project implementation.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project with RTCA staff before sending in an application. It can be helpful to schedule an advance field visit by our staff to best understand how RTCA can be of assistance.

For application details, please contact Alan Ragins, Program Leader, Intermountain Region, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program at (303) 969-2855 or alan_ragins@nps.gov.

For further information about RTCA and the work we are doing around the country with nearly 300 communities, please visit our national web site at <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>.



A flowing artesian well in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. A water sample from Vendome Well was determined to be 9,000 years old by carbon-14 dating