



Kansas News



Kansas Governor Sam Brownback with the first lady and a group of paddlers on the Kansas River. Photo: Brian Leaders

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Kansas River Water Trail**
State of Kansas
- 2. Ottawa, Kansas Trail Connections**
City of Ottawa
- 3. Healthy Living Campus at Kemper Farm**
Committee for a Healthy Living Campus at Kemper Farm

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

ABOUT US

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

Recent Successes

Kansas River: Next Steps to Outdoor Recreation

Over the past two years, the NPS has worked with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT), Friends of the Kaw, and local communities to collaborate on a plan that identifies the need for wayfinding signs and increased awareness of the recreational opportunities on the Kansas River. The partners have leveraged over \$100,000 for signs and media materials.

On July 14, 2012, the Kansas River was the second river to be designated as a National Water Trail. In keeping with the development of the Kaw River as a water trail, throughout 2013, NPS staff provided concept sign designs for the on-river signage and assisted in establishing the physical locations for the on-road and on-river sign locations. Working collaboratively with KDWPT, the NPS also helped organize the first annual Governors Paddle in September of 2013, and are currently working with the Governors River Committee, in a liaison capacity, to assist in the development of a broader network of partnerships between the 21 communities and the many counties that are contiguous to the river.

To date, all of the on-road wayfinding signs have been installed by the Kansas Department of Transportation and local communities, sixteen miles of on-river signs have been installed and enough signs have been purchased to sign an additional 35 miles of river. In addition, the Kansas River maps and brochures have been printed and distributed throughout the state and kiosk signs are being installed near two access ramps.

This water trail is set to provide the State of Kansas and its guests many years of outdoor recreation enjoyment.

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

1. Kansas River water Trail

Project Partner: Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism
NPS Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Eastern Kansas
Congressional Districts: KS - 1, 2, 3

Project Goal

Continue to increase tourism through river use such as fishing, paddling, and sightseeing; increase public recreation; improve personal health; and construct additional access ramps. Complete the installation of the on-river mile marker signs, increase community involvement and economic development, and promote the outdoors.

NPS Role

Provide technical assistance to create more public awareness of the river, and bring public and private interest groups together to work as one to promote public use of the river. Aid in the development planning of more access ramps in areas where there is a need to reduce excessive distances between takeout points. Assist in the public awareness of four weirs that currently exist and help guide the planning of removal or safety mitigation.

2. Ottawa Trails

Project Partner: City of Ottawa
NPS Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Ottawa
Congressional District: KS - 2

Project Goal

Develop trail connections so that residents and visitors can travel safely through and around the community using non-motorized transportation. The city would like to achieve better connectivity and better access to the Flint Hills Nature Trail, and increased economic activity through higher visitorship and enhanced wellness.

NPS Role

Assist in creating pedestrian circulation and connection solutions at difficult intersections. Work to promote

“The Kansas River is an important natural resource in our state. This designation will complement our efforts to develop and promote outdoor recreation, to encourage youth and adults to re-connect with nature through hunting and fishing.”

-Sam Brownback, Governor of Kansas

natural resource conservation, analyze design development issues, and guide the community toward high quality funding strategies.

3. Healthy Living campus at Kemper Farm

Project Partner: Committee
NPS Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Overland Park
Congressional District: KS - 3

Project Goal

Develop a site-based health and recreation programming plan for a 25-acre site within the city's 300-acre Kemper Farm. The campus will include community food gardens, seasonal indoor and outdoor 'Eating and Living' classrooms, recreation programs for youth and adults, and partnership learning silos for local universities and libraries. It will also be entirely based on not-for-profit educational programs.

NPS Role

Partner to develop new paradigms for healthy living and to create innovative ways to make it fun for all ages and cultures. Work closely with the Healthy Living Committee to engage the public in the development of a healthier lifestyle through recreation. Help foster a better understanding of "healthy."