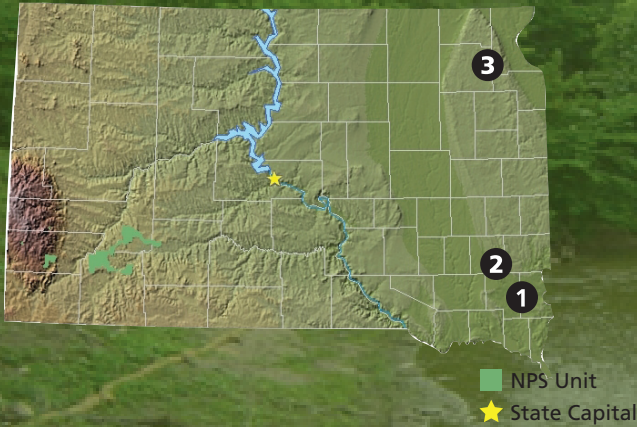




South Dakota News



Vermillion River - the site of Centerville's history and future recreation.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

1. Centerville's Endless Trails
City of Centerville, Centerville Medical Clinic
2. Parker Vermillion River Beautification Project
City of Parker
3. Webster Trail
City of Webster

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

Centerville, South Dakota is a small community (900 residents) with big dreams. It is located on banks of the Vermillion River in southeastern South Dakota. There is a Main Street that makes you think you've gone back in time. The store fronts are kept up and everyone has a smile and waves to you.

In the not too distant past, Centerville had a beautiful riverfront beach that people flocked to from miles around. But the river changed and the beach fell into disrepair. Just a mile downstream from this beach there was a state of the art flour mill and electrical plant. These too lived past their prime.

But the Economic Development Director, Bill Hansen, contacted Karen Anderson, NPS RTCA, to see if she could help the community revitalize these local landmarks. Karen partnered with Paul Clinton, ASLA from Sioux Falls, to scope out the towns assets and make recommendations. RTCA has a cooperative agreement with the ASLA whereby both organizations assist one another.

Originally, the town wanted a hike/bike trail to follow the Vermillion River and lead into town. Paul and Karen saw that this would require acquisition of land, a highway crossing, and modifications to a highway bridge. Upon further inspection of the town, Karen saw that students had very little safe walking or biking routes to school. She consulted with the South Dakota Safe Routes to School Coordinator, Angela Olsen, who visited with townspeople. From that partnership, priorities were refocused and the town will now seek funding from the Safe Routes to School program.

The dream to construct a path from the river into town has not died. The South Dakota Game Fish and Parks Commission has renovated the site of the mill, made an accessible route to the water, and constructed a fishing pier. This has opened up another possible activity—kayaking.

Karen will continue to work with Centerville and hopes that, in the not too distant future, there will be a path connecting the townspeople with their incredible resource, the Vermillion River.

We're Here For You.

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



Karen Anderson
402-661-1542
karen_anderson@nps.gov



Dave Thomson
402-661-1570
dave_thomson@nps.gov

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Projects

1. Centerville's Endless Trails

Project Partner: City of Centerville,
Centerville Medical Clinic
RTCA Contact: Karen Anderson
Location: Centerville
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal:

Develop a plan from which the community can work and develop trails as funds become available.

RTCA Role:

Work with community members to develop a concept plan which will include the ideal route for the trails, type of trails for the desired uses, and potential funding sources to construct the trails.

2. Parker Vermillion River Beautification Project

Project Partner: City of Parker
RTCA Contact: Karen Anderson
Location: Parker
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal:

Provide access to the Vermillion River for residents and visitors to Parker, SD. Connect missing links in the local hike and bike trail.

RTCA Role:

RTCA staff will assist the city administration in planning for a 2-mile walking and biking path alongside the Vermillion River.

3. Webster Trail

Project Partner: City of Webster
RTCA Contact: Karen Anderson
Location: Webster
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal:

Construct a multi-use trail will links popular town sites, including a football field, school, soccer fields, and hospital.

RTCA Role:

Determine the walkability of the town.

"The Rivers & Trails program keeps vibrant by adapting and re-focusing efforts in response to the needs of the communities served..."

- Terry Eastin,
Executive Director,
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

