

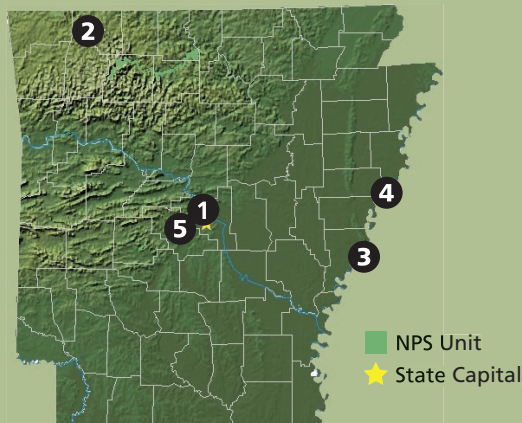


Arkansas News



Harahan Bridge a pedestrian bridge in the making, West Memphis Trails Planning. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Arkansas River Trail
City of Little Rock
2. Eureka Springs Historic District Trails
City of Eureka Springs
3. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative/
Mississippi River Trail
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
4. West Memphis Trails
City of West Memphis, Planning & Development
5. North Little Rock Healthy Communities Plan
City of North Little Rock

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Biking and Hiking Trail Will Span 88 Miles Through Central Arkansas

Community leaders gathered Friday, June 1, 2012 at the Little Rock side of the Big Dam Bridge to sign “A Memorandum of Understanding” establishing the Arkansas River Trail System.

With the signing of the memorandum, the Trail System will be extended 88 miles across multiple cities and counties, connecting 38 parks and six museums with 44,000 residents and 54,000 jobs, all located within a half-mile of the trail. This event highlighted the environmental, economic, and health benefits of a well-designed trail system.

The Arkansas River Trail System began as a 14-mile loop between Little Rock and North Little Rock, transecting and connecting the riverfront parks of both cities. It has become the catalyst for the development of bicycling, walking, and running trails in the entire metropolitan area, traveling west on both sides of the Arkansas River to Pinnacle Mountain State Park over the Two Rivers Park Bridge.

“This is not only the premier trail for recreation, but also the premier trail for commuting. This trail system has received national recognition and will hopefully attract the millennial generation who are looking to start families and careers in environments with creative amenities,” said Jim McKenzie, Executive Director of Metroplan. “The signing of the MOU was an unprecedented event, with several different cities, three different counties, two state departments, and a federal agency agreeing to jointly maintain and operate a premier trail in the United States,” said McKenzie.

Current Projects

1. Arkansas River Trail

Project Partner: City of Little Rock
RTCA Contact: Karen Anderson
Location: Little Rock
Congressional District: AR - 2

Project Goal

An eighty-eight mile trail will be developed. The trail will be comprised of three nested loops: Downtown Loop (1.9 miles); Big Dam Loop (15.7 miles); and Grand Loop (88.5 miles).

NPS Role

Work with the city to develop a trail plan and to help find funding for trail development.



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding that establishes the Arkansas River Trail System.

Photo: NPS

2. Eureka Springs Historic District Trails

Project Partner: City of Eureka Springs
RTCA Contact: Guy Headland
Location: Eureka Springs
Congressional District: AR - 3

Project Goal

Develop a master trail plan with community input and support from public meetings, design charrettes, and additional funding.

NPS Role

Assist in the development of a trail master plan and engage civic leaders through public meetings and presentations.

“In order to gain public confidence for the proposed trails system in our Historic District, the Parks Commission has long felt that active participation by the community will be essential to the success of the project. Our partnership with RTCA is crucial to helping us build consensus and create the atmosphere of cooperation necessary to complete our intended goals. This is another quote from someone that has something good to say about RTCA...”

3. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative/Mississippi River Trail

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: Mississippi River, Ten States
Congressional Districts: AR - 1, 4; IA - 1, 2, 4; IL - 12, 16, 17; KY - 1; LA - 3, 5, 6; MN - 1, 2, 6, 8; MO - 1, 2, 3, 8, 9; MS - 2, 3; TN - 8, 9; WI - 3, 7

Project Goal

Continued assistance to the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative (MRCC) with a focus on expanding the

Collaborative to additional partners, creating a sustainable forum, and enhancing the organization. Assist MRT with in planning and implementation of the Year of Cycling 2013, outreach to local communities to encourage improved recreation, tourism, and community development; development of a organization strategic plan to support MOU objectives and increase long-term organizational viability; and development of the Mississippi River “blueway” portion of the trail system.

NPS Role

To assist the MRCC with organizational development, outreach to other organizations and agencies, and development and implementation of their strategic and operations plans. Increase MRT’s capacity to help develop water and land based trail along the Mississippi River.

4. West Memphis Trails

Project Partner: City of West Memphis Planning & Development
RTCA Contact: Guy Headland
Location: Crittenden County, AR
Congressional District: AR - 1

- Bruce Levine, Director, Eureka Springs Parks

We're Here For You.

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



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2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154 Miles of Trail Developed

1,074 Miles of River Conserved

70,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

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



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Current Projects cont.

Project Goal

Explore the development of a trail system in West Memphis, Arkansas that serves as a recreational facility connecting users to the Mississippi River and providing opportunities to learn about the river's history, ecological communities, and experience views of downtown Memphis. This trail network will connect to the ongoing development Harahan Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge and the Mississippi River Trail that traverses the east and west sides of the river.

NPS Role

Assist in the conceptual planning, organizational development, and capacity building.

5. North Little Rock Healthy Communities Plan

Project Partner: City of North Little Rock

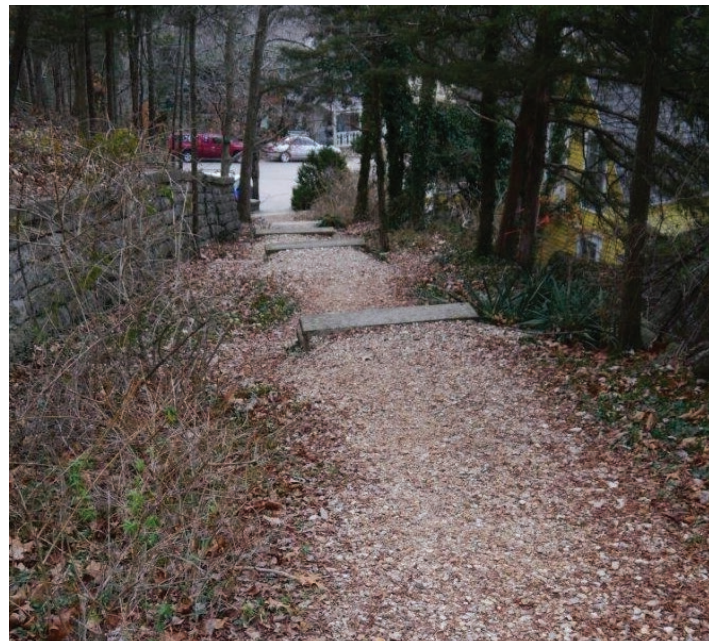
RTCA Contact: Guy Headland
Location: North Little Rock, AR
Congressional District: AR - 2

Project Goal

The City of North Little Rock is aggressively pursuing methods to provide its citizens a healthier place to live.

NPS Role

Plan and conduct public meetings; review active transportation plan; assist in overall exploration and development of walking and biking trails.



Existing trail in historic district of Eureka Springs. Photo: NPS

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.