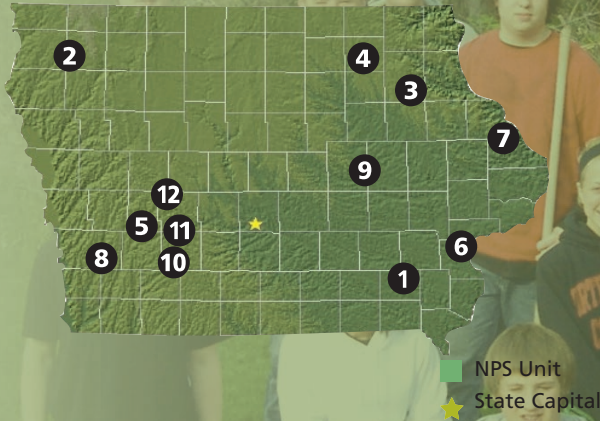




# Iowa News



American Hiking Society Service Day. Photo: NPS.

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. American Gothic Regional Trail  
Wapello County
2. Elliott Outdoor Classroom and Wetland  
City of Elliott
3. Fayette County Trails  
Fayette County Trails Committee
4. Fossil and Prairie Trail  
Grow Rockford Together Association
5. Herndon to Coon Rapids segment of the  
American Discovery Trail  
Creating Great Places
6. Louisa County Trail  
Louisa County Conservation Board
7. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative /  
Mississippi River Trail  
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
8. Shelby County Trails  
Shelby County Conservation Board
9. South Tama Trail  
South Tama Trail Committee
10. Southern Prairie Pothole Wetland Expansion  
Creating Great Places
11. T-Bone Trail  
Nishna Valley Trails Association
12. Whiterock Conservancy Soft Trail  
Whiterock Conservancy

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### A Vision That Goes County Wide

The Director of the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, Mark Shoemaker, had a vision. To develop a county-wide trail plan that will connect all the communities in the county by means of a multi-use trail. “The Pottawattamie County trails system will provide that much needed link allowing access for trail users to the Wabash Trace Nature Trail, Council Bluffs trails, Nebraska trails and, eventually the Lewis and Clark Trail and the American Discovery Trail.”

In partnership with RTCA and participation from every community in Pottawattamie County, Western Iowa Development Association, Iowa Western Community College, Pottawattamie County (Board of Supervisors, GIS, and Secondary Roads), Alegent Creighton Health, Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation, Xtreme Wheels, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and numerous county residents, a large steering committee was formed. After five community listening sessions gathered input on potential county routes, more than thirty concept maps were created. These maps have been compiled into a prioritized map of both hard and soft trails throughout Pottawattamie County. The plans were approved by the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors, and unveiled at a public event.

The Conservation Board in partnership with the steering committee is now working to fund and build their first 17 miles of trail. Construction is anticipated to start in the next two years.

# Current Projects

## 1. American Gothic Regional Trail

Project Partner: Wapello County  
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders  
Location: Ottumwa to Eldon, IA  
Congressional District: IA - 2

### Project Goal

Develop a much-needed trail that will connect multiple communities and provide several miles of multi-use trail for healthy recreation, outdoor recreation and environmental education. Gain the support of all landowners involved in an effort to develop the trail and to have strong community buy-in.

### NPS Role

Assist project partner with public listening sessions, public outreach and landowner education.

## 2. Elliott Outdoor Classroom and Wetland

Project Partner: City of Elliott  
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders  
Location: Elliott, IA  
Congressional District: IA - 3

### Project Goal

Develop a 7-acre wetland that will provide the City of Elliott a way of cleaning and infiltrating storm water in an effort to develop better drinking water for the community. Also, develop an outdoor classroom and walking trail for the adjacent elementary school and community to use for educational and physical fitness.

### NPS Role

Provide technical assistance with wetland planning, outdoor classroom design, and storm water infiltration to create better drinking water. Provide technical assistance throughout the construction and development phases.

## 3. Fayette County Trails

Project Partner: Fayette County Trails Committee  
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders  
Location: Fayette County, IA  
Congressional District: IA - 1

### Project Goal

Develop a trail network throughout the entire county, connecting the local communities to a larger statewide network that includes the MRT (Mississippi River Trail), Turkey River Recreation Corridor, local state parks, and community parks. Provide healthy recreational opportunities to the entire County, assist in forming a county-wide trail interest group, and aid in gaining funds to complete the trail network.

### NPS Role

Bring three diverse trail interest groups together to work as one common group. Conduct public meetings to educate the community and elected officials about trail benefits. Help gain public support for the construction of a 2-mile section from the EVENT Trail to West Union, a 3-mile section from the City of Fayette, and a 2-mile section from the EVENT Trail to Volga River State Park.

## 4. Fossil and Prairie Trail

Project Partner: Grow Rockford Together Association  
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders  
Location: Rockford, IA  
Congressional District: IA - 4

### Project Goal

Complete a community-wide trail plan that connects Rockford to the nearly 400 acre Fossil and Prairie Park preserve and its trail network.

### NPS Role

Assist in the development of a community-wide trail plan and help improve the trail system that connects the community to the Fossil and Prairie Park.

## 5. Herndon to Coon Rapids segment of the American Discovery Trail

Project Partner: Creating Great Places  
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders  
Location: Coon Rapids, IA  
Congressional District: 4

### Project Goal

Assist in the development of a 17-mile rails-to-trail conversion project.

### NPS Role

Facilitate private and public meetings, assist with mapping, identify sources of funding for the project, provide necessary technical assistance, and act as a liaison with national partners.

## 6. Louisa County Trails

Project Partner: Louisa County Conservation Board  
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders  
Location: Louisa County, IA  
Congressional District: IA - 2

### Project Goal

Build a community partnership to develop a county-wide trail master plan that will link residents to their county parks, open spaces, natural features, and other communities in an effort to provide better health, wellness, and economic benefits.



Mississippi River Trail event. Photo: NPS

# Current Projects cont.



Odessa Water Trail event. Photo: NPS

## NPS Role

Provide technical assistance in a effort to assist the county in achieving a comprehensive master plan that can be implemented in phases.

## 7. Mississippi River Collaborative/Mississippi River Trail

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc

RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: Mississippi River, Ten States  
Congressional District: 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 - 1, 2; TN - 8, 9; WI - 3, 7

## Project Goal

Continued assistance to MRCC with a focus on expanding the Collaborative to additional partners and creating a sustainable forum with general assistance to MRT focused on enhancing the organization. Specific assistance in planning and implementation of the Year of Cycling 2013, outreach to local communities to encourage improvements to the MRT for improved recreation, tourism, and community development; continued technical assistance in the development of a organization strategic plan to support MOU objectives and increase long-term organizational viability; and to further develop to the Mississippi River "blueway" portion of the trail system.

## NPS Role

Assist the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative 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.

## 8. Shelby County Trails

Project Partner: Shelby County Conservation Board

RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders

Location: Shelby County, IA  
Congressional District: IA - 4

## Project Goal

Produce a comprehensive county-wide trails plan that can be used by the County Conservation Board and Board of Supervisors for future trail planning and development.

## NPS Role

Provide technical assistance to the Shelby County Conservation Board in an effort to develop a county-wide trails plan. The plan will provide a comprehensive map to be adopted by the County Supervisors and used as guidance for preparing budgetary reports and future development plans.

## 9. South Tama Trail

Project Partner: South Tama Trail Committee

RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders

Location: Tama, IA

Congressional District: IA - 1

## Project Goal

Develop a trail plan that connects Tama to other surrounding communities.

## NPS Role

Create a trail plan that meets the needs of the communities of Tama and Toledo, Iowa. Assist the steering committee in developing a trail plan that can be used for fundraising and development planning.

## 10. Southern Prairie Pothole Wetland Expansion

Project Partner: Creating Great Places

RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders

Location: Coon Rapids, IA

Congressional District: 4

## Project Goal

Expand Dunbar Slough by adding several additional acres of wetland and wildlife habitat.

## NPS Role

Assist the Creating Great Places committee in expanding the 2,134-acre Dunbar Slough to a 7,134-acre wetland and wildlife protection habitat area.

## 11. T-Bone Trail

Project Partner: Nishna Valley Trails Association

RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders

Location: Atlantic, IA

Congressional District: IA - 3

## Project Goal

Complete a 3-mile trail section that will complete the T-Bone Trail section from Audubon, Iowa to Atlantic, Iowa. Develop plans for future trails throughout the City of Atlantic and Cass County to continue the proposed route of the ADT (American Discovery Trail).

## 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](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Current Projects cont.

### NPS Role

Assist in the planning and implementation of a 3-mile trail section needed to complete the T-Bone Trail into Atlantic, Iowa. Assist in the planning process to develop a trail plan connecting Atlantic to Pottawattamie County to the west, eventually becoming part of the ADT.

### 12. Whiterock Conservancy Soft Trail Project

Project Partner: Whiterock Conservancy  
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders  
Location: Coon Rapids, IA  
Congressional District: IA - 4

### Project Goal

Complete a 22+ mile multi-use soft trail and Outdoor Classroom that will be linked to the nationwide American Discovery Trail (ADT).

### NPS Role

Assist with formalizing a basic visitor infrastructure plan which will help refine trails plans and improve the trail concept map. Provide design

concept plans for an outdoor "learning with nature" classroom. Assist with identifying potential funding sources and provide technical expertise in multi-use sustainable design, including surveys of the concept design plan and final trails plan. After construction is complete, assist in developing a monitoring and research program and conduct feasibility studies for additional visitor amenities.

*"The development of trails will not only encourage active recreation but will keep county residents close to home and have a major impact on the decision of families and businesses to call Pottawattamie County home."*

- Mark Shoemaker, Director, Pottawattamie County Conservation Board



Americorps trail work day. 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.