



Missouri News



Supporters gather at Thousand Hills State Park to celebrate the official start of phase one of the Forest Lake Area Trails System. Photo: FLATS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Forest Lake Area Trail System (FLATS)**
FLATS, City of Kirksville
- 2. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative/Mississippi River Trail**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
- 3. Jefferson City Park Plaza**
Jefferson City Cultural Arts Foundation
- 4. Rock Island Line Trail/Eldon Greenways Plan**
City of Eldon, Prairie Gateway ASLA, St. Louis ASLA, Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments
- 5. Ozark Greenways Trail of Tears**
Ozark Greenways

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Community Celebrates Groundbreaking for Phase One of Forest Lake Area Trail System

October 2013 was a milestone for Kirksville area trail advocates that have been working toward the creation of the Forest Lake Area Trails System (FLATS) for many years. A celebration at the Petroglyph site at Thousand Hills State Park marked the

groundbreaking for phase one of the trails system.

“The NPS has provided valuable assistance, information, and resources to help our steering committee keep moving towards our goal.”

- Royce Kallerud FLATS Steering Committee

The FLATS steering committee has demonstrated a commitment to fundraising, grant writing, and community engagement. The steering committee has also worked closely with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on the design of the trail and on the eighty-foot bridge on the north side of the dining lodge.

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ABOUT US

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

Current Projects

1. Kirksville Forest Lake Area Trail System (FLATS)

Project Partners: FLATS, City of Kirksville

NPS Contact: Kim Shafer

Location: Kirksville

Congressional District: MO - 6

Project Goal

FLATS continues to work toward the creation of a four-mile paved, multi-use trail system connecting resources within Thousand Hills State Park, and eventually connecting the park to the City of Kirksville, Missouri. Phase one of the construction began in the fall of 2013.

NPS Role

Continue to work with the FLATS team to develop a multi-use trail system connecting the City of Kirksville, Missouri with Thousand Hills State Park. Help foster support for the city's planning and public engagement process and help identify potential sources of funding for the next phases of the project.



Construction begins on phase one of the Forest Lake Area Trail System at Thousand Hills State Park near Kirksville, Missouri. Photo: FLATS

2. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative/ Mississippi River Trail

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: Mississippi River, source to mouth

Congressional Districts: MO - 1,2,3,8,9

Project Goal

Outreach to local communities to encourage improvements to the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) for recreation, tourism, and community development; continued technical assistance in the development of the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative (MRCC) and increased long-term organizational viability; further develop the Mississippi River blueway portion of the trail system; and develop a geotourism initiative with the National Geographic Society.

NPS Role

Assist the MRCC with organizational development, outreach to other organizations and agencies, and development and implementation of their strategic and operations plans. Increase the MRT's capacity to help develop water and land-based trails along the Mississippi River. Specifically, over the next year, assist the MRCC with the development of a sustainable destination tourism (geotourism) initiative in partnership with the National Geographic Society.



Volunteers pitch in to clean up a section of the Rock Island Rail corridor in the heart of Eldon, Missouri. The corridor is being developed into a bicycle and pedestrian trail. Photo: D. Partridge

Current Projects cont.

3. Jefferson City Park Plaza

Project Partner: Jefferson City Cultural Arts Foundation
NPS Contact: Kim Shafer
Location: Jefferson City
Congressional District: MO - 3

Project Goal

Create a trailhead plaza to be constructed adjacent to Jefferson City's greenway system. The current greenway currently stretches 15 miles connecting suburban areas, retail sectors, the established urban core of the city and the Katy Trail, a bicycle and hiking trail spanning the state of Missouri.

NPS Role

Work with the Jefferson City Cultural Arts Foundation and partners to identify potential resources and new partnerships. The NPS will also provide assistance with research for funding as well as ideas for visual design and energy conservation best practices.

4. Rock Island Line Trail/ Eldon Greenways Plan

Project Partners: City of Eldon, Prairie Gateway ASLA, St. Louis ASLA, Lake of the Ozarks Council of Governments
NPS Contact: Kim Shafer
Location: Eldon
Congressional District: MO - 3



Eldon residents and civic leaders share their dreams for a more connected community during a visioning session with members of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the National Park Service to kick off the development of a concept plan for the Eldon Trails and Greenways.
Photo: A. Defenbaugh

Project Goal

Develop a three-mile section of trail along the Rock Island Line railroad corridor within the city limits of Eldon, Missouri. The trail will serve as part of the greenway system which aims to improve the quality of life, encourage active lifestyles, and promote economic development in the area.

NPS Role

Assist with building partner relationships and gathering public

input on a vision for trail development within the City of Eldon. Identify potential funding sources for future phases of the project.

5. Ozark Greenways/Greene County Historic Trails

Project Partner: Ozark Greenways
NPS Contact: Kim Shafer
Location: Springfield
Congressional District: MO - 7

Project Goal

Fully develop a historic section of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail into an urban community walking and bicycling trail. There is also interest in connecting the historic trail route with the South Creek Greenway system as well as to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield.

NPS Role

Work with partners to identify potential resources and new partnerships and to organize a visioning session with stakeholder groups for further development of the Trail of Tears and other historic trail resources in Greene County.



A walking field trip along the site of the future Trail of Tears Greenway in southwest Springfield, Missouri. Photo: Ozark Greenways

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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Recent Successes cont.

FLATS volunteers have generously donated valuable time and labor for the clearing and preparation of the site for construction.

The first phase of the trail includes an eight-foot wide ADA-accessible concrete trail between the Petroglyph Site and Marina in Thousand Hills State Park. Kirksville's proximity to Thousand Hills State Park is an untapped resource. The Forest Lake Area Trail System will provide northeast Missouri residents and businesses with an economic boost and contribute to their overall quality of life.

Users of the Forest Lake Area Trail System will be able to walk, hike, camp, boat, bike, swim, fish, picnic and simply enjoy the outdoors. This trail will be a resource for visitors and residents for generations to come.

City of Eldon Partners with the NPS and the Prairie Gateway and St. Louis American Society of Landscape Architecture Chapters to Develop a Vision for Eldon Community Trails

Eldon community leaders have a dream to turn the Rock Island Line rail corridor into a community walking and biking trail. This fall, they joined forces with the National Park Service and the Prairie Gateway and St. Louis Chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) to conduct a visioning session to facilitate a discussion of project goals, objectives, and ideas for the trail corridor and broader community trail connections.

The information gathered was used to develop a conceptual plan for the city including potential connections to community and regional resources, impacts on infrastructure, traffic, utilities and economic development which could be used leverage future project funding. Partnerships with the City of Eldon, the Eldon Chamber of Commerce, and the PAVE Americorps program have led to improvements in conditions along the rail corridor. The eastern portion of the proposed trail was cleared last year by local volunteers and members of the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, with Ameren hiring a local contractor to clear brush along the western part of the railroad right-of-way.

The trail corridor cuts right through Eldon's central business district, providing opportunities for connecting to and enhancing the community's social and economic life and for connecting to it's history.

“Working with the National Park Service and the American Society of Landscape Architects has really opened up the vision of what is possible for our community. It is encouraging that people outside our community see the potential here and are willing to help us articulate a future that reflects the pride we feel about living here.”

- Daphney Partridge, Eldon PAVE Americorps Community Resource Director