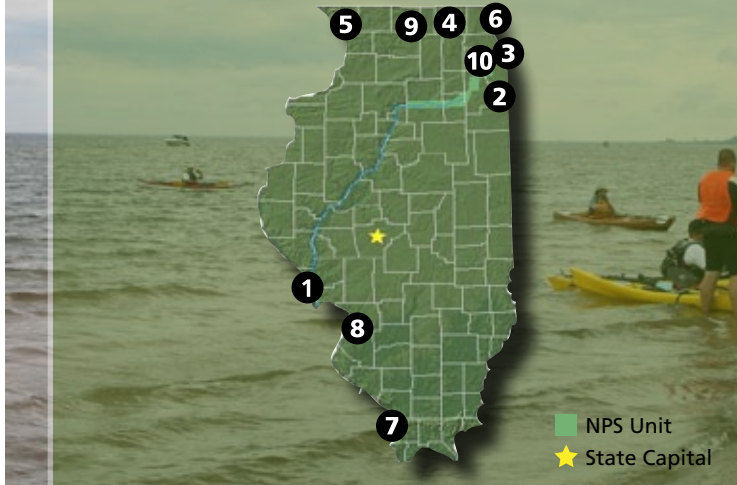




Illinois News



Lake Michigan Water Trail Kayak Expedition - testing the waters on a grey rainy day .

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Calhoun County Trails**
Calhoun County Trails Committee
- 2. Calumet Corridor Public Open Space Development**
URS Corporation
- 3. Great Migration Corridor Development**
Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission
- 4. Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge**
McHenry County Conservation District
- 5. Jo Daviess County Trail System**
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
- 6. Lake Michigan Water Trail Organizational Development**
Illinois Paddling Council
- 7. Mississippi River Trail & Collaborative Support**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
- 8. Mounds Heritage Trail**
The Confluence Partnership
- 9. Pecatonica Water Trail**
Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation
- 10. River Volunteer Stewardship Program (RVSP)**
Friends of the Chicago River

Recent Successes

Pecatonica River Watertrail Plan

In 2010, RTCA staff assisted the Friends of the Pecatonica River (FPRF) in organizing two public meetings to ask for community comments relating to planning and communicating the vision for paddling access on the Pecatonica River in Stephenson County, Illinois. RTCA designed and facilitated the two workshops, and is currently assisting FPRF members in efforts to create a water trail communications plan. A six-mile stretch of the River, referred to as “Illinois Friendliest Paddle,” has been opened through FPRF efforts, welcoming water trail enthusiasts and serving as a demonstration project for future access to more than fifty miles of friendly paddling. In the upcoming year, RTCA staff and FPRF members have conference presentations scheduled and are promoting paddling events to introduce their plan to the regional paddling community.

“The Pecatonica River Trail planning has benefited from the facilitation of the National Park Service staff and the focus on defining the goals and outcomes of our work.”

Roger Schamberger,
Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

Current Projects

1. Calhoun County Trails

Project Partner: Calhoun County Trails Committee
RTCA Contact: Diane Banta
Location: Calhoun County
Congressional District(s): IL-17

Project Goal

To develop an approximately 20-mile multi-purpose trail system within Calhoun County, Illinois that serves several rural communities.

NPS Role

Develop organization, Calhoun County Trails Committee, while building stakeholder support and additional partners to complete trails mission.

2. Calumet Corridor Public Openspace Development

Project Partner: URS Corporation
RTCA Contact: Diane Banta
Location: Lemont to Burnham
Congressional District(s): IL-1, 2

Project Goal

Outreach and communications with local communities to build additional support for the Calumet-Sag Trail leading to additional financial support to the construction of the project as well as building trail links to this backbone trail.

NPS Role

Facilitate the master planning process leading to the implementation and enhancement of this 32 + mile trail.

3. Great Migration Corridor Development

Project Partner: Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission
RTCA Contact: Diane Banta
Location: Chicago
Congressional District(s): IL-1

Project Goal

5 mile trail/greenway preserved, public access along corridor defined by neighborhood needs: local park, greenspace or garden with demonstration of green energy technologies along corridor.

NPS Role

Help build partnership to vision bicycle routes and trail opportunities within neighborhood, find funding and implementation actions that connect residents to a valuable local history.

4. Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge

Project Partner: McHenry County Conservation District
RTCA Contact: Diane Banta
Location: Bi-state Region, IL/WI
Congressional District(s): IL-8, 16

Project Goal

Preserve ecologically important lands totaling approximately 5,000 acres in NE Illinois and SE Wisconsin as a National Wildlife Refuge with an established Friends Group which oversees the work process and partnership.

NPS Role

Guide Friends of Hack-ma-tack through the process of defining the potential National Wildlife Refuge, defining acres to be protected, partnership building, and public involvement opportunities while building a sustainable non-profit organization.

5. Jo Daviess County Trail System

Project Partner: Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson
Location: Jo Daviess County
Congressional District(s): IL-16

Project Goal

Complete a comprehensive trail plan that links the County's communities and greenspace with trails. Create increased opportunities to enjoy the natural resources and scenic views of the County.

NPS Role

Provide information related to trail planning and natural resource protection. Facilitate meetings that bring together stakeholders and coordinate county, cities, and other landowners.

6. Lake Michigan Water Trail Organizational Development

Project Partner: Illinois Paddling Council
RTCA Contact: Diane Banta
Location: IL, IN, MI, WI
Congressional District(s): IL-2

Project Goal

Build a partnership organization to work on the Lake Michigan Water Trail which will provide access to



US Fish and Wildlife Service officials visit the proposed Hackmatack NWR area

Current Projects cont.

Lake Michigan in four states through numerous landings and access points while marketing the trail for increased tourism and economic development opportunities.

NPS Role

Convene quad state paddler organizations, local governments and state governments to set vision, mission and goals/outcomes leading to the designation of the 200 mile Lake Michigan Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail.



Safety talk before the Kayak Expedition

7. Mississippi River Trail & Collaborative Support

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

RTCA Contact: David Thomson

Location: Headwaters of Mississippi River in Minnesota to Gulf of Mexico, New Orleans.

Congressional District(s): AR-1, 4; IA-2, 4; IL-4, 12, 16, 17, 19; MN-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8; MO-1, 2, 3, 8, 9; WI-3

Project Goal

Locally: Develop 71 miles of trail from Vicksburg, MS to Natchez, MS. Nationally: Create a network of 3,000 miles of trail from Minnesota to Louisiana.

NPS Role

Provide facilitation assistance in support of the development of segments of the MRT in Mississippi through

outreach and MRT Workshop Planning. Provide facilitation assistance towards developing framework for Mississippi River Connections Collaborative as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding, by and between, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

8. Mounds Heritage Trail

Project Partner: The Confluence Partnership

RTCA Contact: Diane Banta

Location: City of St. Louis, St. Clair, and Madison Counties

Congressional District(s): IL-2; MO-1, 3

Project Goal

Develop a nine-mile on-road interpretive trail, with links to two miles of off-road interpretive trails at Cahokia Mounds that will focus visitors on the

rich cultural and natural attributes of the area.

NPS Role

RTCA staff will serve on the Technical Advisory Team to this project, and assist with community outreach and technical support. Community input for the project will be needed from a number of jurisdictions and building that support will require individuals knowledgeable about community development, local culture and trail development. RTCA will assist with this outreach effort to Illinois and Missouri communities. RTCA staff may have information on comparable heritage trail projects nationally that could be models.

9. Pecatonica Water Trail

Project Partner: Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation

RTCA Contact: Jeff Obirek

Location: Stevenson County

Congressional District(s): IL-16

Project Goal

Complete 3 new access sites along 58 miles of waterways.

NPS Role

To work with Pecatonica River Foundation and other interested individuals to create trail access sites and to complete habitat restoration in surrounding areas of the access sites. Help will be given in finding funding sources,



Everybody on the trail for fun and fitness!

We're Here For You.

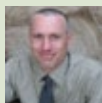
Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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2010 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,251 Miles of Trail Developed

1,694 Miles of River Conserved

25,370 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.

leadership building for the organization and training in natural resources consecration.

additional residential volunteer groups implementing restoration work.

NPS Role:

Assist with the development of restoration plans, surveys and site conditions. Also assist with organizing, administering and facilitating restoration work-days for volunteer groups.

10. River Volunteer Stewardship Program (RVSP)

Project Partner: Friends of the Chicago River

RTCA Contact: Jeff Obirek

Location: Cook County

Congressional District(s): IL-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9

Project Goal:

Two additional RVSP demonstration sites along the Chicago River, with eight



Mississippi River Trail and Collaborative Support planning area

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.