



Kansas News



Kansas River Public Service Announcement Taping with Secretary Salazar.
Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Flint Hills Trails**
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism
- 2. Kansas River Trail**
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

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

Kansas River Trails: America's Great Outdoors and Beyond

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is working to enhance the physical link between the Kansas River and the 21 communities along its banks. The goal is to attract more visitors to the region to enjoy the recreational and historical opportunities along the river, as well as to increase and create new economic opportunities.

RTCA worked with KDWPT, Friends of the Kaw, and local communities to collaborate on a plan that identified the need for wayfinding signs and increased awareness of the recreational opportunities on the Kansas River. The partners have leveraged over \$100,000 for signs and media materials.

On July 14, 2012, the Kansas River was the second river designated as a National Water Trail. After an airboat tour of the river, the DOI Secretary Ken Salazar and Kansas Governor Sam Brownback attended a ceremony for the designation.

“The Kansas River is one of the world’s longest prairie rivers, providing countless recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat as well as drinking water, irrigation, and electricity,” Secretary Salazar said. “With this designation, the Kansas River Trail will join a growing network of National Water Trails across the country that serve as catalysts to connect Americans to their local waterways and promote outdoor recreation and economic growth.”

The project is set to continue in the new year, with RTCA assistance to complete the signs and to work with communities to attract new visitors to enjoy the Kansas River.

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

1. Flint Hills Trails

Project Partner: Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson
Location: Central Kansas
Congressional Districts: KS - 1, 4

Project Goal

Expand the trail system throughout the Flint Hills of Kansas by at least 500 miles while encouraging the conservation and preservation of the remaining 3% of the tallgrass prairie in the North American continent. The result will be a united organization of private and public agencies, landowners, and communities working together to promote the Flint Hills as a destination for trail users to enjoy the natural, cultural, and historical experiences of the region.

NPS Role

Assist the partners to identify, invite, and build a coalition of organizations and communities that will encourage trail related tourism within the Kansas Flint Hills, while preserving the natural resources of this region. Provide technical assistance facilitating meetings and researching planning processes that will create an effective and action-oriented organization.

2. Kansas River Trail

Project Partner: Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
RTCA Contacts: Brian Leaders, Mary Hanson
Location: Eastern Kansas
Congressional Districts: 1, 2, 3

Project Goal

Achieve National Water Trail System designation, increased tourism through river use (fishing, paddling and sightseeing), increased public recreation, improved area health, and construction of more access ramps. Complete designs for kiosk signage, river signage, and a highway sign plan, and to have the signage installed while also working to complete a website and brochure design.

NPS Role

Provide technical assistance to achieve National Water Trail System designation, assist in creating more public awareness of the river, assist in bringing public and private interest groups together to work as one, and assist in promoting public use of the river. Additionally, aid in development planning of more access ramps in areas where there is a need to reduce excessive distances between takeout points. Lastly, assist in the public awareness of four weir's that currently exist and help guide the planning of removal or safety mitigation.

“The Kansas River is an important natural resource in our state and plays a significant role in the economies of communities located along its banks. This designation will complement our efforts to develop and promote outdoor recreation, to encourage youth and adults to re-connect with nature through hunting and fishing, but now we are in a position to offer amazing hiking, biking, kayaking and horseback riding venues to compliment a variety of interests.”

- Sam Brownback, Governor of Kansas