



# Kansas News



## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Flint Hills Trails  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism
2. Kansas State Rails-to-Trails  
Sunflower Rail-Trails Conservancy, Inc.
3. Pawnee Valley Community Trails  
City of Larned, KS

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.



Randolph Equestrian Trail at Tuttle Creek State Park. Photo: Tammy Vasa

## Recent Successes

### Kansas Horse Riders Hold Workday at Kanopolis State Park

The Kansas Trail Committee hosted a trail workday at Kanopolis State Park in central Kansas during the 2010 summer. The fourteen volunteers attended morning presentations by park manager, Rick Martin on the history and use of the park, trail manager, Wendy Boyles on existing trails, and RTCA Outdoor Recreation Planner, Mary Hanson on trail repair and construction techniques.

The group put their new knowledge to work on a popular scenic section of the Horsethief Canyon Trail. Half the group made repairs to an old trail that was highly eroded from going straight down a hill. The rest of the volunteers worked on a new trail meandering down the side of the hill. The final work was to install new signs leading to the new trail. Over the past year, the new section of trail is being used and has become a good example of a correctly built trail. The eroded areas have begun to fill-in and native grasses are returning.



Horse trail riders get work done on the trail at Kanopolis State Park. NPS photo.

## We're Here For You.

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



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## 2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,991 Miles of Trail Developed

1,925 Miles of River Conserved

33,230 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

## 1. Flint Hills Trails

Project Partner: Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism  
NPS Contact: Mary Hanson  
Location and Congressional Districts: KS-1, 2, 4

### Project Goal

The results will be a united collaboration of private and public agencies, landowners, and communities working together promoting 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 activities within the Kansas Flint Hills while preserving the natural resources this region.

Provide technical assistance on facilitating meetings and providing research and information on the planning process that will create an effective organization ready to take action.

## 2. Kansas State Rails-to-Trails

Project Partner: Sunflower Rail-Trails Conservancy, Inc.  
NPS Contact: Mary Hanson  
Location and Congressional Districts: KS-2, 3

### Project Goal

A comprehensive plan showing a system of rail-trails across Kansas that link communities, natural areas, and recreational opportunities. Current estimates shows up to 200 miles of potential rail-trails will be available.

Develop a support system for local communities so they are successful when building and maintaining rail-trails.

### NPS Role

Assist the Conservancy through a successful planning process for an

action plan that will increase the miles of rail-trails in Kansas and link with other trails.

Create partnerships with communities and other organizations that support trails for health and recreation.

## 3. Pawnee Valley Community Trails

Project Partner: City of Larned, KS  
NPS Contact: Mary Hanson  
Location and Congressional Districts: KS-1

### Project Goal

There will be a six mile trail between the city and Fort Larned National Historic Site, increasing tourism opportunities.

A community trail system will link important sectors of the city with the state facilities. The trail to the state facilities will provide a safe alternative options for employees to travel to their jobs.

### NPS Role

Provide assistance to create a trail link between the city and Fort Larned National Historic Site. Create a commuting trail loop from the city to the state facilities.



Lone Tree at Eisenhower Lake. NPS photo.