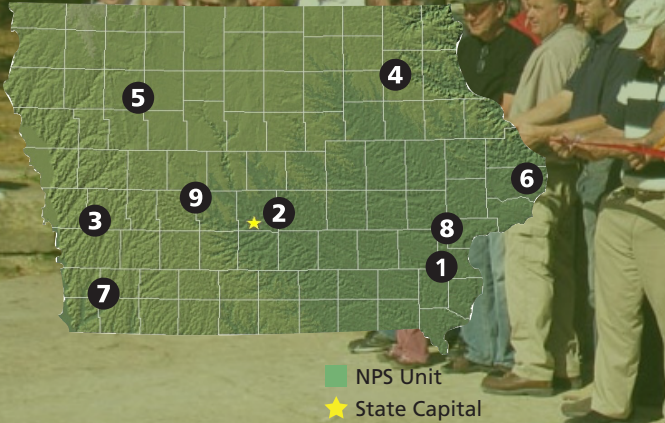




Iowa News



Maquoketa Water Trail Dedication.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

1. American Gothic Regional Trail
Wapello County
2. Central Iowa Greenways Initiative
City of Des Moines
3. City of Avoca River and Trail Enhancement
City of Avoca
4. Fayette County Trails
Fayette County Trails Committee
5. Lizard Creek Water Trail
Webster County Conservation
6. Mississippi River Trail & Collaborative Support
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
7. Sidney Schools Outdoor Classroom
Sidney Schools and ISU Extension
8. West Branch Community Trails
City of West Branch
9. Whiterock Conservancy
Whiterock Conservancy

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

Avoca Creates a Vision

Avoca is a small town on the western edge of Iowa. For many, this is a bedroom community to the larger towns of Council Bluffs and Omaha, NE. It's a great place to raise a family, the streets are not heavily used, and the recently re-done downtown looks as if it is off the set of "The Music Man."

The town is bordered on two sides by the Nishnabotna River and the West branch of the East Nishnabotna. The "Nishna" is a relatively quiet, meandering river that provides a relaxing haven for canoeists and kayakers. The west branch separates the town from its major park, Edgington Park, which has all of the amenities that an active family could want: softball fields, swimming pool, and trails. But to get to the park, one either has to drive on the state highway or ride a bicycle on the cement path that parallels the highway.

The city asked the Midwest RTCA office for assistance in the development of a trail plan. Meetings with the city manager and tours of the town helped analyze the various methods by which park patrons could access park amenities and led to the development of some options for the city to explore. The recommendation of a footbridge over the river to access the park was an innovative idea, with opportunities for natural resource enhancement, that came out of the sessions.

The city owns the property on both sides of the river but the land where the bridge would be built is currently the city burn pile. The city has recognized the value of using this land for park access and are working to enhance the area. The city board and RTCA are in the process of seeking various funding sources to bring this vision to a reality.

Current Projects

1. American Gothic Regional Trail

Project Partner: Wapello County
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Ottumwa and Eldon
Congressional District(s): 2

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to build a bike/pedestrian trail to connect the following cities in Iowa: Ottumwa, Eldon, Libertyville, and Fairfield. The trail will be approximately twenty-four miles in length. At the heart of the trail is the American Gothic House. This house was used by Grant Wood as the backdrop of his world famous painting, American Gothic.

NPS Role

Assist in contacting stakeholders, holding public meetings, identify funding sources, and assisting in the construction process.

2. Central Iowa Greenways Initiative

Project Partner: City of Des Moines
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson
Location: Des Moines
Congressional District(s): 3, 4

Project Goal

Create a multi-jurisdictional public planning process to define a common vision for the future of the watershed.

This plan will create an interconnected system of greenways, parks and trails that will enhance the quality of life for local residents and the region and increase economic tourism opportunities.

NPS Role

To coordinate the taskforce's work with the public. Explore conservation options and potential funding venues.

3. City of Avoca River and Trail Enhancement

Project Partner: City of Avoca
RTCA Contact: Karen Anderson
Location: Avoca
Congressional District(s): 5

Project Goal

Approximately 7 miles of trail, from Avoca to Edgington Park and within the town.

NPS Role:

Assist the town in determining their needs and where they can obtain funding for the construction of trails and a bridge.

4. Fayette County Trails

Project Partner: Fayette County Trails Committee
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Fayette County
Congressional District(s): 1

Project Goal

More than 20 miles of trail linking five communities and a 5,000 acre state park.

NPS Role

Assist the trails committee in educating the public about the benefits of trails in their county, build community support through public meetings, and assist in the development of a county-wide trails system.

5. Lizard Creek Water Trail

Project Partner: Webster County Conservation
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Webster County
Congressional District(s): 4

Project Goal

Develop a state-designated water trail, including improved boat ramp water access points.

NPS Role

Provide assistance to Webster County Conservation in the design and implementation of river access ramps in an effort to make Lizard Creek accessible to all potential users.

6. 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.



Project Aware River Clean-up.

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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NPS Role

Provide facilitation assistance in support of the development of segments of the MRT in Mississippi through outreach and MRT Workshop Planning.

7. Sidney Schools Outdoor Classroom

Project Partner: Sidney Schools and ISU Extension
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Sidney
Congressional District(s): 5

Project Goal

The development of a 3-acre outdoor classroom and trail system to be located within a prairie restoration area.

NPS Role

Assist our partners in the planning and development of a 3-acre outdoor classroom and trail system to be located within a prairie restoration area and to assist in finding funding sources.

8. West Branch Community Trails

Project Partner: City of West Branch
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson
Location: West Branch
Congressional District(s): 2

Project Goal

Approximately ten miles of trails linking schools, neighborhoods, business districts, the industrial park, and Herbert Hoover NHS.

NPS Role

Assist the community in creating a comprehensive trail plan through facilitating meetings, identifying potential trail routes, and researching funding resources. Facilitate public meetings for community input on potential trail locations.

9. Whiterock Conservancy

Project Partner: Whiterock Conservancy
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders / Mary Hanson
Location: Coon Rapids
Congressional District(s): 4, 5

Project Goal

Develop nearly 30 miles of multi-purpose soft trail within the more than 5,000 acres of Whiterock Conservancy lands.

NPS Role

Provide assistance to the Board of Trustees in the planning and development of nearly 30 miles of multi-purpose soft trail within the more than 5,000 acres of scenic Whiterock Conservancy lands



City of Avoca - site of trail access to Edgington Park.