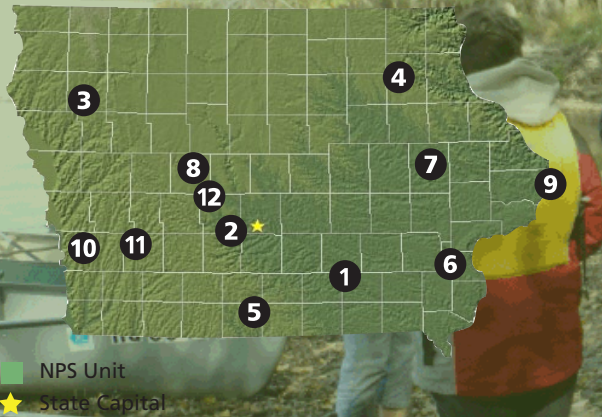




Iowa News



Central Iowa Greenway River Tour - NPS Photo

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

1. American Gothic Regional Trail
Wapello County
2. Central Iowa Greenways Initiative
City of Des Moines
3. Cherokee Trails and Riverfront
City of Cherokee
4. Fayette County Trails
Fayette County Trails Committee
5. Grand River Water Trail
Decatur County Conservation
6. Louisa County Trail
Louisa County Conservation Board
7. Maquoketa River Restoration/Mon Maq Dam Alterations
Jones County Conservation/City of Monticello
8. Middle Racoon River Water Trail
Carroll County Conservation
9. Mississippi River Trail & Collaborative Support
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
10. Pottawattamie County Trail
Pottawattamie County Conservation
11. T-Bone Trail
Nishna Valley Trails Association
12. Whiterock Conservancy Soft Trail
Whiterock Conservancy

Recent Successes

Whiterock Conservancy Goes Soft!

Whiterock Conservancy is an Iowa non-profit land trust dedicated to conserving and protecting Iowa's natural resources, demonstrating sustainable rural land management, and engaging the public with the environment through outdoor recreation education. Whiterock totals more than 5,000 acres of protected land in central Iowa.

As part of Whiterock's mission, the board of directors has embarked on a plan to develop and rehabilitate more than 33 miles of multi-use soft trails throughout most of the conservancy property by using sustainable trail design principles. Project goals include environmental protection, public recreation, health, and environmental education.

RTCA assistance was requested to help formalize a basic visitor infrastructure plan that helped refine trail plans and improve the trail concept plan. RTCA staff is also assisting in identifying additional funding sources, helping to "ground-truth" the concept corridor and final trail plans, and providing technical expertise in multi-use sustainable design. In later phases, RTCA plans to assist with the design of a monitoring and research program, conduct feasibility studies, and assist in the design plans for additional visitor amenities such as wilderness campgrounds, cabins, an RV park, exercise course, and an outdoor classroom for children.

Whiterock Conservancy is the proud and honored steward of the Roswell & Elizabeth Garst Farmstead Historic District.

Current Projects

1. American Gothic Regional Trail

Project Partner: Wapello County
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Ottumwa and Eldon, Iowa
Congressional District: 2

Project Goal

To develop a much needed trail that will connect multiple communities and provide several miles of multi-use trail for healthy recreation, outdoor recreation, and environmental education.

To gain the support of all landowners involved in an effort to develop the trail and to have support from the entire community.

NPS Role

To assist with public listening sessions, public outreach, and landowner education.

2. Central Iowa Greenways Initiative

Project Partner: City of Des Moines
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Des Moines, Iowa and surrounding areas along the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers in central Iowa.
Congressional Districts: 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 the region and increase economic tourism opportunities.

NPS Role

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

3. Cherokee Trails and Riverfront

Project Partner: City of Cherokee, Iowa
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Cherokee, Iowa
Congressional District: 5

Project Goal

Development of more than 5 miles of landbased trails throughout the City of Cherokee and the beginning development of a river trail and amenities.

NPS Role

To assist the city of Cherokee in the redevelopment of an abandoned trail, creation of a new rail-to-trail project, and planning of recreational opportunities along the Little Sioux River.

4. Fayette County Trails

Project Partner: Fayette County Trails
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Fayette County, Iowa.
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal

To develop a trail network throughout the entire county, connecting local communities to a larger state-wide network that includes the MRT (Mississippi River Trail), Turkey River Recreation Corridor, local state and community parks. It will also provide healthy recreational opportunities to the entire county, assist in forming one county-wide trail interest group, and aid in gaining funds to complete the trail network.

NPS Role

To bring 3 different trail interest groups together to work as one common group. Provide support through public meetings and educating the community and elected officials about trail benefits. Work to gain public support for the construction of a 2-mile section from the EVENT Trail to West Union, a 3-mile section from the city of Fayette to Volga River State Park, and a 2-mile section from the EVENT Trail to Volga River State Park.

5. Grand River Water Trail

Project Partner: Decatur County Conservation
RTCA Contact: Kim Shafer
Location: Leon, Iowa
Congressional District: 5

Project Goal

Develop a water trail along 46 miles of the Grand River in Decatur County. The trail system will include a number of launch and landing points where access points will need to be constructed and directional signage installed. An interpretive brochure with detailed maps and kiosks are part of the trial system. Project should be completed by August of 2014.

NPS Role

RTCA will assist in building a stakeholder group, engaging stakeholders and community members through visioning, brainstorming, and public input meetings to generate public support for the project, and develop a group of stakeholders in the process.

6. Louisa County Trail

Project Partner: Louisa County Conservation Board
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Louisa County, Iowa
Congressional District: 2

Project Goal

Build a community partnership to develop a county-wide trail master-plan that will link its residence to their county parks, open spaces, natural features, and other communities in an effort to provide better health, wellness, and economic benefit.

NPS Role

To provide technical assistance in a effort to assist the county in achieving a comprehensive master plan that can be implemented in phases.

Current Projects cont.



Louisa County Trail Master Plan Listening Session

7. Maquoketa River Restoration/Mon Maq Dam Alteration

Project Partner: Jones County Conservation/City of Monticello, Iowa
RTCA Contact: Kim Shafer
Location: Monticello, Iowa
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal

This multi-faceted project includes plans for alteration of a 400-foot length dam and restoration of a 2.5-mile section of river to restore ecological functions, fish passage, and in-stream passage by paddlers and a 2.5-mile section of land-based, hard-surfaced trail.

NPS Role

RTCA program staff will assist to design, facilitate, and summarize the public input portion of the project and provide review and comments on plans for alternatives. The project also involves connecting the river restoration portion along a 2.5-mile section of the river with a land-based, hard-surfaced trail. RTCA will provide assistance with concept renderings of this land based trail and viewing areas.

8. Middle Raccoon River Water Trail

Project Partner: Carroll County Conservation
RTCA Contact: Kim Shafer
Location: Carroll, Iowa
Congressional District: 5

Project Goal

Develop a water trail along approximately 26 miles of the Middle Raccoon River in Carroll and Guthrie Counties in Iowa. The trail system will include a number of launch and landing points where accesses will need to be constructed and directional signage installed. An interpretive brochure with detailed map, and kiosks are part of the trail system. Project should be completed around August of 2014.

NPS Role

RTCA will assist in building a stakeholder group, engaging stakeholders and community members through visioning, brainstorming, and public input meetings to generate public support for the project, and develop a group of stakeholders in the process.

9. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative/Mississippi River Trail

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: Mississippi River, source to mouth in ten states: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana
Congressional Districts: Arkansas - 1, 4; Iowa - 1, 2, 4; Illinois - 12, 16, 17; Kentucky - 1; Louisiana - 3, 5, 6; Minnesota - 2,3,4,5,6,8; Missouri - 1, 2, 3, 8, 9; Mississippi - 2, 3; Tennessee - 8, 9; Wisconsin - 3, 7

Project Goal

Outreach to local communities to encourage improvements to the MRT for improved recreation, tourism, and community development; continued technical assistance in the development of an organization strategic plan to support MOU objectives and increase long-term organizational viability; further develop to the Mississippi River blueway portion of the trail system; technical support for identification as part of the President's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

NPS Role

To assist the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative with organizational development, outreach to other organizations and agencies and development and implementation of their strategic and operations plans. Increase MRT's capacity to help develop water and land based trail along the Mississippi River.

10. Pottawattamie County Trail

Project Partner: Pottawattamie County Conservation
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Pottawattamie County, Iowa.
Congressional District: 5

Project Goal

Develop a county-wide trail system connecting communities with county and state parks throughout the area in an effort to promote healthy communities, alternative transportation and to increase economic gain.

NPS Role

Conduct public meetings and assist with concept planning. The goal is to develop a county-wide trail system that will connect communities with county and state parks throughout the area

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

in a effort to promote healthy activities outdoors for families, to increase county economic impact, and to provide an alternative transportation, source for commuters from the small bedroom communities to the larger metropolitan area.

11. T-Bone Trail

Project Partner: Nishna Valley Trails Association
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Atlantic, Iowa
Congressional District: 5

Project Goal

Completion of a 3-mile trail section that will complete the T-Bone Trail section from Audubon, Iowa to Atlantic, Iowa. Also, to develop plans for future trails throughout the City of Atlantic and Cass County to continue the proposed route of the American Discovery Trail (ADT).

NPS Role

To assist in the planning and completion of a 3-mile trail section needed to complete the T-Bone Trail into Atlantic, Iowa. Also to assist in the planning process to develop a trail connecting Atlantic to Pottawattamie County to the west, even-

tually becoming part of the American Discovery Trail (ADT).

12. Whiterock Conservancy Soft Trail

Project Partner: Whiterock Conservancy / Iowa DNR
RTCA Contact: Brian Leaders
Location: Southeast of Coon Rapids, Iowa
Congressional District: 5

Project Goal

The completion of a 32+ mile multi-use soft trail that will be linked to the nationwide American Discovery Trail (ADT).

NPS Role

To assist with formalizing a basic visitor infrastructure plan which will help refine trails plans and improve the trail concept map. Provide design concept plans for an outdoor learning with nature classroom. Assist in identifying potential funding sources, assist in ground-truthing the concept design plan and final trail plans, and provide technical expertise in multi-use sustainable design. Also, after construction is complete, assist in developing a monitoring and research program, conduct feasibility studies, and develop plans for additional visitor amenities.



Whiterock Property Tour and Trail Study

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