



# Nebraska News



Scouts help at Wildlands Stewardship Day in Scotts Bluff National Monument.  
Photo: Vickie Groskopf-Jones



■ NPS Unit  
★ State Capital

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. North Fork Riverpoint Development**  
North Fork Riverfront Development Group
- 2. Ponca Pines Academy Gardens**  
Ponca Pines Academy
- 3. Wildcat Hills Wildlands Imitative Recreational Trails Development**  
Platte River Basin Environments, Inc.

### 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.

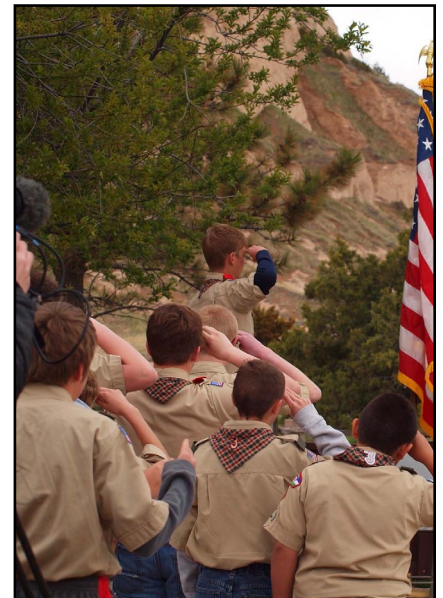
## Recent Successes

### Scouts Help at Wildlands Stewardship Day

The High Plains District Boy Scouts worked in below normal temperatures and high winds to create new trail signs and to build bluebird boxes for the Wildlands Stewardship Day held at Scotts Bluff National Monument. The signs will be placed at trailheads and along new trails on Wildcat Hills Wildlands.

The Wildcat Hills and adjoining prairies are located in the extreme western edge of Nebraska. It is a unique and endangered ecosystem including high prairie grasslands, wooded escarpments, spring-fed canyons, as well as riparian areas - all open to the public. The Wildlands is home to Big Horn sheep, deer, elk, and a variety of waterfowl and upland birds.

The region has been conserved largely because ranchers maintained the wide-open spaces and high quality of the native prairie. These landowners are now working with Platte River Basin Environments, Inc. (PRBE), Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and The Nature Conservancy to preserve an ecologically



High Plains District Boy Scouts observe Wildlands Stewardship Day at Scotts Bluff National Monument. NPS photo.

## We're Here For You.

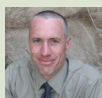
Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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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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viable core of the landscape. Scotts Bluff National Monument, which borders the wildlands, and Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) are also partners. RTCA staff member, Mary Hanson, is providing technical assistance on trail design, location, and signage.

## Nebraska Park has New Campground and Trail Extension Built through Partnership

Horse riders will enjoy a new campground and trails at Branched Oak State Recreation Area north of Lincoln, Nebraska. This was a joint project between the Nebraska Horse Trails Committee (NHTC) and Branched Oak State Recreation Area with assistance from RTCA staff member, Mary Hanson.

NHTC provided funds and initial design work for the Nebraska Recreational Trails Grant application. The park completed the engineering specifications and provided construction crews and equipment. A special feature is an accessible mounting ramp

## Current Projects

### 1. North Fork Riverpoint Development

Project Partner: North Fork Riverfront Development Group  
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson  
Location: Norfolk, Nebraska  
Congressional District: NE - 1

#### Project Goal

Restore the riparian corridor along the North Fork River in Norfolk's downtown and construct a water trail that will increase recreational opportunities for the residents and tourists.

#### NPS Role

RTCA staff will provide information and facilitate meetings on river redevelopment, paddling sports, and natural resource enhancement in urban settings. RTCA's goal will be to assist in developing specifications for engineering study and funding strategies.

### 2. Ponca Pines Academy Gardens

Project Partner: Ponca Pines Academy  
RTCA Contact: Karen Anderson  
Location: Omaha, Nebraska  
Congressional District: NE - 2

#### Project Goal

The girls at Ponca Pines Academy will become engaged through a variety of activities, a community garden being one, which will demonstrate the potential of pursuing an education and vocation in natural resources.

#### NPS Role

RTCA will engage in sessions with the girls Ponca Pines Academy to encourage their pursuit of studying in a natural resources field of study. In addition, RTCA will work with the girls and staff to design and plan for the construction of a trail network on the Uta Halee grounds.

### 3. Wildcat Hills Wildlands Recreational Trails Development

Project Partner: Platte River Basin Environments, Inc.  
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson  
Location: South of Gering, Nebraska  
Congressional District: NE -3

#### Project Goal

Create approximately 20 miles of sustainable backcountry trails while supporting wildlife habitat and ranching activities. Build new environmental education programs highlighting the high prairie of western Nebraska.

#### NPS Role

Continue locating optimal locations for trails and facilitate meetings to implement the trail plan. Work with Boy Scouts on trail design activities and signs, implement a Leave No Trace training to involve more youth in outdoor activities, and work with the Discovery Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska to use the Wildcat Hills for environmental education programs.