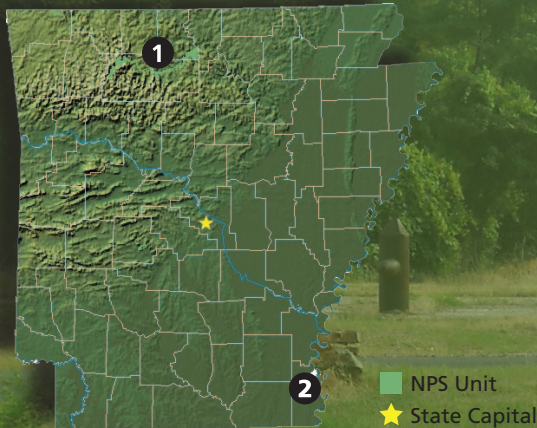




Arkansas News



Biking along the Arkansas River Trail. Photo: ART

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Harrison Citywide Trail System
City of Harrison
2. Mississippi River Trail & Collaborative Support
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

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

50-State Report Promotes Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

As part of the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda for America, two projects in Arkansas were identified by the Department of the Interior, in consultation with Governor Beebe, to partner on a shared conservation and recreation agenda for the state. Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar relayed, "These projects represent what states believe are among the best investments in the nation to support a healthy, active population, conserve wildlife and working lands, and create

travel, tourism and outdoor-recreation jobs across the nation."

RTCA will be involved with leaders in central Arkansas in an effort to complete connections along the Arkansas River Trail system, improving access to parks and open space throughout Central Arkansas.

RTCA staff will also be engaged with local leaders on the Delta Heritage Trail project to develop a 73-mile hiking

"This is going to be a terrific asset to the people of Central Arkansas. Working with the cities of North Little Rock, Little Rock, Pulaski County, and Clay County has been an absolutely great experience!"

- Rob Stephans,
Chair, Arkansas River Trail Task Force

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™

Recent Successes cont.

and biking trail, creating significant new access to natural resources in the delta region. To learn more about America's Great Outdoors visit, <http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov>

Current Projects

1. Harrison Citywide Trail System

Project Partner: Harrison Trail Council
NPS Contact: Kim Shafer
Location and Congressional District: AR-3

Project Goal

Develop a non-motorized, multi-use citywide trail system (approximately 20 miles) connecting schools to neighborhoods, downtown, parks and natural resources in the area. Engage health partners to develop wellness and exercise focused programming. Engage area schools to partner in developing outdoor educational opportunities in conjunction with the trail system.

NPS Role

RTCA will provide assistance with the review of trail plans, identification of funding opportunities, and work with partner engagement and public outreach.

2. Mississippi River Trail & Collaborative Support

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
NPS Contact: Rory Robinson, David Thomson
Location and Congressional Districts: AR-1, 4; IA-2, 4; IL-4, 12, 16, 17, 19;

KY-1; LA-1, 2, 3, 5, 6; MN-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8; MO-1, 2, 3, 8, 9; MS-1, 2, 3; TN-7, 8, 9; WI-3

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 organizational strategic plan to support the Memorandum of Understanding objectives and increase long-term organizational viability; further development of the Mississippi River "blueway" portion of the trail system; additional technical support for identification as part of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

NPS Role

RTCA will 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. Assistance will also be provided to increase MRT's capacity to help develop water and land based trail along the Mississippi River.



Dry Jordan Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail Plan, Harrison, AR. Image: Harrison Trails Council