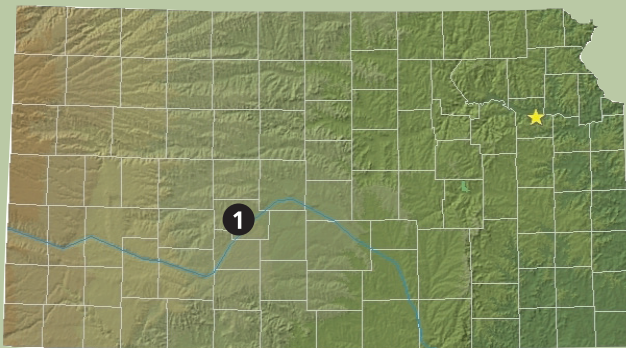




Kansas News



Fort Larned - a destination of the Pawnee Valley Trails Project. NPS Photo.



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

Current Projects:

1. Pawnee Valley Community Trails Projects
City of Larned

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

Covered Bridge Opens on the Big Blue Rail-Trail

Marshall County Connections, a local volunteer group in the Marysville, recently completed and opened the red roof covered bridge on the 12-mile Big Blue Rail-Trail along with the first two miles of the trail.

“I love the covered bridge. I think it adds an incredible amount of interest to the trail,” said Marshall County Connections’ board member Maureen Crist from Marysville. “It’s kind of a fun surprise when you come around the corner and there it is.” The group is already planning the design of the next bridge and plan to be working on it this coming year.

The trail was funded through private donations and a grant from the non-profit Sunflower Foundation, an organization that promotes health in Kansas. The trail will follow the Big Blue River to the Nebraska state line where it will connect with the Homestead Corridor Rail Trail, which will extend to Lincoln, Nebraska. The Marysville area is famous for being a major stop-off and river crossing for multiple historical pioneer trails, including the California, Oregon, and Pony Express Trails.

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Projects

1. Pawnee Valley Community Trails Projects

Project Partner: City of Larned
RTCA Contact: Mary Hanson
Location: Larned
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal

There will be a six mile trail between the city and Fort Larned NHS, 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 be a safe alternative option 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.

“There are several trail opportunities here at Nicodemus National Historic Site. I asked for assistance from the Rivers and Trails staff and was very impressed with the quick response for help and the creative approach with which they applied to the potential trails.”

Mark Weaver, Superintendent, Nicodemous National Historic Site



Kansas Horse Council out for a ride