

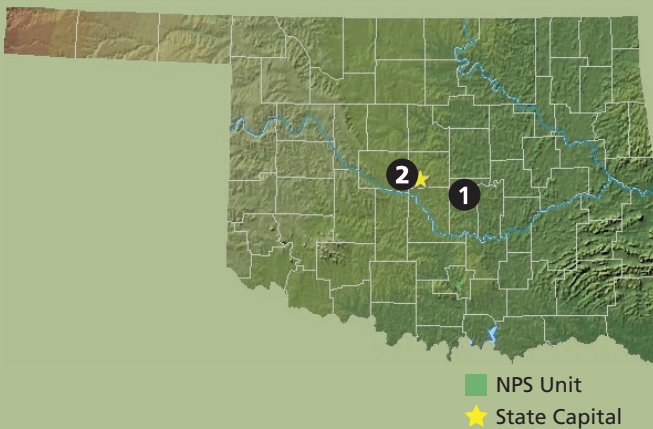


Oklahoma News



Greenway of the Cherokee Ozarks. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Horse Shoe Bend Outdoor Enhancements
City of Shawnee
2. Yukon Trails Master Plan
City of Yukon

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

\$1.5 million in Funding for Greenway of the Cherokee Ozarks

Over the last year, Greenway of the Cherokee Ozarks has solidified as a collaboration of cooperating organizations and individuals. Notably, cooperators successfully sought \$1.5 million in city funding through a bond issue put before voters in January 2013, and passed with an overwhelming margin (15 percent), that will support the project.

Greenway groups are working together on building trails, developing signage, identifying habitat protection, protecting water quality, providing urban outdoor recreational opportunities, and refining the Greenway.

“Thanks to NPS for giving us the skills to craft our collaboration in an unprecedented way.”

- Kathy Tibbits, Greenway of the Cherokee Ozarks

Great strides have been made by working regionally.

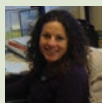
Up north, Greenway entities have been working to train and empower trainers to teach outdoor education in schools and youth groups.

In the middle reach of the Greenway, Tahlequah has rolled out its plan to eventually intersect with the Illinois River via a “String of Beads” consisting of parks and natural areas.

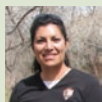
And in the southern reach of the Greenway, cooperating entities are making a comeback and moving toward their vision for leadership, thanks in part to the NPS.

We're Here For You.

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



Patsy McEntee
303.969.9857
patsy_mcentee@nps.gov



Joy Lujan
303.969.2853
joy_lujan@nps.gov

2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154 Miles of Trail Developed

1,074 Miles of River Conserved

70,385 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. Horse Shoe Bend Outdoor Enhancement

Project Partner: Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
NPS Contact: Patsy McEntee
Location: City of Shawnee
Congressional District: OK - 5

Project Goal

Enhance the natural environment of the Horse Shoe Bend Community Center while providing safe outdoor activities such as fitness, recreation, environmental education, nature interpretation, camping, and agriculture/gardening. Develop for "hands-on" conservation skills and opportunities which engage youth and the community in the promotion of healthier lifestyles.

NPS Role

Assist the development of partnerships to produce conceptual, strategic, and workable project plans. Identify potential sources of funding for the Horse Shoe Bend Community Center Outdoor Enhancement Project.

2. Yukon Trails Master Plan

Project Partner: City of Yukon
NPS Contact: Joy Lujan
Location: City of Yukon
Congressional District: OK - 3

Project Goal

Create a trail system master plan for the City of Yukon to increase opportunities for outdoor recreation and exercise, as well as to create corridors for alternative modes of transportation, such as walking or bicycling to work, school, and retail areas, etc. Develop more trails to connect most, if not all, parks and schools in the area. Explore the possibility of tying the trail system with that of Oklahoma City and other surrounding areas to further increase the amount of trail system available.

NPS Role

Facilitate the creation of the trail system master plan by coordinating with community groups and individuals to identify priority areas and establish a common framework for future improvements.

"We are incredibly excited to have the opportunity to be able to design something for Yukon that will serve our current and future citizens for a lifetime."

- Grayson Bottom, City Manager, City of Yukon



The Horseshoe Bend Community Center is a rich Cross Timbers landscape. Photo: NPS