



Illinois News



Trailbuilders, youth and adults alike, after a day of hard and satisfying work. NPS Photo.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Burnham Plan Centennial Legacy Project**
Calumet-Sag Trail Dedication
Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail/Calumet-Sag Trail Coalition
- 2. Calumet-Sag Trail Coalition**
Active Transportation Alliance
- 3. Confluence Water Trails**
Confluence Partnership
- 4. Illinois Route 66 Trail - Southern Connections**
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- 5. Marseilles Swing Bridge Community Trail Links**
Special Places Advocates
- 6. Mississippi River Trail, Phase II**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
- 7. Mounds Heritage Trail**
The Confluence Partnership
- 8. Northwest Indiana Bikeways**
NW IN Regional Planning Commission.



Current Projects

1. Burnham Plan Centennial Legacy Project - Calumet-Sag Trail Dedication

Location: Lemont to Burnham
Congressional Districts: 1,2
Project Partners: Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail & Calumet-Sag Trail Coalition
NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Project Goal:

Build a new partnership of groups working on the Calumet-Sag Trail to focus on funding strategies for the trail.

2. Calumet-Sag Trail

Location: Lemont to Lake Michigan in Chicago
Congressional District: 1,2
Project Partner: Chicagoland Bicycle Federation
NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Project Goal:

A 26-mile trail through the Chicago Southland Region, providing a green corridor connecting 14 communities and linking the region's recreational trails.

3. Confluence Water Trails

Location: St. Louis metropolitan region
Congressional Districts: IL - 12,19, MO - 1,2
Project Partner: Confluence Partnership
NPS Contact: Diana Allen

Project Goal:

70 miles of water trails on the great rivers within The Confluence Partnership's project area (30 miles of Lewis & Clark Water Trail on the Missouri and 40 miles on the Mississippi Water Trail).

4. Illinois Route 66 Trail - Southern Connections

Location: Springfield to Alton, IL
Congressional Districts: 12,19
Project Partner: Illinois Department of Natural Resources
NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Project Goal:

Work with communities to plan and implement local sections of the Rt. 66 trail with local connecting trail systems.

5. Marseilles Swing Bridge Community Trail Links

Location: Marseilles
Congressional District: 11
Project Partner: Special Places Advocates
NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Project Goal:

A 10-mile trail system linking historic features within Marseilles and to the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

6. Mississippi River Trail, Phase II

Location: Headwaters of Mississippi River in Minnesota to Gulf of Mexico, New Orleans
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 Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
NPS Contact: Diana Allen, Liz Smith-Incer, Stacey Palmer



Often the best way to understand the resource is to get out and experience it. NPS Photo.

Project Goal:

3,000 miles of trail system and 30,000 acres of open space along the Mississippi River in ten states, and an organization to support conservation, recreation, public health, and tourism.

7. Mounds Heritage Trail

Location: City of St. Louis, St. Clair and Madison Counties

Congressional Districts: IL - 12, MO - 1

Project Partner: The Confluence Partnership

NPS Contact: Diana Allen

Project Goal:

A nine-mile on-road interpretive trail, with links to two miles of off-road interpretive trails at Cahokia Mounds that will focus visitors on the rich cultural and natural attributes of the area.

8. Northwest Indiana Bike-ways

Location: Counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte

Congressional Districts: IL - 2, IN - 1,2, MI - 6

Project Partner: Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission

NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

Project Goal:

A 150-mile trail network that accommodates bicycles and pedestrians and connects Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore with communities and attractions throughout northwest Indiana.



Water trails offer a new perspective on natural areas. NPS

“The goal of NPS involvement is to bring tangible change to communities. We know from experience that these changes are often the catalysts for longer term projects and successes. . .”

- Charlie Stockman
RTCA Program Manager

We’re Here For You.

Could your project could benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?

Contact us to find out.

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THE RTCA PROGRAM

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.

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Project Highlights

"The Rivers & Trails program keeps vibrant by adapting and refocusing efforts in response to the needs of the communities served..."

- Terry Eastin,
Executive Director,
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.."



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Calumet-Sag Trail Celebrates Burnham Vision

Daniel Burnham was best known for making "no little plans." As Chicago prepares for the 2009 Burnham Centennial, based on the 1909 Plan of Chicago we celebrate the Calumet-Sag Trail as a Green Legacy Project.

The Burnham plan focused on the importance of providing parks and open space both for the health and enjoyment of people and for adding economic value. The plan established a vision for a natural resource-based regional open space system to protect land before opportunities were lost. Today the Calumet-Sag Trail Legacy Project will help meet the needs of an expanding metropolitan region and shine a spotlight on the continuing contributions of open space to the region's quality of life, economic health, and green infrastructure.

The 26-mile Cal-Sag Trail will be the near-south suburbs' primary east-west multipurpose trail. It will link to the Burnham Greenway and the Chicago Lakefront Trail on the east and to the Centennial and I & M Canal Trails on the west. Fourteen communities served by the trail will directly benefit from its recreational, transportation, and public amenities. By following the historic Cal-Sag Channel and Calumet River, and passing through the traditional industrial heart of Chicago, the trail offers a unique and educational view of the metropolitan area's transportation and industrial heritage.

The Calumet-Sag Trail Coalition and Friends of the Calumet-Sag Trail members have developed a plan for the trail's development and have secured funding for Phase I and II engineering for the entire length of the trail. On National Trails Day, June 6, 2009, the groups will sponsor a progressive series of trail route dedication ceremonies. Along the trail route, elected local officials sponsoring the trail segments will participate in the installation of dedication signs (including dedication of one recently completed trail segment) and the unveiling of commissioned community art. The ceremonies will commence the trail implementation process related to engineering studies and procurement of construction funding.



Illinois Rt. 66 Trail - Southern Connections

In celebration of National Trails Day, bicyclists and other "trail-breakers" traversed the entire 369 miles of Illinois' new Route 66 Trail, a route of quieter roads and trails showing off the best of the old "Mother Road." The event highlighted bike tourism on the Route 66 Trail while giving a boost for road and trail improvement projects.

Proposed trail improvements through the counties of Sangamon, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Madison are now being identified, prioritized and will become a part of the concept plan for the entire trail. While improvements of all sorts are needed along most sections of the trail, this is an attempt to define of the areas of greatest need, where bicycling is most difficult due to high traffic counts or constricted space on roads and streets. Included are basic improvements such as widening road shoulders, striping, and bike route signage.

The next step communities along the trail are taking will be to develop local plans to improve this bike route by locating new appropriate off-road sections of trail and local trail connections bringing long distance riders to local Route 66 icons and community amenities and linking residents to the trail.

The recognition that these trail connections are vital to the projects success shows that community leaders are working toward creating public amenities that serve health and recreation.

