



Montana News



Confluence of the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers, after dam removal

Recent Successes

Dam Removal Allows Creation of New Montana State Park

With much fanfare, Milltown Dam was breached on March 28th, 2008, setting the Clark Fork and Blackfoot Rivers free for the first time in over a hundred years. By December, the dam, situated at the confluence of the two rivers outside Missoula, Montana, had been removed and work to remove or stabilize toxic sediments in the dam's reservoir was well underway. The rivers will be restored to naturally functioning watercourses with high-quality riparian areas, wetlands and floodplains. With RTCA assistance, the dam site and former reservoir will be redeveloped as a 450-acre state park with trails, bridges and river access sites.

Last year, RTCA coordinated an intensive 2-day design workshop which produced a detailed concept plan to guide future redevelopment efforts. Almost 5 million dollars so far has been raised in state and federal funding to build the trails, bridges and river access sites envisioned by the redevelopment concept plan. A 4-mile trail was completed this fall to provide a safe transportation corridor linking the communities of Bonner and Turah. A handicap accessible trail, parking area and interpretive signage will be completed on a bluff overlooking the project site later this year. And trail connections are being designed and built that will link Milltown with Missoula via the Kim Williams trail.

On November 3rd, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to dedicate a new Milltown pedestrian bridge. Senator Max Baucus, Senator Jon Tester, Governor Brian Schweitzer and other

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Flathead County Trails**
Flathead County
- 2. Hillcrest Natural Area**
Consolidated City-County of Butte-Silver Bow
- 3. Missoula County Integrated Landscape Initiative**
Missoula County

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

dignitaries were on hand to help the county commissioners and local residents dedicate the refurbished historic bridge. The unique design incorporated the original bridge trusses while lengthening the structure to span the river's floodplain, thus meeting the river restoration goals of the project while preserving the historic appearance of the bridge. The bridge provides a critical link in the recreational trail system associated with the proposed state park.

