



# Oklahoma News



Chickasaw Travertine Creek, Oklahoma

## Current Projects

### 1. Oklahoma Statewide DoD Initiative

Location: Statewide

Lead Partner: Land Legacy

RTCA Contact: Steve Bonner

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#### Project Description

The Oklahoma Statewide Department of Defense (DoD) Initiative seeks to build off the success of the Ft. Sill Private Lands Initiative, which protects over 4,000 acres of land outside Ft. Sill. Conservation ensures that the use of the land in the future will be compatible with both the mission of Ft. Sill and the conservation of habitat, agricultural value, water and air quality, and other natural resource goals. Additionally, the Statewide effort seeks to expand the benefits of partnership to the three major Air Force bases in the state: Tinker

Air Force Base (AFB) in Oklahoma City, Altus AFB in Altus, and Vance AFB in Enid. Under this initiative the land trust partner, Land Legacy of Oklahoma, acquires conservation easements on property surrounding the bases. This ensures compatibility of the land use with military training needs while providing important habitat and resource conservation, recreational opportunities, and protection of family farms. Easement transactions under the Ft. Sill Private Lands Initiative are funded through contributions of the DoD, U.S. Army, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oklahoma Governor's Office, and the Comanche County Economic Development Corporation. Transactions around the Air Force bases would seek to produce the same kind of win-win leverage for funding partners and benefits for communities.



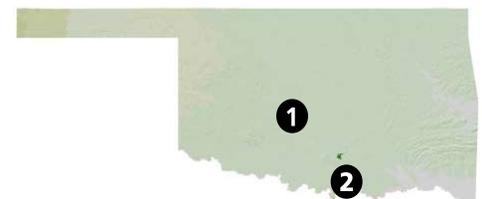
Ft. Sill easement signing

*“RTCA is the linchpin of this entire effort. RTCA opened doors to the military, local and state government which were closed to us, and brought together one of the most effective partnerships I’ve ever seen.”*

- Robert Gregory

Executive Director of Land Legacy

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



1. Oklahoma Statewide DoD Initiative  
Land Legacy
2. Sulphur-Chickasaw Natural Resource  
Protection Partnership  
City of Sulphur

## We're Here For You.

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

### Steve Bonner

512.245.7263

steve\_bonner@nps.gov

## 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](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects cont.

## 2. Sulphur-Chickasaw Natural Resource Protection Partnership

Location: Sulphur, Oklahoma

Lead Partner: City of Sulphur

RTCA Contact: Steve Bonner

512.245.7263 [steve\\_bonner@nps.gov](mailto:steve_bonner@nps.gov)

### Project Goal

The people of southern Oklahoma are struggling with a number of important resource issues centered around the availability of clean, reliable drinking water supplies. The Chickasaw National Recreation Area

is struggling to fulfill its mission of natural resource protection as springs fed by groundwater dry up. This project seeks to bring key stakeholders in the region together to discuss the many issues raised by these needs, and seek common solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems.

### RTCA Role

Providing facilitation for stakeholder meetings to help participants better understand the issues, each others' positions on those issues, and brainstorm solutions.



Chickasaw Travertine Creek

# Apply for RTCA Assistance

RTCA staff help with partnership-building to achieve community-set goals, organizational development, assessing resources, developing concept plans, public education and participation, and identifying potential sources of funding. The project applicant may be a state or local agency, tribe, non-profit organization, or citizens' group. Federal agencies, including the National Park Service, may apply only in collaboration with a non-federal partner. RTCA does not provide financial assistance to support project implementation.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their project with RTCA staff

before sending in an application. It can be helpful to schedule an advance field visit by our staff to best understand how RTCA can be of assistance.

For application details, please contact Alan Ragins, Program Leader, Intermountain Region, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program at (303) 969-2855 [alan\\_ragins@nps.gov](mailto:alan_ragins@nps.gov).

For further information about RTCA and the work we are doing around the country with nearly 300 communities, please visit our national web site at <http://www.nps.gov/rtca>.