



Iowa News



Paddlers on the recently dedicated North Raccoon River Water Trail.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Greenfield Trail and Sports Complex**
Greater Greenfield Community Foundation
- 2. Hitchcock Nature Center Trail Expansion**
Pottawattamie County Conservation Board
- 3. Mississippi River Trail, Phase II**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
- 4. Red Rock Lake Water Trail**
Red Rock Lake Association
- 5. Sac County Water Trail**
Sac Economic & Tourism Development
- 6. Upper Des Moines River Land and Water Trails**
Prairie Partners RC&D, Humboldt Area Trails Co.
- 7. Webster County Water Trails**
Webster County Water Trails

Find out more about each project on page 2.

Recent Successes

Celebrating the Completion of the North Raccoon River Water Trail!

Over one hundred supporters and future paddlers came together to celebrate the completion of the North Raccoon River Water Trail this past September. The 160 mile Water Trail flows through six counties in central Iowa. Local river supporters, the Iowa DNR Water Trails Program, and the Raccoon River Watershed Association were joined by representatives of Iowa's Congressional delegation for an entire day that included good food, music, and paddling. The event also kicked-off a new Iowa DNR plan that will re-envision the future of river recreation and dam safety in Iowa. The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program of the National Park Service provided technical assistance to the Greene County Conservation Board by working together to design the detailed water trail guide map. The guide map includes local business contact information, land based trails in the area, town festivals along the river, and specific paddling routes for beginners. The project's success was due to many partners, including Central Iowa Paddlers, Iowa Whitewater Coalition, Dallas County Conservation Board, and more.



RTCA, Iowa DNR, the City of Des Moines confer on a portage for the trail.

We're Here For You.

Could your project 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



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Current Projects

1. Greenfield Trail and Sports Complex

Location: Greenfield
Congressional District: 5
Project Partner: Greater Greenfield Community Foundation
NPS Contact: Dave Thomson

Project Goal:

Approximately one-half mile of trail connecting several miles of existing trail and the preservation of a mile of stream.

2. Hitchcock Nature Center Trail Expansion

Location: Loess Hills near Council Bluffs
Congressional District: 5
Project Partner: Pottawattamie County Conservation Board
NPS Contact: Dave Thomson

Project Goal:

Three miles of new trail, that will connect over 30 miles of existing primitive trails.

3. Mississippi River Trail, Phase II

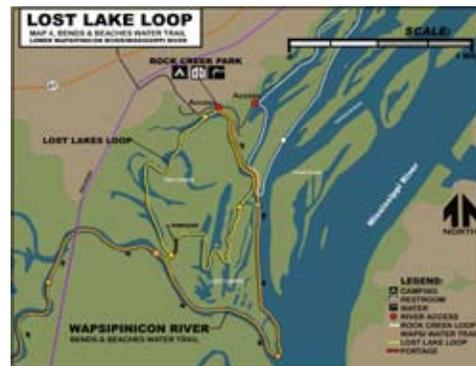
Location: Headwaters of MS River in Minnesota to Gulf of Mexico
Congressional Districts: AR - 1,4, IA - 2,4, IL - 4,12,16,17,19, KY - 1, LA - 1,2,3,5,6, MN - 2,3,4,5,6,8, MO - 1,2,3,8,9, MS - 1,2,3, TN - 7,8,9, WI - 3
Project Partner: MS River Trail, Inc.
NPS Contact: Diana Allen, Liz Smith-Incer, Stacy Palmer

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.

4. Red Rock Lake Water Trail

Location: Knoxville
Congressional District: 3
Project Partner: Red Rock Lake Association
NPS Contact: Dave Thomson



Project Goal:

30 miles of shoreline water trail connecting two other water trail efforts along the Des Moines River.

5. Sac County Water Trail

Location: Sac City
Congressional District: 5
Project Partner: Sac Economic and Tourism Development
NPS Contact: Dave Thomson

Project Goal:

Approximately 300 acres of green space area connected, as well as enhancement of 41 miles of water trail.

6. Upper Des Moines River Land and Water Trails

Location: North Central Iowa
Congressional District: 4
Project Partner: Prairie Partners Resource Conservation and Development and Humboldt Area Trails
NPS Contact: Dave Thomson

Project Goal:

50 miles of water trail and 10 miles of land trails connecting to the communities.

7. Webster County Water Trails

Location: Fort Dodge
Congressional District: 4
Project Partner: Webster County Water Trails
NPS Contact: David Thomson

Project Goal:

19 miles of water trail and 3 miles of riverfront development.