



Arkansas News



Siloam Springs Kayak Park. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015

- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. **Big White River Bridge Trail**
City of Clarendon
2. **Fourche Creek Water Trail**
Audubon Arkansas
3. **Good Road Trail**
Harrisburg Area Chamber of Commerce
4. **Little Sugar Creek Water Trail**
Little Sugar Creek Stream Team
5. **Mississippi River Connections Collaborative, Mississippi River Trail**
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
6. **Mt. Kessler Reserve**
Mt. Kessler Greenways

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide 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

Eureka Springs City Council Formally Adopts Trails Master Plan

Years of work on the part of Eureka Springs Parks and Recreation Trails Committee are finally paying off. In the past year and a half, the Committee has engaged in multiple stakeholder meetings and held public input meetings and an open house in order to educate the people of Eureka Springs, a community of just over 2,000 residents, about the benefits of trails. Presentations given to the City Planning Commission and the City Council about developing an in-town trail system on city roads, alleys, and green spaces emphasized the benefits to quality of life and economic health this system could bring.

On July 16, 2014, Eureka Springs City Council approved the first reading of a resolution approving a master plan for developing the trails system after hearing public comments for nearly two hours, including statements from 27 people in favor of adopting the planning document. The crowd that was gathered poured outside the council meeting room. Many attendees were wearing stickers that said “YES! to Trails.” This overwhelming show of support for the planned network of trails proved the power of planning and public education. Receiving local press from Eureka Springs Independent provided the seal of approval for the adopted master plan, where resident and artist Susan Morrison remarked, “The project is a really positive thing. People are really coming together on this very important issue.”

Current Projects

1. Big White River Bridge Trail

Project Partner: City of Clarendon
NPS Contact: Guy Headland
Location: Clarendon
Congressional District: AR - 1

Project Goal

Convert a yet-to-be abandoned highway crossing over the White River and through the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge into a pedestrian/ bicycling facility in order to preserve an east-west connection through the region for bicycle tourism and a unique experience of the tree canopy of the wildlife refuge.

NPS Role

Assist the city of Clarendon in creating a project vision through community input and close coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Help build community consensus and garner support from state and federal agencies for developing recreational access to the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge.

2. Fourche Creek Water Trail

Project Partner: Audubon Arkansas
NPS Contact: Guy Headland
Location: Little Rock
Congressional District: AR - 2

Project Goal

Improve stream conditions and safety and identify and develop ideal locations for canoe/kayak access in and along Fourche Creek, which will be designated as a water trail by the Arkansas Department of Game and Fish.

NPS Role

Assist in facilitating steering committee meetings and public input meetings and establishing a consensus for a project vision. Finalize graphic master plan for water trail access. Advance the Fourche Creek Park and Water Trail project to establish priorities and planning phases, identify funding



Bridge over the White River connecting Clarendon to the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge.
Photo: Johnny Moore, Big White River Bridge

opportunities, and enlist further partner support.

3. Good Road Trail

Project Partner: Harrisburg Area Chamber of Commerce
NPS Contact: Guy Headland
Location: Carked Tree, Tyrnza to Gilmore
Congressional District: AR - 1

Project Goal

Development of 6 miles of multiuse paved trail between the towns of Marked Tree and Tyrnza in the Sunken Lands area of the Arkansas Delta.

NPS Role

Facilitate stakeholder meetings to gain community consensus about a vision for the development of a trail along "The Good Road". Assist in developing graphic and marketing package support documents and in development of a sustainable organization to promote and implement the Good Road Trail as part of a larger regional tourism vision.

4. Little Sugar Creek Water Trail

Project Partner: Little Sugar Creek Stream Team
NPS Contact: Guy Headland
Location: Bella Vista
Congressional District: AR - 3

Project Goal

Reach a consensus from community

participants on a vision for establishing Little Sugar Creek as an Arkansas designated water trail. Provide water trail access, navigation, safety education, conservation education, boating techniques, seasonal boating and respecting private property information.

NPS Role

Identify and convene key stakeholders and property owners to gather support for a water trail, present information on benefits of water trail amenities, and facilitate public meetings for proposed project input. Establish a working group to develop cooperation with land owners, Arkansas Game and Fish, and other partners.



Concept illustrating one of three proposed water trail access points along Little Sugar Creek in Bella Vista. Photo: Fay Jones, University of Arkansas

Current Projects

5. Mississippi River Connections Collaborative, Mississippi River Trail

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

NPS Contacts: Rory Robinson/Guy Headland

Location: Mississippi River, 10 States
Congressional Districts: AR - 1, AR - 1 4

Project Goal

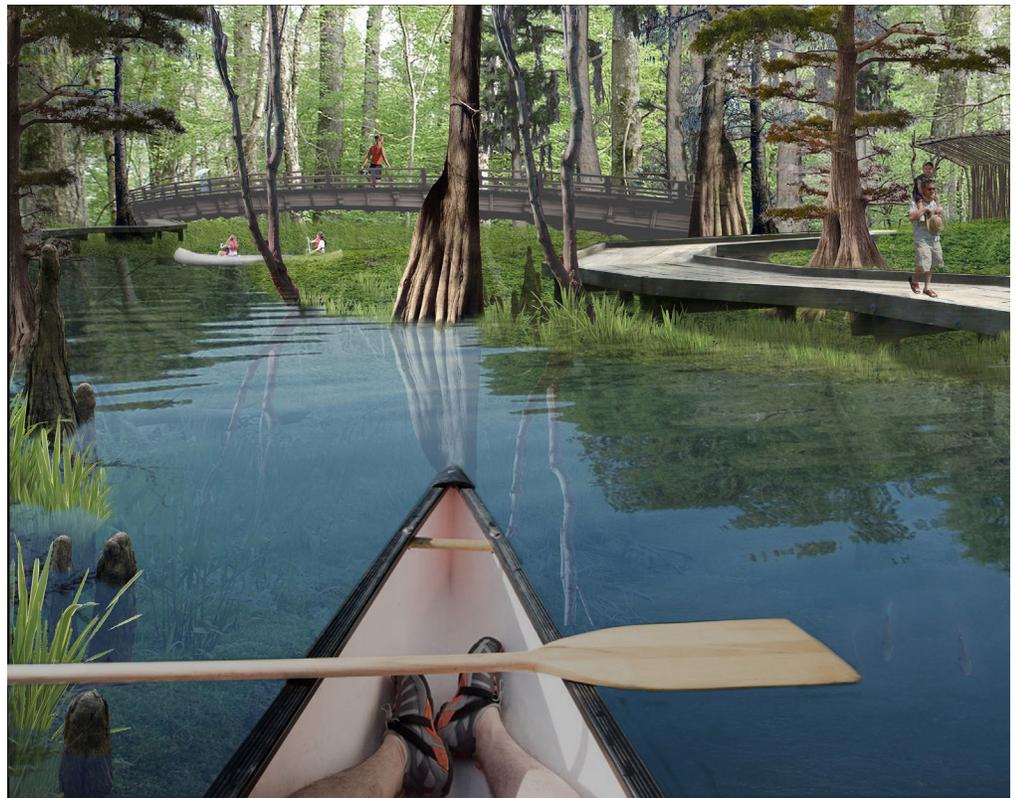
Foster improvements to the Mississippi River Trail for recreation, tourism, and community development; assist in the development of the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative and increase long-term organizational viability; further develop the Mississippi River blueway portion of the trail system; develop geotourism initiative with National Geographic Society.

NPS Role

Assist the Mississippi River Connections Collaborative with organizational development, outreach to other organizations and agencies, and development and implementation of their strategic and operations plans. Increase the capacity of Mississippi River Trail, Inc. to develop a water and land based trail along the Mississippi River. Assist Mississippi River Connections Collaborative to develop a sustainable destination tourism (geotourism) initiative in partnership with the National Geographic Society.

NPS Role

Convene educators, experts, and youth in development of an outdoor lab to identify resources and create narratives to highlight those resources. Provide technical assistance in improvement of existing trails and development of additional trails corresponding to the objectives of the outdoor classrooms and teachers' guide.



Landscape architecture students from the University of Arkansas float Fourche Creek in preparation for a semester project focused on ecological design and environmental land use planning.
Photo: Fay Jones, University of Arkansas

6. Mt. Kessler Reserve

Project Partner: Mt. Kessler Greenways

NPS Contact: Guy Headland

Location: Fayetteville

Congressional District: AR - 3

Project Goal

Develop a K-12 teachers' guide for use of the site as an outdoor classroom promoting appreciation of natural resources and natural heritage. Design and build 1 to 2 miles of hiking trails with interpretive elements corresponding to the teacher's guide.

“The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance was a great ally in our successful campaign, this past spring, to purchase and preserve 345 acres of woodlands, all within the City limits of Fayetteville, Arkansas. The NPS is now helping us develop an outdoor classroom (K-PhD) on this and adjacent Ozark natural areas.”

- Frank Sharp, Mt. Kessler Greenways

We're Here For You.

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



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2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and
Parkland Protected

Find more information online
at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

“The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program has provided the motivation, organization, and focus we needed to move the Little Sugar Creek Water Trail Project in Bella Vista, Arkansas forward. Their expertise has galvanized the team into action and helped us on our way to making a beautiful Ozark stream another wonderful recreational amenity for Northwest Arkansas.”

- Dave Barfield, Director, Bella Vista Property Owners Associations



Trail study image for Mt. Kessler Reserve in Fayetteville. Photo: NPS