



# Nebraska News



Kayakers enjoy a day on the Lower Platte River.  
Photo: Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



■ NPS Unit  
★ State Capital

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Lower Platte River Recreation Corridor**  
Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance
- 2. Omaha Urban Nature Hikes**  
University of Nebraska Omaha Health Education/Live Well Omaha Kids

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

### Paddlers Discover the Beauty of the Lower Platte River

The Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance (LPRCA) hosts an annual kayak tour to get people out on the water to discover the beauty and dynamism of the Lower Platte River. The Alliance recently completed an intensive recreation study in conjunction with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the US Army Corps of Engineers to guide future recreation planning and development along the corridor. The LPRCA will work with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to identify and build partnerships for recreational development and conservation work in the Lower Platte River watershed.

### Summer Adventure Group

The NPS program had another successful summer working with the Salvation Army Summer Camp in North Omaha. The Summer Adventure Program gave underserved youth a chance to experience outdoor activities and learn about the National Park Service. Thanks to bikes provided by local health organization Livewell Omaha, the kids were able to ride along the riverfront and across the pedestrian bridge. In the second week, NPS partnered with Nebraska Game and Parks to take the children fishing. For the final week, the children traveled to Fontenelle Forest. Here they had the chance to hike, play on a natural playground, identify trees, and explore the nature center. It was a great experience for the kids and for a few it was their first time in the woods. The Summer Adventure Group has been a great opportunity to engage underserved youth in Omaha.

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



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# Recent Successes continued

## What Do You Get When You Combine Kids, Nature and Technology?

The Take-a-Hike project was launched last year with the installation of two urban nature hikes in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area, the first at Chalco Hills Recreation Area in southwest Omaha and a second along the Missouri River at the Nebraska/Iowa border. The goal of the Take-a-Hike program is to provide opportunities for children and their families to learn more about Omaha's and Iowa's natural beauty while also promoting physical activity.

The first phase of the project was funded by Alegent-Creighton Health via Live Well Omaha Kids in cooperation with the NPS program, Omaha Parks & Recreation, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, and the University of Nebraska Omaha. Future plans include partnering with the Metro Omaha Medical Society on the development of a "Take a Hike and Call Me in the Morning" park prescriptions project.

## Current Projects

### 1. Lower Platte River Recreation Corridor

Project Partner: Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance  
NPS Contact: Kim Shafer  
Location: Lower Platte River, Columbus to Plattsmouth  
Congressional Districts: NE - 1, NE - 2, NE - 3

#### Project Goal

Develop conservation, recreation and education resources along the 110-mile Lower Platte River Corridor.

#### NPS Role

Work with the Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance to develop recreation and educational opportunities in conjunction with the conservation and restoration of natural, cultural and social resources within the Lower Platte River watershed.

*"NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program brings a valuable perspective on the importance of recreation and partnerships to the economy of the urban and rural areas of the Lower Platte River Corridor and how partnerships can promote recreation, public health, and protection of our natural and cultural resources."*

- Meghan Sittler,  
Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance

### 2. Omaha Urban Nature Hikes

Project Partner: University of Nebraska Omaha Health Education/Live Well Omaha Kids  
NPS Contact: Kim Shafer  
Location: Omaha  
Congressional District: NE - 2

#### Project Goal

Build upon the Take-a-Hike demonstration projects to promote the health benefits of physical activity along with connections to nature in a fun learning environment.

#### NPS Role

Assist partners in identifying potential resources and new partnerships to develop a Park Prescriptions program to complement outdoor active recreation resources and connections to nature available throughout the city.