

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Midwest Regional Office



Developing Outdoor Recreation Projects through Local, State and Federal Partnerships

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Partnerships 101

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Partnerships



...a relationship usually involving close cooperation between parties having specified and joint rights and responsibility.

Why Are Partnerships Important?



- Broader input
- Generate more creative solutions
- Promote awareness and education
- Build acceptance, participation and ownership
- Expand resources available
- Faster implementation due to greater support

Types of Partnerships

Formal vs. Informal

Long-term vs. Short-term

Single Issue vs. Multiple Issue



Collaborate...to work jointly with others for mutual benefit.

Partners Are:

- Key decision makers / formal and informal leaders
- Those affected by the decision or action
- Those responsible for implementing the decision
- Those with the ability to block or impede the decision
- Those who can assist, help fast-forward results / “experts”

How Do You Get Partners to the Table

- Conduct a Stakeholder Analysis to identify potential partners
- Make contact early in the process – Ask them to participate
- Be specific about what you're asking them to do
- Listen to their wants and needs
- Provide options for participation
- Keep in touch - Communicate



Successful Partnerships

- Mission Focused
- Shared Vision
- Cooperation
- Persistence
- Hard Working
- Proactive
- Political Savvy
- Willing to get their feet wet!



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The NPS: A Community Partner

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Who We Are:

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)

- Community Assistance Arm of NPS



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Where we are:

National Park Service Midwest Region

RTCA Office Locations

Omaha

(Midwest Regional Office)

Chicago, IL (CCA)

Empire, MI (SLBE)

Milwaukee, WI (AO)

Peninsula, OH (CUVA)

St. Louis, MO



What We Do:

- Work with Community groups.
- Local and State Governments to...

Conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways.



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What We Do:

- Work to Define Vision and Goals
- Provide Meeting Facilitation
- Provide Concept Planning and Design
- Research Funding Sources
- Conducting Neighborhood Meetings
- Promote Healthy Living
- Promote Alternative Transportation
- Assist with Marketing Brochures
- Evaluate Trail Needs
- Gathering Key Stakeholders
- Help Develop Partnerships

RTCA

Partnered on over 8,000 projects in last 25 years from remote communities in Alaska to the Bronx River.



80+ NPS program staff support over 350 projects each year -
Creating or improving thousand of miles of trails and rivers

How to get RTCA Assistance

- 2 page online application process due June 30th
- Applications are generally approved in September
- Applicants are notified around October 1st
- Projects begin in October
- RTCA fiscal year October 1- September 30
- Potential for Unofficial (Consultation) Project

No Financial Assistance available
Technical assistance services only

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A Helping Hand

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi1_yoJOn3c

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Other Potential Partners

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Potential Partners

- Key business groups
 - Farmers, developers, industry, realtors, retailers, chamber of commerce, tourism, media
- Community organizations
 - Watershed organizations, recreation interests (bicycle, nature, hiking, conservation) church groups, boy scouts
- Community residence
 - Landowners, seniors, youth, PTA, civic groups
- Technical experts
 - Public works, health specialists, parks & recreation, educators, engineers, planners, resource professionals, regulators

Government Partners

■ City Partners

- Mayor, Parks Department, planning commission, school board, chamber of commerce

■ County Partners

- County Commissioners/Supervisors, Conservation Board/Director, Engineers, Community Foundations

■ State Partners

- DOT, Parks and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, Planning Authorities, Universities

■ Federal Partners

- USDA, NRCS, NPS, USFWS, Forest Service, BLM, BIA, Army COE, EPA, elected officials, Governors office...

State Partners

- North Dakota Recreation and Park Association
 - Provide: Training, Information, Networking and Public Outreach
 - Promote: Benefits of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.
 - Advocate: State and Federal Policy
 - Support: Active member engagement – State and Federal Level
- North Dakota Parks and Recreation
 - Administer Park and Rec areas with State-wide or regional Significance
 - Support:
 - OHV planning and Safety Programs
 - Snowmobile Safety Programs and Trails
 - Nature Preserves Act
 - Outdoor Recreation Grants and Statewide Recreation Planning
 - State Scenic Byways Program

State Partners

■ North Dakota DOT

- Planning within State ROW
- State Programs
- Funding Programs:
 - TAP
 - RTP

■ North Dakota State University - NDSU

- Landscape Architecture Program
 - Comprehensive Site Study
 - Park Planning
 - Circulation Planning
 - Outdoor Recreation
 - More...

Federal Partners

- Army Corp of Engineers - ACOE
 - Planning Partner (When ACOE land is involved)
 - Allow Recreation on ACOE Land
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – BIA
 - Tribal Lands Partner
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - USFWS
 - Conservation Consultants
 - Conservation Grants

Federal Partners

■ U.S. Forest Service

- Planning Partner
 - Specifications... Bridges, trails and more.
- Conservation Consultants
- Controlled Burn Partners
- Public Trails and Trail Connections

■ Bureau of Land Management - BLM

- Planning Partners
- Conservation Consultants

■ Army National Guard

- Potential Construction – Earth moving
- Bridge Moving

Federal Partners

- Environmental Protection Agency - EPA

- Groundwork USA

- Funding Source for:

- Source Water Protection
 - Invasive Species
 - Non-point Source Pollution
 - Wetland Programs

- Greening America's Communities – EPA program to help cities and towns develop an implementable vision of environmentally friendly neighborhoods that incorporate innovative green infrastructure and other sustainable design strategies.



Groundwork USA

- Restoring and enhancing urban areas and brownfields across the country. Detroit to New Orleans, Portland to Anacostia, LA to Atlanta...



An NPS/EPA partnership model

- Community gardens
- Re-purposing and restoring historic buildings
- Restoring brownfields and cleaning waterways
- Greening schools and communities



Project Example

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The Kansas River

National Water Trails System

Designated in 2013



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Our Partners

- Kansas Dept. of Wildlife Parks and Tourism -KDWPT
- Friends of the KAW River
- National Park Service
- Economic Development Corporations of Kansas
- 15 Communities
- 7 Counties



Partners Roles

Kansas Dept. of Wildlife Parks and Tourism –KDWPT

- Lead Agency/Project Partner
- Provided Staff Support
- Gather Funds
- Acquire Land for Access Points
- Develop Brochure/Kiosk Panels
- Manage Construction of Access Points
- Long-Term River Management



Major Investment

- Over \$800,000 committed to Kansas River access since 2002 by KDWPT.
- Local community spending and local donations have nearly matched this amount during that time.



River Inventory



Way-Finding Signage



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Partners Roles

National Park Service

- Project Guidance
- Provided Technical Assistance
- Provided design and review support - Brochure/Kiosk Panels
- Developed River Signage Plan and Sign Design
- Conducted River Development Meetings
- Assisted with River Dedication



Business
 Rest Area
 State Park
 Gas Station
 Food Service

Segment	Distance (mi)	Travel Time (min)
Fort Riley to Lawrence	100	1:15
Lawrence to Topeka	100	1:15
Topeka to Emporia	100	1:15
Emporia to Kansas City	100	1:15
Total	400	4:45

River Dedication



Dedication and PSA



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Partners Roles

Friends of the KAW

- Project Partner
- Provided Technical Assistance -River
- Provided Access Guidance – Design/Installation
- Provided River Access Development Support
- Provided River Equipment – Boats, Tour Guides



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Boat Ramp Building



Mudrunners tying in rebar on future ramp
Photo by Rolland Love



Mudrunners laying rock by hand
Photo by Rolland Love

Boat Ramp Building



Boats and Guiding



Partners Roles

Others: Counties, Cities and EDC's.

- Project Partner
- Provided on-the-ground Assistance
- Provided local support
- Provided meeting space



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Access Sites



Governor's Committee



Community Projects



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Community Projects



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River Access

- Between 2007 and 2013 considerable progress was made with an additional 6 ramps constructed. (Topeka Weir, Ogden, Kaw River, Junction City, Turner and Belvue)



Thank You!



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