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





...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

### Who We Are:

### Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)

Computy Assistance Arm of NPS

### Where we are:

National Park Service Midwest Region

**RTCA Office Locations** 

Omaha (Midwest Regional Office) Chicago, II (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.



### 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 30<sup>th</sup>
 Applications are generally approved in September
 Applicants are notified around October 1<sup>st</sup>
 Projects begin in October
 RTCA fiscal year October 1- September 30
 Potential for Unofficial (Consultation) Project

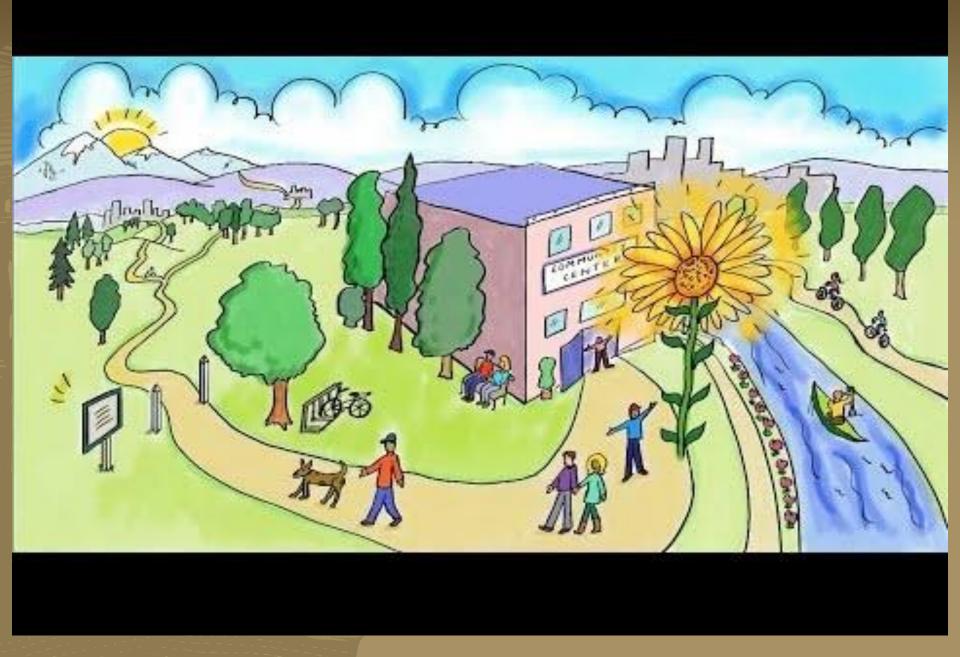
No Financial Assistance available Technical assistance services only

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## A Helping Hand

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi1 yoJOn3c



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## **Other Potential Partners**

## **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**



### **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



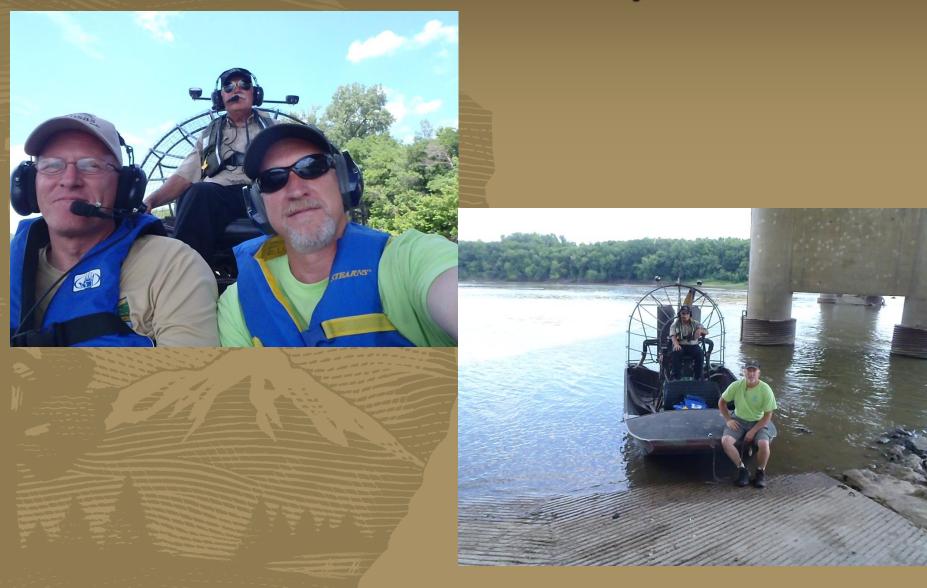
### **Major Investment**

- 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





### **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



### **River Map**



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## **River Dedication**



#### **Dedication and PSA**





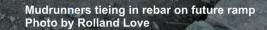
#### **Partners Roles**

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



## **Boat Ramp Building**





# **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



#### **Access Sites**

## **BELVUE BOAT ACCESS**

## @ KAW RIVER MILE 118



Completed in May, 2013 this Kaw River Access Park is dedicated to the many community donors and volunteers listed below. This project was developed by Friends of the Kaw, KDWP&T, and the City of Belvue and signifies our commitment to public recreation on the Kansas River.

FRIENDS OF THE KAW ACCESS TEAM VOLUNTEERS • KDWP&T • BELVUE VOLUNTEERS • WESTAR ENERGY GREEN TEAM HAMM QUARRIES • FOLEY EQUIPMENT CO. • ONYX TOP CO. BELVUE • EBERT CONSTRUCTION CO. NEMAHA COUNTY COOP • REED COMPANY • KOLDE CONCRETE • KANSAS HARDWOOD INC. • EBI CONCRETE FINISH VENTURE PLACEMENT CO. • THOMAS SIGN CO. • PAUL HILL TRUCKING & DOZING

Friends #

## **Governor's** Committee









# **Community Projects**





Beery time it rains, water runs off our roofs, our yards, driveways and roads, washing into the river. The more we build, the more of a problem we have from stormwater run-off because of all the new hard surfaces in the watershed. Our neighborhoods flood and the river becomes polluted. That's why we built a rain garden, so that everyone using this boat rango can see what they look like and how they work—and hopefully get inspired to create their own 'Best Management Practice' to reduce stormwater run-their run screedy.

is act like sponges souking up more run-off than traditional lawns. This is because they are planted in deep, loosely pecked topsoil, and the plants are species and developed mote. A rain garden absorbs 30% more than a lawn of the same size. And because they soak up so much water, they are even less likely to

trapped in a rain garden is filtered by the soil and plants, which remove many chemicals, along with nutrients and bacteria that are a major source of pollution in River. Much of the trapped water is used for plant growth, and the water that eventually does make it to the river is much cleaner.

sity native plants in our rain garden to reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticides, and to eliminate the need for watering. Native plants are also wonderful for life, so they increase the biodiversity of our park and make it even more beautiful and interesting

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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!



#### National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior