Developing a Heritage Trail: Community Projects and Local Organization

Krista Sherwood, National Park Service

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A HERITAGE TRAIL

DEFINED

- A Linear Feature
- Connects to Historical Elements, Sites, or Places
- Non-motorized
- Multimodal (walking, hiking, biking, equestrian)
- Provides Physical and Interpretative Linkages
- Provides Facilities or Panels
- Thematically and Time-Linked

- Long-distance (incorporating multiple communities);
- or Short-distance (within a single community)
- Can include auto/tour bus accessibility
THE BENEFITS

Sense of place and understanding of past events

More than Preservation behind a Glass

Access to historic sites and places

Interpretation opportunities

Enhances the overall experience

Guides people to destinations.

Attracts tourism

Connections between places

Preserves Resources Economic and Social Benefits
“Would you tell me please which way I ought to go from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.” – said the Cheshire Cat

“I don’t care where.” – said Alice

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go.” – said the Cat
78% participate in cultural and/or heritage activities.

61% say they started with a desired destination in mind.

Two-thirds visited historic sites.

“The desire to participate in cultural and heritage travel remains strong and lucrative.”

The Cultural and Heritage Traveler, 2009 Edition
Mandala Research, LLC
YOUR COMMUNITY AS THE DESTINATION

Developing a Heritage Trail in your Community

- Identify the Resources
- Ensure Historical Accuracy
A TRAIL OR.... A TRAIL

Difference between:

- A trail which provides connections to Historic Sites and/or Places

versus

- A trail which portrays a retracement of a Historic Route
KEY FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

- Support and Interest of the Communities Involved
- Local Citizen Involvement
WHO CAN HELP?

National Park Service

Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program
RTCA is:

- A planning & technical assistance program
- Community-based
- Available to non-profits, local, state, and federal agencies

How we work:

- Collaboratively with a variety of partners
- By local request
- Assistance is tailored to partner/project needs
Types of Assistance Provided:

- Building partnerships to achieve community-set goals
- Developing concept plans
- Engaging public participation
- Identifying potential sources of funding
- Developing public outreach
- Organizational development
- Providing conservation and recreation information

www.nps.gov/rtca
Aransas Pathways Project

- Potentially 45 birding sites
- Potentially 50 historic sites
- Potentially 65 miles of trails (13-15 segments) connecting these sites.
- With trailhead kiosk signs describing attractions along the trail and 130 mile markers.
- And a Birding and Nature Center.
Northeast Texas Trail

- Non-motorized Recreation Trail
- Utilizing 130 continuous miles of rail-banked corridor
- From Farmersville to New Boston
- Includes 13 communities & 7 counties
NORTHEAST TEXAS TRAIL
NORTHEAST TEXAS TRAIL
Poteet Middle Camino Real Recreation Trail

- Partnership between the City and NHT Trail Association
- Approximate 2-mile non-motorized recreation trail
- Along a tributary in the heart of the Poteet Community
POTEET MIDDLE CAMINO REAL RECREATION TRAIL

- Will provide interpretation opportunities of the nearby El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT

1854 Atascosa Historic Map
POTEET MIDDLE CAMINO REAL RECREATION TRAIL
A HISTORIC TRAIL IN TEXAS

Used between 1680 - 1845
- Currently there is little signage in place
- Majority of the trail traverses private land
- Availability of historic documentation and/or identifying features
THANK YOU!

Contact Info:

Krista Sherwood
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance (RTCA)
(210) 627 – 1203
krista_sherwood@nps.gov