

3-TRAILS CORRIDOR PARTNERSHIP



In early 2015, the 3-Trails Partnership was formed specifically to promote developments within the 3-Trails Corridor of the Kansas City area. One of the immediate goals was to assess the status of hiking and biking trails in the Greater Kansas City area along the 3-Trails Corridor, from Independence Landing to the Gardner Junction Park, and then to promote development of more such trails to complete a continuous corridor of hiking and biking trails. The Partnership also wanted to promote the completion of posting retracement trail signs along roads, so that anyone could travel from Independence Landing to Gardner Junction, as close as possible to the original historic trail routes, by following those signs. Yet another goal was added when Jackson County and the Kansas City Area Transit Authority purchased the Old Rock Island Railroad right of way. With that purchase, completion of the Katy Trail to about Arrowhead Stadium would allow yet further public access to the 3-Trails Corridor, as such, a Katy extension would cross hiking and biking trails in the historic trails corridor.

The National Park Service and the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) became the leaders in this 3-Trails Corridor Partnership. More opportunities for the public to learn of historic trails will be enhanced greatly when the following three goals would be completed: (1) completion of continuous hiking/biking trails from Independence Landing to Gardner Junction Park, (2) completion of installment of retracement trail road signs, also from Independence Landing to Gardner Junction Park, and (3) completion of Katy Trail west to connect with hiking/biking trails in the 3-Trails Corridor.

A partial listing of the partners in this 3-Trails Corridor Partnership includes the following: National Park Service; Mid-America Regional Council (MARC); Oregon-California Trails Assn.; Santa Fe Trail Assn.; Trails Head Chapter of OCTA; Missouri River Outfitters of SFTA; Kansas City Area Historic Trails Assn.; cities of Sugar Creek, Independence, KCMO, Leawood, and Overland Park; Barnes Enclosure/Cave Spring Historic Site; Jackson County Parks + Rec; Trailside Center; South Kansas City Alliance PIAC; Historical Society of New Santa Fe; Cerner Corporation; KCMO Public Works; and Kansas City Area Transit Authority.

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The promotion of the goals of the 3-Trails Corridor Partnership involves lots of behind-the-scenes cooperation, as well as meetings of the partners. Meetings have continued after the first large gatherings of partners. Those early large gatherings occurred at the following times.

2015 Mar. 21—gathered at National Frontier Trails Museum for introductions and to agree on a vision for the historic trails corridor.

2015 Aug. 16-21—throughout the week, partners met at various locations, including at Mid-America Regional Council office, to continue to develop ways to implement the vision for the historic trails corridor.

LONG-DISTANCE TRAILS OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WITH TH

1993 Oct. 24-27—co-sponsored 3rd National Conference on Scenic and Historic Trails, with theme “Connection—93”, at Camp MO-KAN Conference Center, in Independence, with one day of all-day treks led by Gateway & TH

AVILA HISTORY CLUB WITH TH

1988 Apr. 21—co-sponsored talk by Charlie Martin, Sr. of Nebraska on Pony Express Trail, at Whitefield Hall of Avila College

WESTERN HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION OF KANSAS CITY WITH TH

1994 Oct. 29—co-sponsored historic trail symposium, with KSHS Bob Richmond as moderator, held in UMKC School of Education building; planned by Trails Head Jim Budde & Barbara Magerl

FRIENDS OF CHICAGO & ALTON RAILROAD DEPOT WITH TH

1998 Apr. 14—joint meeting with Trails Head member Jim Lee speaking on history of Union Depot of early Kansas City, at National Frontier Trails Center in Independence

SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION HISTORIC SITE WITH TH

2007—Trails Head members assisted Shawnee Indian Mission staff in completion of Trails Room on 2nd floor of East Building