

Destination Park and 8-Mile Multi-Use Trail Developed through Partnerships at Rathbun Lake

Lake: [Rathbun Lake](#), Iowa

Partners: [Iowa Department of Natural Resources](#), [Rathbun Snow Riders](#), [Appanoose County Trails](#)

Partnership Type: Challenge Partnership

Corps POC: Marcia Thomas

Sustained and long term relationship building over a period of 30 years resulted in the construction of the Honey Creek Resort State Park in 2008 at Rathbun Lake in southern Iowa. The development of the destination park on state land and state licensed federal land included a paved two mile trail from the lake's edge to adjacent federal land. This meshed well with needs that the recreating public had expressed in the late 1990s. Focus groups met throughout the state of Iowa to establish outdoor recreation priorities on public lands. One thing was clear: additional trail opportunities were needed in Iowa.

In November 2011, a 25 year Challenge Partnership Agreement was signed by the Corps and local trail advocate partners, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Rathbun Snow Riders, and Appanoose County Trails. The long term relationship building which occurred at the Resort Park was a springboard for partnering which resulted in the design and development of an 8-mile multiuse trail for walking, running, hiking, bicycling, and snowmobile use. The trail stretches across 600 acres of southern Iowa mixed woodlands and native prairie nestled against 11,000 acres of public recreation lake.



Partners coordinated a walk/run event for the "Live Healthy Iowa - 100 Day Wellness Challenge" that occurring throughout the state of Iowa. In April 2012, ninety runners and walkers enrolled in the state-wide Wellness Challenge participated in the inaugural use of the trail at the North Shore Trail dedication. Future plans by the Partners include sponsoring additional walks/runs, bicycle rides, and snowmobile rides on the trail to promote healthy outdoor activities.

Long term relationship building has successfully resulted in construction of a destination park, state-wide public focus groups providing input for additional recreational opportunities, willing Partners

providing in-kind services of annual O&M on an 8-mile multiuse trail, and support for the Healthy Lifestyles Programs state initiative. This partnership exhibits the importance of long term relationship building in providing enhanced recreation opportunities for our visitors.