

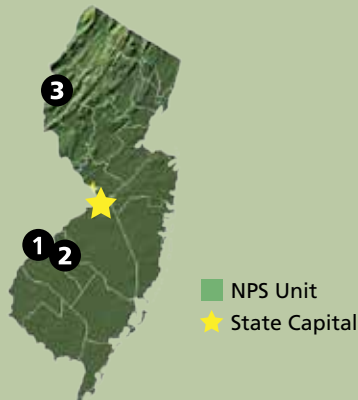


# New Jersey News



Brave Camden Forward School students paddle through the rain.  
Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. **Cherry Hill/Croft Farm Trails & Natural Resource Program**  
City of Cherry Hill
2. **Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership**  
US Forest Service
3. **Phillipsburg Riverfront Heritage Trail**  
Town of Phillipsburg

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

## Recent Successes

### The Canoemobile Comes to Camden

Not even an untimely nor'easter could have stopped the brave Camden Forward School 4th-8th grade students from traversing the Delaware River when the Wilderness Inquiry Canoemobile came to town. The Canoemobile—a traveling fleet of six 24-foot voyageur canoes from Minneapolis—made its way to the Delaware River this fall to give local youth an opportunity to explore and learn about their river.

Each canoe holds up to nine students and one highly experienced boat captain, allowing participants to have their first paddling experience without any prior boating or swimming knowledge required. In addition to the on-water program, participants in Camden also learned about watersheds and aquatic species through a series of land-based programs facilitated by Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the New Jersey Academy of Aquatic Sciences.

The event—an initiative of the Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership—brought together federal and local resources to provide a unique opportunity for youth to learn about and reconnect with their nearby water resource. Over the course of four days on the Delaware and its tributaries, the Canoemobile engaged over 440 students in Wilmington, Philadelphia, Camden, and Chester.



The big voyageur canoes look tiny on the Delaware River. Photo: NPS

## We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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## 2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects

## 1. Cherry Hill/Croft Farm Trails and Natural Resource Program

Project Partner: City of Cherry Hill  
NPS Contact: Sherry Peck  
Location: Cherry Hill  
Congressional District: NJ - 1

### Project Goal

Increase trail connections from residential areas to local natural resources and conservation land; increase use of the trails.

### NPS Role

Assist with developing a steering committee, a concept plan for a nature center, interpretive signage for trails, and a marketing plan to increase public awareness and use.

## 2. Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Project Partner: US Forest Service  
NPS Contact: Dave Lange  
Location: Camden, NJ; Philadelphia, and Chester, PA; Wilmington, DE  
Congressional Districts: NJ - 1; PA - 1, 2, 8, 13; DE - 1

### Project Goal

Reconnect urban communities with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies

and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve waterways and promote economic, environmental, and social benefits.

### NPS Role

Act as a co-lead with the US Forest Service; assist the Urban Waters Federal Partnership with cataloging and directing federal resources to address locally identified needs and priorities.

## 3. Phillipsburg Riverfront Heritage Trail

Project Partners: Town of Phillipsburg, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Highlands Council  
NPS Contact: Sherry Peck  
Location: Phillipsburg  
Congressional District: NJ - 7

### Project Goal

Develop an implementation plan for a trail network that integrates a riverfront trail, a rail-trail, the Morris Canal Greenway, the town's railroad and canal heritage, and 5 loop trails.

### NPS Role

Assist with developing a steering committee and a work plan for trail implementation; facilitate public engagement and consensus-building.



The federal co-leads of the Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership held listening sessions in each of four focus cities, starting in Camden. During this meeting, challenges, opportunities, and needs along the river were discussed. Photo: NPS