

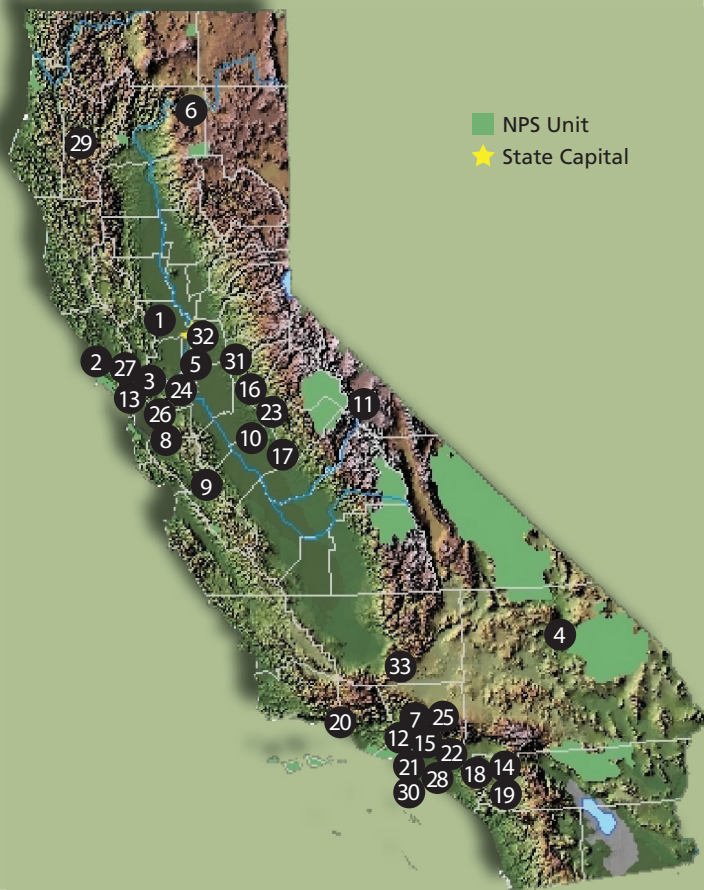


# California News



The summer of 2012 marked the second season of the Paddle the LA River Program. Photo: Steve Matsuda

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Success

### A River Runs Through LA...Really!

If you were to mention the Los Angeles River in the past, you would likely hear responses ranging from, “there’s a river in Los Angeles?” to, “that’s where they filmed that car chase scene I saw in a movie, right?” Today, however, you are just as likely to hear, “I volunteered to help with the LA River clean-up” or “I rode on the LA River Trail and couldn’t believe how many birds I saw!” Slowly but surely, perceptions and attitudes towards the river are evolving as the community turns their attention back towards the river as a resource vital to the Los Angeles region.

Beginning in 1990 with then-Mayor Tom Bradley’s Los Angeles River Task Force and continuing with Los Angeles County’s 1996 Los Angeles River Master Plan, NPS has supported the long term revitalization of the Los Angeles River through facilitation, planning, and partnership development assistance. For the past few decades, momentum for improving the river has steadily built through dedicated community-driven efforts, and now, the river is experiencing unprecedented attention.



#### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides 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.



# Current Projects

## 1. Cache Creek Parkway

Project Partner: Yolo County Natural Resources

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: Communities of Capay and Yolo, approximately 45 miles north east of Sacramento

Congressional District: CA - 3

The county and their partners will continue to improve flood capacity, restore riparian habitat, and create a network of nature preserves, trails, and parklands along a 14-mile reach of Cache Creek. Development of the Cache Creek Parkway Plan will provide the framework and guide the completion of this interlinked system of open space. RTCA staff will assist this effort by providing expertise in team building and facilitation, resource identification, public involvement, and planning.

## 2. California Coastal Trail

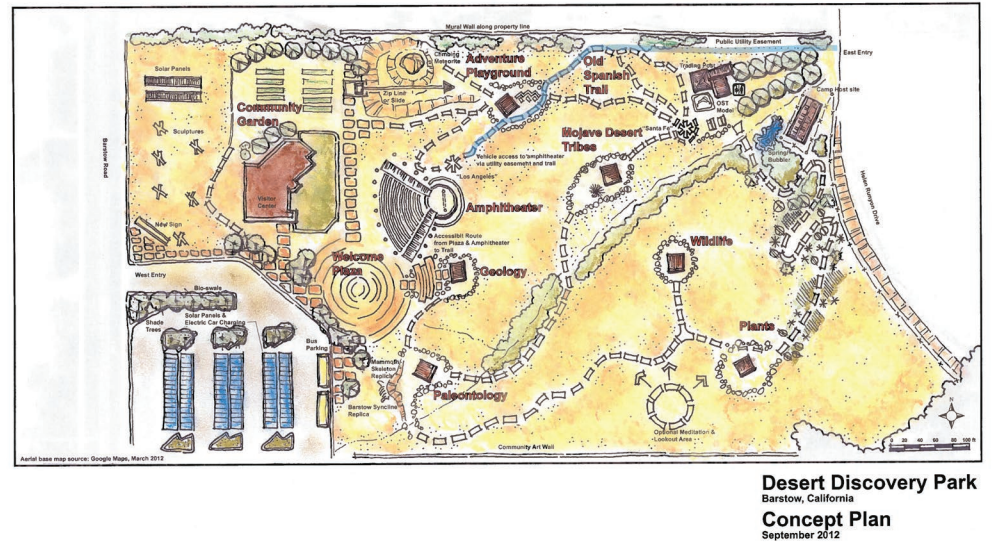
Project Partner: Fifteen coastal counties of California

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice, Suzanne Brinkley

Location: Coastal California Counties

Congressional Districts: CA - 2, 14, 18, 20, 24, 26, 33, 44, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52

To facilitate trail completion and improved operation and maintenance of the 1,200-mile California Coastal Trail, RTCA will help the non-profit Coastwalk, the State Coastal Conservancy, and local partners build organizational capacity and local stewardship. Work will include



The future Desert Discovery Park is envisioned to include a loop trail that connects themed activity areas and teaching stations. Site plan prepared by NPS.

research of organizational and funding models and outreach to agencies and organizations with trail ownership and management responsibilities.

## 3. Carless California

Project Partner: US Forest Service

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: Central California

Congressional Districts: CA - 4, 9, 7, 10

The goal of CarLess California is to improve and promote accessibility and mobility to outdoor recreation destinations on federal lands for all of California's diverse population. RTCA is participating on an interagency extended team to help develop target communities, destinations and potential alternative transportation systems.

## 4. Desert Discovery Park

Project Partner: Mojave National Preserve

RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon, Peg Henderson

Location: City of Barstow

Congressional District: CA - 8

This project will convert a vacant lot with limited improvements into a 12-acre park site, including trails and opportunities for outdoor education and community art. RTCA will assist with assembling a conceptual planning document for the park, which may be used to leverage future project funding.



The waterways of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta provide ample recreation opportunities. Photo: Alex Westhoff

# Current Projects cont.

## 5. Great California Delta Trail

Project Partner: Delta Protection Commission  
RTCA Contact: Suzanne Brinkley  
Location: Sacramento-San Joaquin  
Congressional District: Delta in Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo Counties  
Congressional District: CA - 21

The Great California Delta Trail will create a network of approximately 1,000 miles of bicycling and hiking trails around the Delta with regional trail linkages (Bay Trail) and connections to the Sacramento River and Delta parks and recreation facilities, natural resources, and communities. RTCA is assisting with community engagement, policy analysis and facilitation. The Delta Trail blueprint will set the foundation for future master planning.

## 6. Great Shasta Rail Trail

Project Partner: McCloud Local First Network  
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice/ Sally Sheridan  
Location: Between McCloud and Burney in Siskiyou and Shasta Counties  
Congressional District: CA - 1

This rail-trail project will focus on an 80-mile rail banked recreational trail that will link the towns of McCloud and Burney and nearby recreation areas featuring local heritage and culture, close connections to nature, and boosting the economic and social



Members of the Friends of Griffith Park pose with Park Rangers and RTCA staff in front of the Visitor Center to celebrate the new Anza National Historic Trail NPS Passport stamp. Photo: Chuck Soter

vitality of local communities. RTCA is working with local partners, the Rails to Trails Conservancy and the community to develop a compelling conceptual trail plan that facilitates trail completion.



## 7. Griffith Park de Anza Trail

Project Partner: Friends of Griffith Park  
RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston  
Location: City of Los Angeles  
Congressional District: CA - 28

RTCA will assist in developing a concept plan for enhancing Griffith Park's 4-mile certified segment of Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, including identifying opportunities for

improved community trail connections, increasing visibility of the trail through improved signage and interpretation, and making recommendations for trail enhancements focused on long-term conservation and sustainability of the historic resource.

## 8. Healing from the Ground Up: McClymond's Park

Project Partner: Attitudinal Healing Connection  
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice, Lauren Ivey  
Location: West Oakland  
Congressional District: CA - 13

The Healing from the Ground Up project focuses on the creation of a nature-based green space that taps into the outdoors as a source of healing and solace for local residents,



Once completed, the Great Shasta Rail Trail will afford outstanding views to trail users. Photo: April Gray.



# Current Projects cont.



This popular re-purposed bridge provides recreational access across the Lower Stanislaus River in the City of Ripon. Photo: NPS

youth and the community beyond. RTCA will facilitate youth and community engagement and support park design and implementation, tapping into a local high school and a range of partners involved in site design over the past few years.

## 9. Landowners Toolbox for San Benito County

Project Partner: Pinnacles Partnership  
RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson  
Location: San Benito County  
Congressional District: CA - 20

This is a project of the San Benito Working Landscapes Group (SBWLG), an emerging group of agencies, non-governmental organizations, ranchers, and farmers, collaborating to find common ground for protecting and enhancing the working landscapes of San Benito County and adjacent lands. RTCA will assist by facilitating access by landowners to a toolbox of information on technical assistance, funding programs and other resources.

## 10. Lower Stanislaus River Access

Project Partner: City of Oakdale, River Access Working Group  
RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier  
Location: City of Oakdale  
Congressional District: CA - 4

The City of Oakdale is working with an all-volunteer River Access Work Group to spearhead this vision of a 50-mile trail in and along the Lower Stanislaus River from Goodwin Dam near Knight's Ferry to its confluence with the San Joaquin River. Already, the group has collected background information on many aspects of river health, reached out to neighboring communities in Rippon and Riverbank, and received a grant from California's River Parkways Grant Program. RTCA will help the City and its partners get organized to undertake a conceptual planning effort for development of a comprehensive Lower Stanislaus River Corridor Plan that balances conservation, flood management, hazard mitigation, and outdoor recreation goals.

## 11. Mono Yosemite Gateway Trail

Project Partner: Mono County  
RTCA Contact: Deborah Reardon  
Location: Lee Vining  
Congressional District: CA - 8

Mono County seeks to create a year-round, 20-mile trail that links the gateway community of Lee Vining to the Mono Basin Scenic Visitor Center, Lee Vining Canyon, Yosemite National Park, local campsites and trails, and transit facilities. RTCA will facilitate a

collaborative planning process in order to evaluate trail feasibility and identify viable trail alignments for the Mono Yosemite Gateway Trail.

## 12. Northeast Los Angeles Riverfront Collaborative

Project Partner: City of Los Angeles  
RTCA Contact: Anne Dove  
Location: City of Los Angeles  
Congressional District: CA - 34

This collaboration, being led by City of Los Angeles through a grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will facilitate multi-agency, cross-disciplinary planning that will result in a comprehensive, complementary system of community revitalization improvements along a portion of the Los Angeles River's ecologically-vibrant, 10-mile Glendale Narrows stretch. Building on the federal Urban Waters Federal Partnership and the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, both of which focused on the Los Angeles River, NPS will support development of partnerships, policy and plans for enhanced river access, including water-based recreation.

## 13. Point Molate Beach Park

Project Partner: Citizens for a Sustainable Point Molate  
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice  
Location: City of Richmond  
Congressional District: CA - 11

Point Molate Beach is a 1/3 mile long strand of beach located on San Francisco Bay. This 11-acre park (part of a former navy fuel depot) was a very popular destination for Richmond and area residents from the early fifties through the latter half of the 1990's, but is now closed in need of improvements. The site includes a potential connection for the San Francisco Bay Trail and is a proposed access point for the San Francisco Bay Water Trail. RTCA will provide landscape architectural design support and prepare a conceptual site plan to



# Current Projects cont.

enhance access, supporting the park's reopening in 2013.

## 14. Riverside Citizen Science Program

Project Partner: City of Riverside  
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin  
Location: City of Riverside  
Congressional District: CA - 41

A collaborative partnership of agencies and organizations in Riverside are pooling resources to create a regional Citizen Science Program to deliver informal science education and participatory experiences to the region. RTCA is helping the group to write strategic and action plans for implementation in 2013. With the opening of the nature center at Sycamore Canyon Park the program will have a primary operating location from which to launch an on-going citizen science experience, and then to grow into other venues.

## 15. Safe Routes to the River

Project Partner: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority  
RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston  
Location: City of Los Angeles  
Congressional District: CA - 34  
Working to support the efforts of local partners to provide enhanced access to the Los Angeles River, RTCA will assist

key stakeholders and the community in the development of a Safe Routes to the River pilot project aimed at improving physical connections along 2-3 miles of targeted urban routes between the river and three select school sites and neighborhoods. The project will result in a plan for improved public access to the river via gateways, signage, and education and interpretive facilities across the Glendale Narrows reach of the river.

## 16. San Andreas Creek Greenway

Project Partner: San Andreas Recreation & Park District  
RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson  
Location: City of San Andreas  
Congressional District: CA - 4

Though bisected by the busy state route 49, this Sierra foothills community lacks adequate pedestrian facilities such as sidewalks and safe street crossings. A proposed two mile greenway through town will improve safety and connect important destinations such as schools and neighborhoods. RTCA will work with local partners to develop an approach to planning this community trail/greenway, and assist in developing a concept plan to help move the project idea to the next step.

## 17. San Joaquin River Recreation

Project Partner: San Joaquin River Partnership  
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin/Linda Stonier  
Location: The San Joaquin River from Devils Post Pile National Monument to the San Francisco Bay Delta  
Congressional Districts: CA - 4, 9, 10, 16, 21, 22

RTCA will provide assistance to the San Joaquin River Partnership as they apply for the Department of Interior's newly developed National Blueways program. This program aims to create a collaborative approach to protecting rivers and their watersheds for long term sustainability and improvement to the river system, including ecological, hydrological, and anthropogenic resources and recreation. RTCA is assisting the partners create a river recreation guide to public access locations, and to increase public enjoyment and appreciation of the San Joaquin for Valley residents and visitors.



Students explore Sycamore Canyon Park on a guided walk as part of Endangered Species Day. The park will be the site of a new nature center that will serve as the hub of the Riverside Citizen Science Program. Photo: City of Riverside.



# Current Projects cont.



Through the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust's River Camp program, kids have the opportunity to learn about the San Joaquin River. Photo: David Hunter

This project will result in the development of 6-10 miles of connector trails along the lower eight mile stretch of the Ventura River, providing key access to the river corridor for several of the area's most park-poor communities. RTCA is assisting in the development of a conceptual trail plan for this area, identifying key linkages, analyzing opportunities and constraints, and making recommendations on trail design options.

## 21. Wellness Center Healthy Community Maps

Project Partner: Amigos de los Rios  
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin  
Location: Boyle Heights community in the City of Los Angeles  
Congressional District: CA - 34

This project seeks to engage the community, health agencies, and youth in mapping safe and accessible routes within the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles and the revitalized Wellness Center. Together with the community partners we will identify gaps in pedestrian mobility and create a prioritized list of projects to promote neighborhood pedestrian circulation for health and recreation.

## 18. Santa Ana River Connections

Project Partner: Orange County Coastkeeper  
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin  
Location: Riverside County  
Congressional District: CA - 36

For this project RTCA is working with the Inland Empire Water Keeper to analyze opportunities along 20 miles of the Santa Ana River within the County of Riverside that can be considered viable for access to the River. The Santa Ana River is an important and unique natural resource in the Inland Empire with the potential to provide much needed outdoor passive recreation for the community.

RTCA staff will assist with coordination and facilitation of local agencies and community stakeholder groups to identify opportunities for trail connections, establish development priorities, and create a team action plan for implementation.

## 20. Ventura River Parkway

Project Partner: Friends of the Ventura River  
RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston  
Location: Ventura River Corridor near City of Ventura  
Congressional Districts: CA - 24, 26

## 19. Santa Margarita Trails

Project Partner: Santa Margarita Sierra Club  
RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston  
Location: Southwest Riverside County  
Congressional Districts: CA - 42, 50

This project will assess trail connectivity across the Murrieta Creek corridor, focusing on a 15-mile stretch of the creek running through the cities of Temecula, Murrieta and Wildomar within southwest Riverside County.



Paul Jenkin, Friends of the Ventura River, demonstrates river monitoring techniques for community members during a "Re-connecting People with the River" picnic event. Photo: Patrick Johnston



# Current Projects cont.



The City of Whittier is pursuing an extension of the 4.5-mile Whittier Greenway Trail, which is located along the former Union Pacific rail corridor. RTCA provided assistance to the City for the completed first phase of the project and is assisting the with this trail extension effort. Photo: NPS

## 22. Whittier Greenway Extension

Project Partner: City of Whittier  
RTCA Contact: Anne Dove  
Location: City of Whittier  
Congressional District: CA - 38

Building on the recent success of a 4.5-mile completed segment of the Whittier Greenway Trail, a rail-trail project that received NPS assistance in the past, the City is embarking on the development of a new 2.7-mile trail extension eastward to the city limits. This extension will help adjacent jurisdictions plan and develop reaches of this regional trail that will be an important east-west component of the regional trail network. NPS will support the City's planning and public engagement processes.

## Consultations

We are also pleased to note the following consultations. Consultations are efforts that strategically focus on a more limited scope of work, achieved in the short term, such as retreat/workshop planning and facilitation, visioning, program development, and project planning.

## 23. Bear Creek Trail

Project Partner: Friends of Bear Creek  
RTCA Contact: Harry Williamson, Barbara Rice  
Location: Midpines  
Congressional District: CA - 4

## 24. Bethel Island Heart of the Delta

Project Partner: Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District  
RTCA Contact: Suzanne Brinkley  
Location: Bethel Island  
Congressional District: CA - 9

## 25. Burbank Overnight Youth Campground

Project Partner: City of Burbank  
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin  
Location: City of Burbank  
Congressional District: CA - 28

## 26. El Cerrito Trail Signage

Project Partner: El Cerrito Trail Trekkers  
RTCA Contact: Steve Bowes  
Location: El Cerrito  
Congressional District: CA - 11

## 27. Gateway to West Sonoma County

Project Partner: Sonoma County Regional Parks  
RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier  
Location: West Sonoma County  
Congressional District: CA - 2

## 28. Groundwork Los Angeles

Project Partner: LA Conservation Corps  
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin  
Location: South Los Angeles County  
Congressional District: CA - 34

## 29. Hidden Valley Trail

Project Partner: Watershed Research & Training Center  
RTCA Contact: Steve Bowes  
Location: Hayfork  
Congressional District: CA - 2

## 30. Inner City Youth Boating

Project Partner: California Center for Economic Initiatives  
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice  
Location: Los Angeles region  
Congressional Districts: CA - 27, 28, 33, 34, 37, 38, 40, 43

## 31. Jackson Creekwalk

Project Partner: City of Jackson  
RTCA Contact: Suzanne Brinkley  
Location: City of Jackson  
Congressional District: CA - 4

## 32. Sacramento & American River Parkways

Project Partner: City of Sacramento  
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice  
Location: City of Sacramento  
Congressional District: CA - 6

## 33. Tehachapi Valley Trails

Project Partner: Tehachapi Mountain Trails Association  
RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston  
Location: Tehachapi  
Congressional District: CA - 23

## We're Here For You.

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

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## 2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154	Miles of Trail Developed
1,074	Miles of River Conserved
70,385	Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
94%	Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online

at

[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Success cont.

### Federal Spotlight on the LA River

While efforts to reclaim and revitalize the Los Angeles River have been locally-led, momentum has recently been boosted through federal support, including two initiatives, America's Great Outdoors and the Urban Waters Federal Partnership. In 2010, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to develop a 21st Century conservation and recreation agenda. From that process, the Los Angeles River Trail was selected as a priority project in California. The National Park Service was identified to facilitate support for this project, coordinating with stakeholders on how best to support the Los Angeles River revitalization efforts, focusing on recreation along the 10-mile Glendale Narrows reach of the river.

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership, established in 2011 and led by the US Environmental Protection Agency, is focused on helping urban areas connect with and improve their waterways with collective support from federal agencies. Across the country, seven pilot watersheds, including the Los Angeles River's, were identified as opportunities to implement the goals of the initiative. Alongside community-based partners and state and local agencies, federal agencies are working collaboratively to enhance flood storage and water quality, enable safe public access, and restore a functional riparian ecosystem.

### Paddling - on the LA River?!

A major milestone was reached in 2011 as the first official Los Angeles River paddling program was permitted by the US Army Corps of Engineers through a partnership between the LA Conservation Corps, Mountain Recreation and Conservancy Authority (MRCA), the City of Los Angeles, The River Project, LA River Expeditions, Urban Semillas and Friends of the LA River (FoLAR). Through this pilot project, LA Conservation Corps provided guided kayak and canoe trips along the Sepulveda Basin reach of the river. Demand for this unprecedented opportunity was so high that the permitted 300 reservations filled within ten minutes of opening on the program's website, and more than one thousand others signed up to be on a waiting list. Building on the success of this pilot, the program was renewed and expanded for 2012, during which more than 1000 participants experienced the river in this new way. To help support equipment and staffing for this year's program, NPS secured \$13,000 through the Challenge Cost Share Program, helping also to sustain the momentum needed to permanently establish long term, non-motorized boating on the river.

### The Work Continues

Through 2013, NPS will continue to work with the City of Los Angeles and other partners to develop a framework for expanding water-based recreation opportunities along the Los Angeles River (see page 4, "Northeast Los Angeles Riverfront Collaborative" for more information). In addition, NPS will work with partners to facilitate community connections to the river through an effort called, "Safe Routes to the River," engaging targeted Los Angeles Unified School Districts' schools located within 1 mile of the river in citizen science, outdoor classrooms, river ambassador and river passport programs (see page 5, "Safe Routes to the River").

While progress in realizing a revitalized Los Angeles River has been long in the making, the NPS is dedicated to continuing to support locally-led efforts to reclaim the river.