



Pennsylvania News



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital



RTCA-led paddling trips on the Monongahela River

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Delaware River Resource Protection Strategic Plan
Delaware River Greenway Partnership
2. Logan Triangle Greening
Logan Community Development Corporation
3. North Country National Scenic Trail
North Country Trail Association
4. Ohio River Trail
Ohio River Trail Council
5. Schuylkill Highlands Big Woods Trail
Natural Lands Trust
6. Schuylkill River Water Trail
Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area
7. September 11th National Memorial Trail
September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
8. Upper Mon River Towns - PA
Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

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.

Recent Successes

Derry Station Heritage Trail

From 2010-2011, RTCA helped the community of Derry, Pennsylvania, nestled along the Chestnut Ridge in Westmoreland County, to develop a vision for trail, park, and community linkages. Working with the newly-formed Derry Area Revitalization Corporation (DARCEe), a trail committee was formed and various routes were explored with initial hand-drawn maps. In 2010, with the help of Pennsylvania Environmental Council and an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus grant, a community charrette was held and a very colorful and graphic Idea Book was produced. Since then, the community has been invited to participate in the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative, as one of the first communities in the Chestnut Ridge region. In addition, the community has started working on a Safe Routes To School Initiative.

<http://www.facebook.com/DerryPA>

Ohio River Trail

The Ohio River Trail Council has developed a broad-reaching vision for land and water trails along forty-one miles of the Ohio River and its tributaries, from Coraopolis to the Point of Beginning at the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia border. With the assistance of RTCA staff in three states, the Council is accomplishing its goal to close trail gaps in the tri-state area through feasibility studies and the revitalization of the Tri-State Trail Initiative. In March 2011, RTCA coordinated a regional

continued on page 3

Current Projects

1. Delaware River Resource Protection Strategic Plan

Project Partner: Delaware River Greenway Partnership

RTCA Contact: Sherry Peck

Location: Delaware River watershed (Delaware Water Gap to upper Delaware Estuary) in New Jersey and Pennsylvania

Congressional Districts: PA-8, 11, 15; NJ-4, 7, 12

Project Goal

A 5-year strategic plan for the Delaware River Greenway Partnership, focused on its role in protection and stewardship of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Delaware River region in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

RTCA Role

Facilitate a strategic planning process and assist with producing an action plan; assist with capacity-building of long-time NPS partner organization.

2. Logan Triangle Greening

Project Partner: Logan Community Development Corporation

RTCA Contact: Sherry Peck

Location: Philadelphia, PA

Congressional District: PA-1

Project Goal

Enhancement of sections of site with landscaping, a walking trail, possible farm or community garden, and other green uses to convert urban blight into an attractive neighborhood amenity.

RTCA Role

Develop draft vision and background information, identify potential funding sources, engage appropriate partners, and assist with community charrette and implementation of greening plan.

3. North Country National Scenic Trail

Project Partner: North Country Trail Association

RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings

Location: Eight counties in northwest Pennsylvania

Congressional Districts: PA-3, 4, 5

Project Goal

A permanently protected corridor for the 274-mile North Country NST in PA; capacity to protect land in northwestern PA through strong working partnerships.

RTCA Role

Facilitate discussions between land protection partners along the NCNST in PA to develop a partnership structure for land protection along the trail; assist with stakeholder identification and recruitment.

4. Ohio River Trail

Project Partner: Ohio River Trail Council

RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings

Location: Ohio River in Pennsylvania

Congressional Districts: PA-4, 14, 18

Project Goal

41 miles of parallel bike trail and water trail from Coraopolis PA to 'Point of Beginning' (PA-OH-WV line), and a vision for an interconnected system of over 100 miles of land and water trails in PA-OH-WV.



The Ohio River Trail Council's Community Day at the Lock 57 Community Park.

RTCA Role

Assist with identification and completion of a short, on-the-ground section of trail based on prior feasibility studies; organizational development of a tri-state trail umbrella organization.

5. Schuylkill Highlands Big Woods Trail

Project Partner: Natural Lands Trust

RTCA Contact: Kathy Schlegel

Location: Berks and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania

Congressional District: PA-6

Project Goal

A new 6-mile multi-use trail within the Hopewell Big Woods connecting the Schuylkill River Trail to the Boars Back Trail through French Creek State Park, Hopewell Furnace NHS, and Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, as well as existing trail networks in North and South Coventry townships.

RTCA Role

Work with partners to develop concept for connector trail.

6. Schuylkill River Water Trail

Project Partner: Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area

NPS Contact: Sherry Peck

Location: Schuylkill River between Pottsville and Philadelphia

Congressional Districts: PA-1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 17

Project Goal

Improved river safety, riparian stewardship, public awareness and local economies; connections from river to land trails and into river communities; a manual for water trail partners to evaluate and plan landing locations, facilities, and signs.

RTCA Role

Facilitate public participation; provide guidance on landing/launch facilities; assist in developing strategic plan.

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?

Contact us to find out.



Sherry Peck

Sherry_Peck@nps.gov
215.597.6478



Peggy Pings

304.293.7528
peggy_pings@nps.gov



Kathy Schlegel

215.597.6486
Kathy_Schlegel@nps.gov

2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 1,991 Miles of Trail Developed
- 1,925 Miles of River Conserved
- 33,230 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
- 94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

workshop that included eighty greenway representatives from eighteen counties and three states. Also, in October 2011, RTCA served on the planning team for the Power of 32 Regional Trails Summit, led by the Trail Town Program of The Progress Fund. These conferences have supported the completion of the trail network.

<http://www.ohiorivertrail.org>



The Ohio River Trail Council's Community Day at the Lock 57 Community Park on the Beaver River near Glasgow, PA.

Current Projects cont.

7. September 11th National Memorial Trail

Project Partner: September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings
Location: Seven state triangle including Shanksville, PA (Flight 93 crash site), New York City (World Trade Center), Washington DC (Pentagon).
Congressional Districts: PA-1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19

Project Goal

A 1,100-mile hiking, biking and driving trail physically connecting the three national memorials commemorating the tragic events that occurred in 2001.

RTCA Role

Facilitate determination of trail route through Pennsylvania and assist in the development of an interim Strategic Plan to improve organizational capacity and ensure quality trail management.

8. Upper Mon River Towns

Project Partner: Pennsylvania Environmental Council
RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings
Location: Five towns of California, Fredericktown-Millsboro, Rices Landing, Greensboro, and Point Marion in Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties in Pennsylvania
Congressional District: PA-12

Project Goal

River Towns is a pilot program to create sustainable economic development and a conservation ethic in communities located along the Upper Mon River, helping communities to position themselves to attract outdoor recreational visitors to the region.

RTCA Role

Assist "Community Action Teams" with project promotion & awareness, finding implementation resources, and creating paddling events to engage the community.