

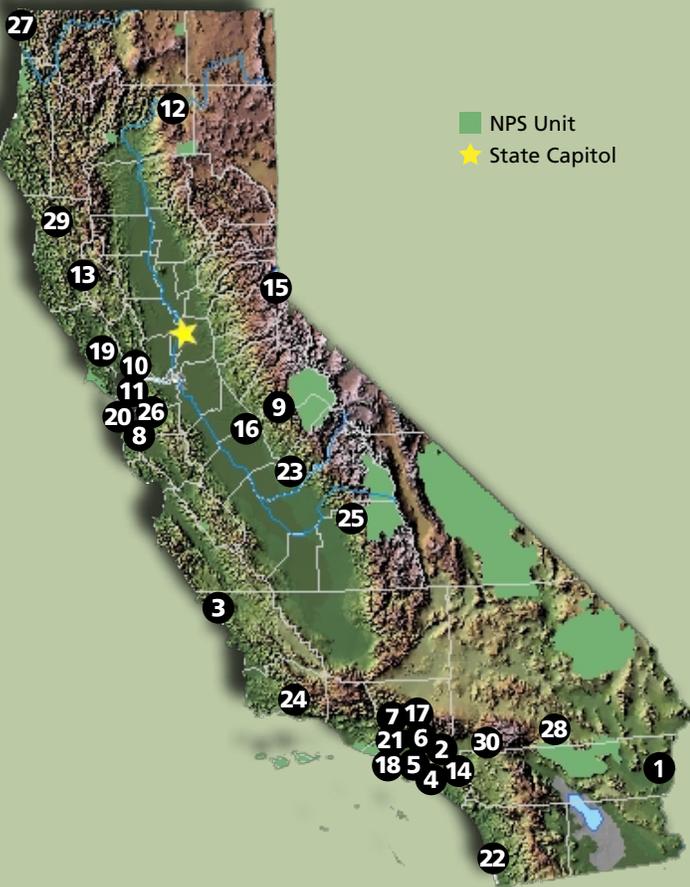


California News



The Santiago Creek Trail will link five local parks and provide habitat connections.
Photo: Jim Donovan.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010



Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Final Link in Santiago Creek Greenway Nears Completion

Originating in the canyons of the Santa Ana Mountains and Cleveland National Forest of central Orange County, Santiago Creek is a tributary to the Santa Ana River. As it enters the coastal plain, the creek flows through the City of Orange, a community of 135,000 residents.

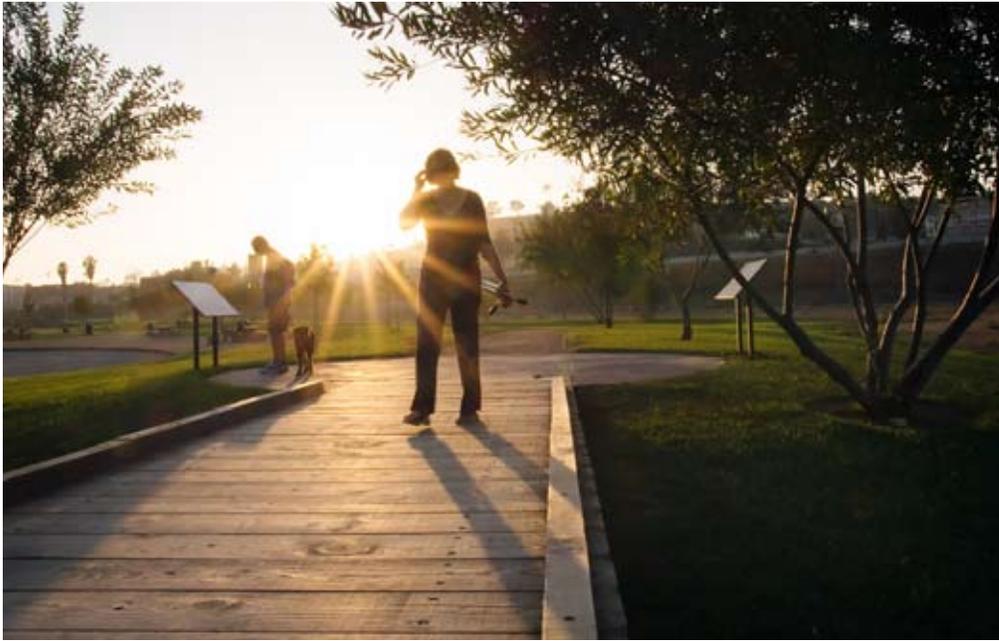
In 1999, the City of Orange asked the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to help create a trail and greenway plan for an eight-mile reach within city limits. The creek connects existing regional and municipal parks, so a recreation trail and greenway would provide a valuable recreational facility and habitat corridor within an urban environment.

In concert with development of a community-based vision plan, the Santiago Creek Greenway Alliance led an effort to develop action plans and get a trail on the ground. City, county and state agencies were motivated to share resources and work together. Linking demonstration projects constructed by residential home builders, a bicycle path and recreation trail was constructed with state Bicycle Transportation Account funds

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



The Cornfield-Arroyo Neighborhood Trail Network will connect communities to the new Los Angeles State Historic Park and the Los Angeles River. Photo: Eric Lowenbach.

1. Blythe Giant Intaglios Conservation & Trails

Project Partner: La Cuna de Aztlan Sacred Sites Protection Circle
RTCA Contact: Jim Donovan
Location: Lower Colorado River between Needles, CA and Yuma, AZ

Project Goal

The outcome of this project will be a two-mile long "Ancient Footprints Trail" that links the Blythe Giant Intaglios, a network of prehistoric Native American geoglyphs located along the lower Colorado River. The project will also restore a critical one square-mile site by controlling access that has historically damaged these cultural treasures.

RTCA Role

RTCA has been assisting the project partners in building their organizational and partnership capacity and providing trail planning support.

2. Brea Rail Trail

Project Partner: City of Brea
RTCA Contact: Jim Donovan
Location: City of Brea

Project Goal

Utilizing an existing Union Pacific Railroad corridor, this project will result in a four-mile, fifty-acre greenway with pedestrian and bicycle trails that will traverse the city along an abandoned railroad right-of-way and flood control channel. This segment of rail-trail will connect to a regional trail network.

RTCA Role

RTCA will help the city form a trail task force as part of a community-driven process. The group will collaborate with city officials, representatives of the various community groups and the regional transportation authority.

3. California Trails & Greenways Conference

Project Partner: California State Parks
RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson
Location: Statewide

Project Goal

RTCA is partnering with California State Parks to plan and deliver the 2010 California Trails & Greenways Conference which will bring together members of the trails community throughout the state.

RTCA Role

RTCA staff is working as part of the planning team to help plan workshop content, confer on outreach and provide logistical support during the conference.

4. Compton Creek Regional Garden Park

Project Partner: City of Compton
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin
Location: City of Compton

Project Goal

The City of Compton is working to implement demonstrable improvements in the Compton Creek valley within the City limits, including improved and expanded riparian habitat, better water quality, re-establishment of native plants, new opportunities for outdoor recreation, and better, safer pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian access.

RTCA Role

RTCA will work with the City to develop an implementation strategy for their recently-completed Compton Creek Regional Garden Park Master Plan.

5. Compton Creek Washington Elementary Natural Park

Project Partner: Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority
RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston
Location: City of Compton

Project Goal

The MRCA is partnering with the City of Compton and the Compton Unified School District to convert a three-acre site located between an elementary school and Compton Creek into a public park with native riparian species and natural park amenities. The park will incorporate storm water management elements and integrate nature in the urban environment.

Current Projects

RTCA Role

RTCA will support the project partner's design process by facilitating public workshops.

6. Cornfield-Arroyo Neighborhood Trail Network

Project Partner: City of Los Angeles Planning Department

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: City of Compton

Project Goal

As part of the Los Angeles River Revitalization program, the City of Los Angeles is preparing a specific plan for the Cornfield-Arroyo area that will include a 7.2-mile neighborhood trail network that will connect the community to the Los Angeles River, Arroyo Seco and Los Angeles State Historic Park.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist the city in developing a pilot neighborhood trail and wayfinding system to encourage walking and cycling to local and regional destinations.

7. Crest to Coast Trail

Project Partner: City of Santa Clarita

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: City of Santa Clarita

Project Goal

As part of a regional trail vision to connect the Pacific Crest Trail to the Pacific Ocean via the Santa Clara River, the City of Santa Clarita is embarking in an effort to identify and close trail gaps through their city that will work towards implementing this 50-mile trail.

RTCA Role

Working with interagency partners, RTCA will assist the City in identifying trail gaps, potential routes and feasibility of implementing these routes. RTCA will also assist the City in engaging the public in this process.

8. East Palo Alto Open Space

Project Partner: Committee for Green Foothills

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: East Palo Alto

Project Goal

This project will provide a clearer picture of how residents in East Palo Alto can become aware of projects that affect the bay front open space in their community. More effective channels of communication will be developed and employed to encourage participation in on-going decision making processes.

RTCA Role

RTCA will help identify and assess past outreach methods used by planners working in the region.

9. Gateway (Highway 120 Scenic Byway) Trails

Project Partner: Yosemite Gateway Partners

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: Highway 120 Corridor, west of Yosemite National Park

Project Goal

Coordination between the Yosemite Gateway Partners and the potential Scenic Byway feasibility study will result in an enhanced network of trails serving visitors to the national forest lands as well as potential connections between gateway communities and the national park.

RTCA Role

RTCA will help convene discussions among the project partners and provide facilitation and planning support to help move the project forward.

10. Great California Delta Trail

Project Partner: Delta Protection Commission

RTCA Contact: Suzanne Brinkley

Location: Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta region (Delta)

Project Goal

This project will result in 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 Role

RTCA is assisting in establishing baseline conditions for the Contra Costa and Solano County portions of the Delta region through review of existing trail plans to establish "best practices" in planning major trails. RTCA is also conducting outreach and facilitating stakeholder and technical advisory committees and will assist in producing a final report that will serve as the "blueprint" for the trail.

11. Groundwork Richmond

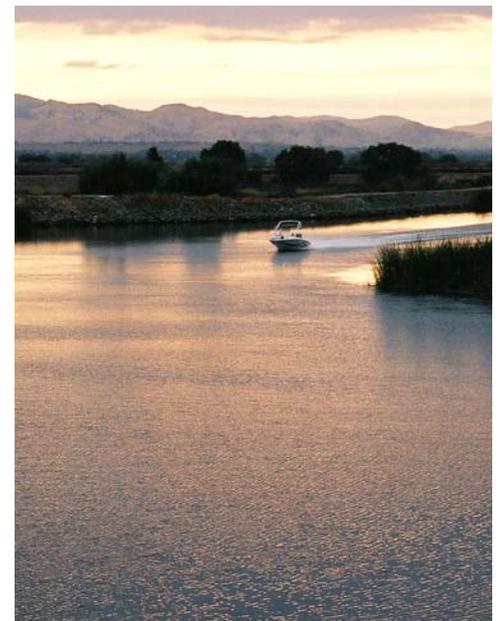
Project Partner: City of Richmond

RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

Location: City of Richmond

Project Goal

The new Groundwork Richmond effort will result in the establishment of a



A future network of trails in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta region will integrate existing trail opportunities. Photo: Kirsten Holder

Current Projects

Groundwork Trust that will improve community open space, restore degraded land, and develop new trails accessible to area residents.

RTCA Role

RTCA has been assisting the City of Richmond in developing the new Groundwork Richmond organization.

12. Great Shasta Rail Trail

Project Partner: Save Burney Falls

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Location: Northeast of Redding

Project Goal

The project will result in the conversion of the 80-mile long McCloud River Railroad into a rail-trail connecting the communities of Burney and McCloud, just northeast of Redding. This rail-trail will provide enhanced recreation and improved access to numerous state parks as well as Lassen and Shasta Trinity National Forests.

RTCA Role

RTCA will provide guidance in community engagement and assistance with trail management planning.

13. Konocti Regional Trails

Project Partner: County of Lake, Public Services Department

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Location: Clear Lake in Lake County

Project Goal

This project will result in a regional network of trails on land and water, including over 50 miles of land based regional and local trails and 50 miles of shoreline or water trails with links to shoreline communities and parks and open space.

RTCA Role

RTCA will support trails planning throughout Lake County through a collaborative effort that builds an effective multi-partner "organization" committed to long term project delivery. Specifically, RTCA will assist



View of the Clear Lake ridgeline from Shannon Ridge Vineyards, Lake County.
Photo: Shannon Ridge Vineyards.

with community engagement and provide technical guidance in the preparation of a county wide trails plan and implementation strategy.

14. La Habra Union Pacific Rail Line Bikeway

Project Partner: City of La Habra

RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin

Location: City of La Habra

Project Goal

This 2.8 mile rail-trail project focuses on the segment of rail corridor through the City of La Habra in Orange County. The trail will extend westward to connect to the Whittier Greenway and San Gabriel River Trail and eastward to connect to future regional trails.

RTCA Role

RTCA will help the City develop and implement a planning process including identifying feasibility issues, developing a conceptual plan for the trail and engaging the public in defining the future of the trail.

15. Lake Tahoe Water Trail

Project Partner: California Tahoe Conservancy

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Location: Lake Tahoe region

Project Goal

The 72-mile Lake Tahoe Water Trail project will result in enhanced non-motorized boating access, use and management that is ecologically-sustainable, responsible, and balanced.

The trail will connect and interpret the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the region.

RTCA Role

RTCA's role in this project is to develop and support a multi-stakeholder project team, facilitate collaboration by key stakeholders, provide technical guidance in water trail and non-motorized boating planning, and support development of an implementation framework that includes federal and state partners and local groups.

16. Lower Tuolumne River Boating Trail

Project Partner: California State Parks

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: Tuolumne River near the city of Modesto

Project Goal

The goal of this project is the creation of a quiet-water boating trail with improved public access along a 52-mile segment of the Lower Tuolumne River from below La Grange Dam to the confluence with the San Joaquin River

RTCA Role

RTCA will support the development of a concept plan by helping project partners analyze the existing conditions and work with stakeholders to plan for future improvements.

17. Pacoima Wash Greenway

Project Partner: Pacoima Beautiful

RTCA Contact: Jim Donovan

Location: Community of Pacoima in Los Angeles

Project Goal

Through a grant from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Pacoima Beautiful is working to create a ten-mile greenway including a bicycle path, recreation trail, habitat restoration projects and neighborhood parks along the existing flood protection facility.

Current Projects

RTCA Role

RTCA will work with the project proponents to coordinate community outreach and encourage community engagement in the planning process.

18. Palos Verdes Nature Preserve Trails

Project Partner: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin

Location: Palos Verde Peninsula in Los Angeles County

Project Goal

The 1200-acre Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, formed to protect important native plant communities and habitat for sensitive species, includes a 40-mile network of trails which are heavily used. This project will engage trail users in developing a trails management plan that will guide the balancing of public access with the conservation values of the Preserve.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy with the development and implementation of a public engagement strategy and trail management planning process.

19. Petaluma River Access

Project Partner: City of Petaluma

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Location: City of Petaluma

Project Goal

This project will result in expanded river access and recreational amenities along three miles of the Petaluma River, including 2-1/2 miles of pedestrian and bicycling trails and expanded launching and landing sites for non-motorized boats.

RTCA Role

RTCA's role in this effort is to prepare a design and implementation strategy that promotes community and partner engagement and investment in river access.



Paddlers along the Petaluma River. Photo: Payette Caldwell

20. Rancho Corral de Tierra Community Vision

Project Partner: Golden Gate National Recreation Area

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: Near Montara and Moss Beach, 7 miles south of San Francisco

Project Goal

Park planners are establishing working relationships with local trail users and managers in preparation for the addition of a new area known as Rancho Corral de Tierra. The park will build partnerships through which they can more effectively address various management issues that may arise.

RTCA Role

RTCA is assisting the project partner with community engagement and partnership building.

21. Randolph Street Community Trails

Project Partner: Rivers & Mountains Conservancy (RMC)

RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin

Location: Cities of Bell, Maywood, Vernon, Huntington Park and the community of Florence-Firestone in Los Angeles County

Project Goal

Located south of downtown Los Angeles, the communities along the Randolph Street corridor have limited open space and trail amenities. This project aims to create a 3.5-mile rail-with-trail corridor that connects to the Los Angeles River for recreation and non-motorized transportation uses.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist the RMC and community in developing a vision and concept plan for the corridor.

22. San Diego River Trail Safety Enhancement

Project Partner: The San Diego River Park Foundation

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: City of San Diego

Project Goal

The primary objective of this project is to develop and implement safety enhancements and public policy recommendations that support use of the 50-mile San Diego River Trail, with a focus on approximately 20 miles within the City of San Diego.

Current Projects

RTCA Role

With the City of San Diego and key partners, RTCA will help develop and implement a community engagement process to identify safety issues and recommendations for addressing them. The process will result in a trail safety enhancement plan.

23. San Joaquin River Water Trail

Project Partner: San Joaquin River Partnership

RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

Location: The San Joaquin River from the River Gorge, upstream of Millerton Lake, to the San Francisco Bay Delta

Project Goal

This consortium of non-profit conservation organizations with long track records working in the San Joaquin Valley is now “launching” a San Joaquin River Water Trail to involve the public in protection and restoration of the San Joaquin River and improve the quality of life in California’s Great Central Valley.

RTCA Role

RTCA is helping the San Joaquin River Partnership conduct a needs and facilities assessment of the corridor, evaluate and recommend enhancement opportunities, and create a Water Trail Map Guide to enhance recreational and educational access for kayakers and canoeists.

24. Santa Ines Mission National Historical Landmark Trails

Project Partner: Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

RTCA Contact: Sally Sheridan

Location: Delta Santa Ynez and the City of Solvang

Project Goal

This project will result in a 3.5 to 4.5-mile system of pedestrian and interpretive trails that connect nearby

communities to the proposed 37.91-acre Santa Inés Mission Mills State Historic Park and historic and heritage resources while improving access to 95 acres of open space. A series of interpretive signs will provide information about the significance of the cultural and natural resources within the historic district.

RTCA Role

RTCA is supporting the project through facilitation of public meetings with community partners; developing input to the existing Mills Committee regarding possible public outreach programs; and working closely with staff to develop conceptual drawings for the trails network and interpretive stations.

25. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Gateway Partnership

Project Partner: Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

Location: Gateway communities surrounding Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks in Tulare and Fresno Counties

Project Goal

The focus of this project, which encompasses Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and surrounding gateway communities, is the development of a healthy, sustainable partnership organization that can address regional issues including tourism, visitor experience and services, resource protection; quality of life; and other collaborative solutions to regional challenges.

RTCA Role

RTCA is working with the national parks and gateway communities to build the organization through strategic planning and partnership development.



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park gateway stakeholders brainstorming partnership goals. Photo: Anne Dove.

26. South Berkeley Santa Fe (ROW) Greenway

Project Partner: Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: City of Berkeley

Project Goal

The project partners are working to complete a one-mile greenway featuring community gardens, parks and paths, and connecting neighborhoods that previously lacked park and recreation facilities.

RTCA Role

RTCA will help convene and work with neighborhood stakeholders and project partners to develop a concept plan for this greenway.

27. Tolowa Coast Trails

Project Partner: Tolowa Dunes Stewards

RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

Location: Smith River Basin, Del Norte County

Project Goal

“Discover Del Norte County’s Coastal Dunes and Wetlands” is the title

Current Projects

of a brand new users' access and appreciation guide to 11,000 acres of publicly-owned complex of dunes, forests, ponds, and beach with some 40 miles hiking, biking and equestrian trails. The area is also the heart of the Tolowa Dee-ni ancestral homelands and the Guide introduces visitors to its rich cultural history.

RTCA Role

RTCA has been working with the project sponsors, their public agency and Tolowa Tribal partners through the process of planning and producing the publication.

28. Twentynine Palms Community Trails

Project Partner: Morongo Basin Open Space Group/ Sonoran Institute & City of Twentynine Palms

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

Location: City of Twentynine Palms

Project Goal

As part of a basin-wide open space effort, the City of Twentynine Palms is working with regional partners and community members to create a 20+ mile trail network with regional connections to surrounding communities, Joshua Tree National Park and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

RTCA Role

RTCA is working with the project partners to engage the community and key stakeholders in assessing trail opportunities, identify potential trail routes, and develop a trails master plan.

29. Willits Creek Trail

Project Partner: Golden State Land Conservancy

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Location: Willits

Project Goal

The Willits Creek Trail, 2 miles long, will connect downtown Willits with Brooktrails Township Redwood Park, serving as a safe route to schools and a recreational amenity for local residents and visitors to the area.

RTCA Role

RTCA will provide project support by researching best management practices for long term operation and management that addresses any challenges in establishing a trail close to rural ranchland.

30. Zanja Trail and Greenway

Project Partner: City of Redlands

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

Location: City of Redlands



Diverse trail users meet to identify trail issues, opportunities and potential future routes.

Photo: Anne Dove.

Project Goal

This project will result in the creation of a six-mile greenway that follows and protects the alignment of the historic irrigation ditch "Mill Creek Zanja". The Zanja, constructed by Serrano Indians in 1819, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The project will integrate interpretive themes that connect visitors to the natural and cultural stories of the Zanja and surrounding area.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist the City and The Redlands Conservancy in developing and implementing a greenway planning process that engages key stakeholders and the community.



Artist's rendering of the natural resources of the Tolowa Dunes area. Larry Eifert, artist.

We're Here For You.

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

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2009 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,367 Miles of Trail Developed

2095 Miles of River Conserved

57,951 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

97% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

awarded by Orange County Transportation Authority. Habitat restoration efforts were funded by an Urban Streams Restoration Grant awarded by the state's Department of Water Resources. Orange County Water District worked to restore creek flows and promote ground water recharge. The local county supervisor earmarked a share of infrastructure development funds to remove concrete from the creek and complete the bike path.

By the Spring of 2010, seven miles of the Santiago Creek Bike Trail will be open for the enjoyment of local residents. The final mile will be completed with the participation of a land owner who will design a project that is designed around the creek, incorporating restoration and recreation goals expressed by the community's vision plan.

Groundwork Richmond

The City of Richmond has played a pivotal role in the region's economic success and the nation's security, but suffered more than its share of de-industrialization, unemployment, poverty and environmental degradation.

After more than two years of hard work, though, on December 3rd the community of Richmond, California joined the network of Groundwork Trusts around the country that are "Changing Places, Changing Lives." Groundwork Richmond will be an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the natural environment, strengthening the local economy, and enhancing the quality of life in Richmond through projects in the outdoors.

RTCA and Groundwork USA teamed up to help the Groundwork Richmond Steering Committee, a coalition of non-profit, business, and agency representatives, complete its Feasibility Study and Strategic Plan, which identifies a launch strategy and some initial promising projects for the new non-profit including:

- Increasing use and safety on the Richmond Greenway with gateways, public art, and events programming; a City-wide urban forestry project;
- Expanding urban gardening projects throughout the City;
- Interpretation and maintenance on the Baxter Creek restoration project; and
- Support for a City-wide parks improvement and greenway development program.

Recognizing that family and community form the City's fabric, a core value of Groundwork Richmond is youth involvement.



Groundwork Richmond engages youth in local conservation work.

Image: Lana Husser, GreenTeam Inc.