



# North Carolina News



Hiking along North Carolina backcountry

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011



- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Waccamaw River Blue Trail**  
Waccamaw Riverkeeper and American Rivers
- 2. SE Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail - North Carolina**  
The Conservation Fund
- 3. West Pender Rail Trail**  
Pender County Department of Planning and Community Development

### 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

### Brunswick County Blueways Project

NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program staff worked with officials to complete a comprehensive greenways and blueways plan for Brunswick County and 11 municipalities. Brunswick County Planning officials received two grants worth \$370,000 from the North Carolina Coastal Management Program. These grants will be used to complete two trail heads on the first segment of the county wide greenways and blueways system, providing for new recreational opportunities and new river access.



Blueway in Brunswick County, North Carolina

## We're Here For You.

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

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## 2010 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,251	Miles of Trail Developed
1,694	Miles of River Conserved
25,370	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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# Current Projects

## 1. Waccamaw River Blue Trail

Location: Lake Waccamaw, NC to Georgetown, SC - Along eastern seaboard of NC/SC  
Congressional Districts: NC – 7; SC–1  
Project Partner: Waccamaw Riverkeeper and American Rivers  
NPS Contact: Bill Lane

### Project Goal

To establish a “Blue Trail” along the entire length of the Waccamaw River in the state of North Carolina. Through the development of long term support strategies, the project will connect with current trail efforts in South Carolina.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will provide guidance in developing a diverse steering committee, public relations strategies, marketing material, and identifying long term sources of support.

## 2. SE Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail - NC

Location: The North Carolina coast from SC to VA; this project is part of a multi-state project from Georgia to Virginia  
Congressional Districts: 1, 3, 7  
Project Partner: The Conservation Fund  
NPS Contact: Charlotte Gillis

### Project Goal

Identify a “main corridor” for a blueway along the coast of NC (and GA, SC, and VA) with existing canoe and kayak access sites and camping/overnight accommodations for day or multi-day paddling trips. A database and website will be created that combines all the information into one centralized location. The Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail and the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail will be the connecting points on either end of the SE Coast project.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will continue to assist in the facil-

itation of the planning process, public workshops, and the provision of strategies for marketing to the communities and partnerships for this project which is into its second year of assistance.

## 3. West Pender Rail Trail

Location: Pender County  
Congressional District: 7  
Project Partner: Pender County Department of Planning and Community Development  
NPS Contact: Bill Lane

### Project Goal

Running approximately 85 miles from Wilmington to Fayetteville, North Carolina, the West Pender Rail-Trail will utilize an abandoned Seaboard Coast Line rail corridor to create a non-motorized multipurpose recreation trail. RTCA will assist with phase 1 (11.5 miles) located in Pender County which will include a 3-acre trailhead, connections with the East Coast Greenway, and a spur trail to Moores Creek National Battlefield (MOCR).

### RTCA Role

RTCA staff will work with project partners to address concerns landowners raised in earlier community input sessions and workshops through public education and outreach to property owners. Assistance will be given in helping to develop a post-construction maintenance plan.



Part of the old Seaboard Coast rail line that will be used for the West Pender Rails to Trails line