



# Rhode Island News



A newly relocated bridge in Veterans Memorial Park

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

★ State Capital



### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Veterans Memorial Park Trail Revitalization**  
Town of Barrington
- 2. Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy Board Development & Sustainability**  
Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy, Inc.

Find out more about the 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

### Veterans Memorial Park Trail Revitalization

Several years ago, Barrington Town Planner Philip Hervey began looking for ways to revitalize Veterans Memorial Park, to make it not only a place for families once again, but also a place for fitness, appreciation of local history, and a resource for the adjacent YMCA summer camp.

In 1946, the Town of Barrington purchased 100 acres of a former brickyard to honor veterans and provide open space in the rapidly growing town near Providence. Where clay had been removed in the heyday of brick-making, now stood a pond. Surrounding the pond were acres of mature woodlands, soon to be criss-crossed with built-in picnic grills, trails, and two boat launches. Veterans Memorial Park was a beehive of activity from the 50's to the 70's.

While the park remained popular with anglers and walkers from the neighborhood, the picnic facilities fell into disrepair and the trails became a confusing collection of paths. The park became less relevant to the community and looked it.

The town requested Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance help in 2010 to create a way-finding system, design trail improvements and mobilize more volunteers as a friends group.

During the first year, volunteers mapped every formal and bootleg trail, established color-coded loops and then posted aluminum confidence markers. Luckily, a professional graphic designer joined the committee and soon produced a signage program to integrate new trailhead kiosks, a trail map, and the way-finding markers. Other volunteers led public programs to enjoy vernal pools and owls.

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## We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?

Contact us to find out.



**John Monroe**

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



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# Current Projects

## 1. Veterans Memorial Park Trail Revitalization

Project Partner: Town of Barrington

RTCA Contact: John Monroe

Location: Town of Barrington, RI

Congressional District: RI-1

### Project Goal

A high-quality trail system that is used daily by residents and the adjacent YMCA, with public programs and sustainable stewardship practices.

### RTCA Role

Assist the citizen advisory committee with trail design and signage issues, supervise trail work events and help them to mobilize volunteers to monitor the park and serve as ambassadors.

## 2. Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy Board Development & Sustainability

Project Partner: Neutaconkanut Hill Conservancy, Inc.

RTCA Contact: John Monroe

Location: Providence, RI

Congressional District: RI-1

### Project Goal

Transform this 88-acre oasis from neglected public land into vibrant and safe public space that is once again widely used and appreciated by generations of Providence residents.

### RTCA Role

Help the board of directors to recruit new members, expand volunteer participation on committees, and cultivate future leaders. RTCA will help to build a larger friends organization to carry on the stewardship.



Tools loaned by the local land trust lie ready for a dozen volunteers who will use them to relocate 300 yards of errant trail in Barrington, Rhode Island.

## Recent Successes cont.

John Monroe of the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program helped the committee to organize their efforts and supervised relocation of a trail segment that had somehow wandered onto private property. On National Trails Day 2011, a dozen volunteers cleared a new 300-yard trail and closed the old trail with the woody debris.

In 2012, Boy Scouts and volunteers will install trailhead and interpretive signs. Trail maps will be available online and in print. Finally, a gateway will be established for the Y summer camp to encourage walking field trips into the park.