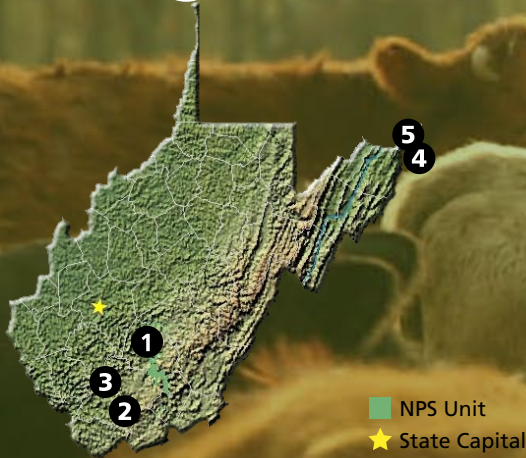




West Virginia News



Rudolph Family Farms in Yellow Spring, West Virginia

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Meadow River Rail-Trail
Fayette & Greenbrier County Commissions
2. Great Eastern Trail
Great Eastern Trail Association
3. Groundwork Wyoming County
Groundwork Wyoming County Trust
4. Shepherdstown Riverfront Revitalization
Corporation of Shepherdstown
5. Trail Towns along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal
Towpath
Progress Fund - DBA Trail Town Program

Find out more about each project 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

Cacapon Project Tells Conservation Story

Far more than any single accomplishment, the Cacapon Land Trust has clearly demonstrated the positive influence committed, caring people have on land conservation throughout the Chesapeake region. The Trust has proactively protected more than 10,000 acres since 2002, many of which are in large, connected conservation hubs.

To celebrate local landowner stewardship and to extend this sense of stewardship to newcomers, the Trust commissioned an oral histories project. Recently completed, these stories will be assembled in a book portraying the love people have for their land and why, as one landowner explained, "it ain't for sale at any price." Land Trust staff and Board members share their experiences and hard-earned lessons at conservation workshops, national conferences and the "back porch board rooms" of other land trusts. Continuing in their typical pioneering way, the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust is currently exploring international markets for carbon credit trading.

"I came from a multi-generational farming family in the Cacapon Valley. I live by the standards of my forefathers, to leave the land in better shape for the next generation than I received it. Putting the farm in conservation easements is the most important thing I can do for stewardship today and for the young farmers of tomorrow. It means a lot to me knowing the farm can continue to help feed the nation. I would not want it to grow houses."

- Mike Rudolph, Rudolph Family Farms

“While local efforts have been the catalyst for the projects, RTCA has added the experience and expertise so necessary to carry them to a successful conclusion. Personally I would hesitate to undertake a rails to trails project without the participation of RTCA.”

- Matt Wender, Fayette County Commission

Current Projects

1. Meadow River Rail-Trail

Location: Along the Meadow River, between Rainelle and Nallen WV, in Greenbrier and Fayette Counties.
Congressional District(s): 3
Project Partner: Fayette & Greenbrier County Commissions
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings

Project Goal

Convert 16.7 miles of abandoned rail corridor to trail, between Nallen and Rainelle WV.

2. Great Eastern Trail

Location: Southern WV, eastern KY, southwestern VA
Congressional District(s): KY -5; VA-9; WV-3
Project Partner: Great Eastern Trail Association
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings

Project Goal

Create a 350+ mile hiking/multi-use trail link between the Breaks Interstate Park in Virginia and Kentucky to the Allegheny Trail on the West Virginia-Virginia border.

3. Groundwork Wyoming County

Location: Wyoming County, in the coal-fields of southern WV
Congressional District(s): 3
Project Partner: Groundwork Wyoming County
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings

Project Goal

Create river access points and link a system of trails, with youth from Groundwork Green Teams. This organization promotes sustainability, environmental remediation, and job creation.

4. Shepherdstown Riverfront Revitalization

Location: Shepherdstown, West Virginia on the Potomac River
Congressional District(s): 2
Project Partner: Corporation of Shepherdstown
NPS Contact: Christopher Niewold

Project Goal

Develop a coordinated revitalization plan for the city which includes a

fundraising strategy. Complete a master plan as one part of an overall community visioning project.

5. Trail Towns along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath

Location: Communities along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Towpath including: Hancock, MD; Williamsport, MD; Point of Rocks, MD; Brunswick, MD; Shepherdstown, WV and Harpers Ferry, WV
Congressional District(s): MD-6; PA-18; WV-2
Project Partner: Progress Fund
NPS Contact: Beth Porter

Project Goal

Develop self-sustaining efforts to connect the communities along the C&O Canal towpath through healthy outdoor recreation and enhanced tourism coordination.

“The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program serves as a catalyst to help local communities boost tourism and recreational opportunities while showcasing natural resource treasures. The program is a good example of how the federal government can enhance the economic development efforts of local communities and non-profit groups.”

- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman

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

3,411 Miles of Trail Developed

2,664 Miles of River Conserved

87,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

97% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

Great Eastern Trail Summit Builds Consensus

In 2009, the RTCA program helped the newly-formed Great Eastern Trail Association fill the 120-mile gap in the tri-state corner of West Virginia, Kentucky, and Virginia. The Great Eastern Trail (GET) is the newest long-distance hiking trail being created in the United States. It parallels the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and will be about 1800-miles long. The GET runs from Alabama to New York, linking the Florida National Scenic Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail. The Community Design Assistance Center at Virginia Tech partnered with the project, compiled the maps into an electronic GIS format, and prepared printed maps for review. A Trail Summit of 40 people from the 3 states was held in June, and succeeded with forming a consensus decision for a primary northern route through West Virginia, and a proposed southern loop. recently was annexed into the city to facilitate creation of two planned unit developments that will include trail systems in conformance with the newly created trails plan.



On the Great Eastern Trail

“We needed to span a 120-mile gap in the Great Eastern Trail through West Virginia, and at the beginning of 2009 we had absolutely no idea how we were going to do it. But then RTCA got involved, and Peggy Pings connected us with citizens and mobilized support. Now we have not just a single ribbon of trail, but a whole trail network and teams of citizens working with us. Thank you Peggy, and thank you RTCA.”

- Tom Johnson, President, Great Eastern Trail Association