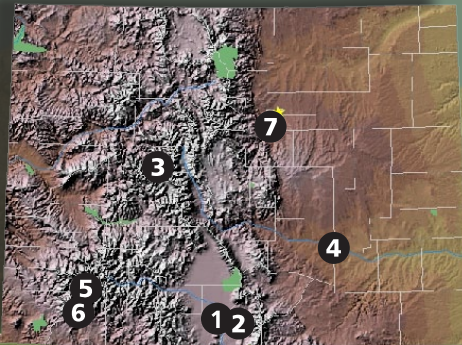




# Colorado News



- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital



A view of the San Juan mountains from Silverton

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area  
Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area
2. Costilla County Trails, Recreation, & Open Space  
Costilla County
3. Crested Butte Perimeter Trail  
Town of Crested Butte Parks and Recreation Department
4. Fowler River Trail  
Town of Fowler
5. Silverton-Animas River Revitalization  
Town of Silverton, San Juan County, Mountain Studies Institute
6. Animas River Management Plan  
City of Durango
7. South Platte River Corridor in Metro Denver  
The Greenway Foundation, City & County of Denver

Find out more about each project starting on page 3.

### 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

### Silverton Digging Into Trails, River, and Conservation Projects

Over the past several months residents of Silverton and the Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) have built new trail, improved existing pathways, and planted native vegetation along the Animas River. In a series of volunteer work days, MSI staff planned, designed, and coordinated the construction of new trail in town and improvements of the abandoned railroad right-of-way on which the Rainbow Route trail is located. Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) staff offered technical input on some of the more difficult sections of the Rainbow Route; the trail in town generally follows an alignment that had been recommended by RTCA. The MSI outreach coordinator, Whitney Gaskill, has been working with the local schools to get youth involved in planning activities and restoration work along the Animas. On one outing, middle school students learned how to use native plants to help anchor a shifting streambank, then they planted willow cuttings along impacted sections of the river. Whitney is also working with the local youth on researching Silverton's history for interpretive facilities along the trail.

### Costilla County's Public Land Renewal

In October 2011, Costilla County, in collaboration with National Park Service (NPS), Colorado Open Lands, and the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, began the planning process to

## We're Here For You.

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

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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)



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

## Recent Successes cont.

identify recreational opportunities for the county's master plan. Community members quickly identified the need to improve the Sangre De Cristo Greenbelt Trail and Rito Seco Park, the only existing open space trail in the county.

Costilla County was granted financial assistance from Great Outdoors Colorado to restore portions of the 3-mile single track trail and clean-up heavily used areas of the Rito Seco Park. In October 2011, the restoration work was completed by the Los Valles Conservation Corps camping crew. The crew spent 8 days and 660 hours maintaining and improving 2 acres within the Rito Seco Park and approximately one-mile of the trail in an effort to increase visitation and utilization of the trail and open space areas in the county.

The county also saw this as an opportunity to engage young adults in a service project that will improve outdoor educational opportunities for the community's enjoyment while teaching them about resource management and the significance of protecting open space. In the end, the project proved to be of great benefit to both the community who lacks available and well-maintained public lands and to the students involved in renovating the Greenbelt Trail and Rito Seco Park.



Costilla County receives assistance from Los Valles Conservation Corps to restore portions of the county's Greenbelt Trail.

## Current Projects

### 1. Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area

Project Partner: Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area  
RTCA Contact: Alan Ragins  
Location: Designated National Heritage Area includes Alamosa, Costilla, and Conejos counties

#### Project Goal

Protect and revitalize heritage resources in the three-county national heritage area. Foster heritage-based

education, recreation, and economic development.

#### RTCA Role

Support for National Heritage Area management planning, organizational development, and implementation of early action projects in targeted communities.

# Current Projects cont.

## 2. Costilla County Trails, Recreation and Open Space (TROS)

Project Partner: Costilla County  
RTCA Contact: Katherine Faz  
Location: Costilla County

### Project Goal

Develop a publicly supported TROS master plan that includes implementation strategies for trails, recreation, and open space projects within the county.

### RTCA Role

Coordinate and facilitate community meetings to identify the community's interests and identify existing resources for the development of a trails system, protection of open space, and identification of other recreational opportunities that link important cultural and natural resources.

## 3. Crested Butte Perimeter Trail

Project Partner: Town of Crested Butte Parks and Recreation Department  
RTCA Contact: Hugh Osborne  
Location: Crested Butte

### Project Goal

Create a continuous, non-motorized trail that encircles the town of Crested-Butte, along with a way-finding system to make it easy for both visitors and residents to get around. The project will include improvements to existing trails, building new pathways, and adding more amenities along the route.

### RTCA Role

Provide technical assistance to improve existing trail and complete the Perimeter Trail surrounding Crested Butte.

## 4. Fowler River Trail

Project Partner: Town of Fowler  
RTCA Contact: Hugh Osborne  
Location: Fowler

### Project Goal

Expand the recreational opportunities in and near the Town of Fowler by building new trails from the existing golf course trail to the Arkansas River. The project will improve access to the Arkansas River for kayaks and canoes. It will create new options for outdoor recreation and education, such as birding, walking, and learning in a natural setting.

*"...Fowler is excited about participating in the RTCA program. This project provides an opportunity to involve the entire community in the planning process ...enhancing residents' and visitors' opportunities..."*

- Patrick Christensen, Mayor  
Town of Fowler



The Sangre De Cristo Valley is rich with cultural history.

### RTCA Role

Provide planning and design assistance for 2 miles of trail around Fowler, providing access to the Arkansas River.

## 5. Silverton - Animas River Revitalization

Project Partner: Town of Silverton, San Juan County, Mountain Studies Institute  
RTCA Contact: Hugh Osborne  
Location: Silverton

### Project Goal

Create new trails and other amenities in and around Silverton incorporating the ideas of adaptive re-use of impacted lands. Interpretive facilities that tell the many stories of Silverton will be found on the trail and in new and existing parks. Implementation of the many phases of this project - interpretive sign content research,



Silverton students learning about river restoration.

# Current Projects cont.

trail construction, and streambank restoration - has and will continue to involve residents and students from the local school district.

## RTCA Role

Train local residents in trail construction and maintenance. Plan and design a trail across a wetlands area that will provide a better experience for the users while protecting the sensitive landscape.

## 6. Animas River Management Plan

Lead Partner: City of Durango

RTCA Contact: Joy Lujan

Location: Durango

### Project Goal

A publicly created plan for management of the Animas River through Durango.

*“The Animas River is a highly utilized recreational jewel in the center of Durango. The community requested that the City develop a management plan for the Animas River and the RTCA Program has provided the leadership to assist the community in facilitating a collaborative approach to develop the management plan.*

-Cathy Metz  
Parks and Recreation Director  
City of Durango



The Sangre de Cristo Mountains, a cultural landscape in the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area and scenic icon for Costilla County Trails. Photo: Mary Hoffman

### RTCA Goal

Develop and facilitate an inclusive, collaborative public involvement process in order to engage the Durango-area community in creating the Animas River Management Plan.

public access, enhanced educational programming, and watershed-wide water quality improvement efforts related to approximately 20 linear miles of the South Platte river, greenway and trail.

### RTCA Role

Facilitate coordination among the local, state, and federal organizations who are working on efforts related to the South Platte River corridor to advance priority projects, find opportunities to enhance projects via collaboration and increase the engagement of affected communities.

## 7. South Platte River Corridor in Metro Denver

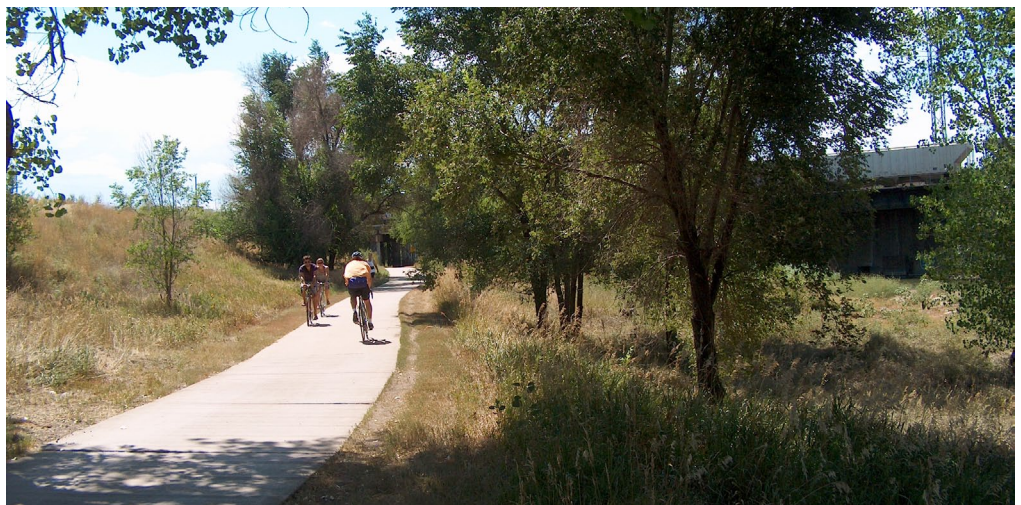
Project Partners: The Greenway Foundation, City and County of Denver

RTCA Contact: Alan Ragins & Joy Lujan

Location: Denver

### Project Goal

Habitat restoration, increased recreational opportunities, improved



The South Platte Greenway offers a variety of recreational opportunities for visitors and residents of metropolitan Denver.