



Pennsylvania News



★ State Capital



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Common Waters
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
2. Delaware River Water Trail Implementation
Delaware River Greenway Partnership
3. Derry Station Heritage Trails
Derry Area Recreation Board
4. Franklin Bike Friendly Community
City of Franklin
5. Gettysburg Inner Loop
Healthy Adams Bicycle/Pedestrian Inc
6. Main Line Trail
Allegheny Ridge Corporation
7. Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network
Appalachian Mountain Club
8. Schuylkill River to Boars Back Trail Connector
Natural Lands Trust
9. Schuylkill River Water Trail
Schuylkill River Greenway Association

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Cyclists enjoy historic sites along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. NPS Photo.

Recent Successes

Erie to Pittsburgh Trail

Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance

Since 2008, RTCA has been assisting with the formation, action planning, and public awareness of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance (EPTA). The goal of the all-volunteer EPTA is to create a 300+ mile connecting rail-trail system to link the cities of Erie and Pittsburgh. The project uses an abandoned rail line as the primary route and includes groups working on trails that would form a western loop entirely in PA. A gap analysis and concept plan has been completed and a web site is being developed to increase public awareness of the project. The northern counties are finalizing a Greenway Plan, while the southern section is undergoing a Feasibility Study. Being part of a larger vision has helped small communities get on-board with completing their piece of the trail puzzle.

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ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provide 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

1. Common Waters

Location: Counties surrounding Delaware Water Gap NRA and Upper Delaware Scenic River in PA, NY, and NJ
Congressional Districts: NJ-5; NY-19,22; PA-10

Project Partner: Pinchot Institute for Conservation

NPS Contact: David Lange

Project Goal

Long term conservation and stewardship of the Delaware River Highlands region in NY, PA and NJ surrounding Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware National Scenic River.

2. Delaware River Water Trail Implementation

Location: Delaware River in Bucks, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Wayne counties (PA); Burlington, Mercer, Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex counties (NJ); Sullivan, Orange & Delaware counties (NY)

Congressional Districts: NJ-4,5,7,12; NY-19, 22; PA-8,10,11,15

Project Partner: Delaware River Greenway Partnership

NPS Contact: Julie Bell

Project Goal

Comprehensive signage for the Delaware River Water Trail and improved river stewardship by area youth and communities.

3. Derry Station Heritage Trails

Location: Derry PA, in Westmoreland County

Congressional District: 12

Project Partner: Derry Area Recreation Board

NPS Contact: Peggy Pings

Project Goal

Development of 9 acres of park lands within Derry, and 20 miles of rails-with-trails linking communities of Blairsville & Latrobe in Westmoreland County PA.

4. Franklin Bike Friendly Community

Location: City of Franklin, PA

Congressional District: 5

Project Partner: City of Franklin

NPS Contact: David Lange

Project Goal

Improved conditions for bicycling and walking in the City of Franklin through development of bicycle master plan and future recognition as Bicycle Friendly Community.

5. Gettysburg Inner Loop

Location: Borough of Gettysburg, PA and Gettysburg National Military Park

Congressional District: 19

Project Partner: Healthy Adams Bicycle/Pedestrian, Inc.

NPS Contact: David Lange

Project Goal

Network of improved connections for walking and biking in the Borough of Gettysburg.

6. Main Line Trail

Location: Cambria County, PA: Boroughs of Lilly, Cassandra, Portage, Wilmore, Summerhill and Ehrenfeld;

Townships of Cresson, Washington, Portage, Summerhill and Croyle

Congressional District: 12

Project Partner: Allegheny Ridge Corporation

NPS Contact: Sherry Peck

Project Goal

Develop 18-mile multi-use, non-motorized recreational trail from the borough of Ehrenfeld in Cambria County, PA, to NPS Allegheny Portage Railroad NHS. Will create a linkage resulting in a 31-mile continuous trail for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, bird-watching and other recreational activities.



Current Projects



7. Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network

Location: PA Highlands region -- portions of 13 counties in southeastern PA.

Congressional District(s): 6,7,8,9,13,15,16,17,19

Project Partner: Appalachian Mountain Club

NPS Contact: Sherry Peck

Project Goal

Create a trail network of over 100 miles in PA, linking to the Highlands Trail in NY and NJ, that provides communities with close-to-home recreation opportunities.

8. Schuylkill River to Boars Back Trail Connector

Location: Northern Chester County and Southern Berks County, Pennsylvania

Congressional District: 6

Project Partner: Natural Lands Trust

NPS Contact: Julie Bell

Project Goal

Develop a new 6-mile multi-use trail within the Hopewell Big Woods connecting the Schuylkill River Trail to the Boars Back Trail through French Creek State Park, Hopewell Furnace NHS, Schuylkill River National Heritage Area and linking with existing trail networks in North and South Coventry townships.

9. Schuylkill River Water Trail

Location: 142 miles through 5 counties and 69 cities, townships and boroughs in southeastern PA between Pottsville and Philadelphia

Congressional Districts:

1,2,6,7,13,15,16,17

Project Partner: Schuylkill River Greenway Association

NPS Contact: Sherry Peck

Project Goal

Develop connections from river to land trails and into river communities. A manual for water trail partners to evaluate and plan landing locations, facilities and signs, leading to improved river safety, increased public use of the Schuylkill River water trail, and economic development in communities.

“The goal of NPS involvement is to bring tangible change to communities.”

- Charlie Stockman, Manager
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

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

3,441 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



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Recent Successes cont.

Hopewell Big Woods Interpretive Trails

Hopewell Big Woods Partnership

In southeastern Pennsylvania, the last large, unbroken forest left is Hopewell Big Woods. The NPS, working with the Natural Lands Trust and Hopewell Big Woods Partnership, a consortium of more than 40 federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, has completed a vision document and action plan for a Hopewell Big Woods trails system which supports heritage tourism and utilizes the area's outstanding cultural history and recreational and natural assets.

The Hopewell Big Woods Trails and Recreation Concept Plan proposes eastern and western loops totaling more than 50 miles of trails. During the past two years, more than three miles of trail were developed, and more than 200 acres of open space have been acquired to provide future trail connections.

“By working with RTCA, the Partnership completed a trail plan that respects the links among the natural, cultural, and recreational systems unique to the Hopewell Big Woods region.”

- Robert C. Folwell, Trails Project Manager
Schuylkill RiverValley National & State Heritage Area

