



North Carolina News



White water rafting down the Nantahala River, North Carolina

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010



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CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Jackson County Greenways: Tuckaseegee River Conservation Plan
Jackson County Chamber of Commerce
2. Pioneering Healthier Communities
YMCA
3. SE Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail - North Carolina
The Conservation Fund
4. Waccamaw River Blue Trail
Waccamaw Riverkeeper and American Rivers

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Brunswick County Blueways Project

The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program 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 NC 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

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.

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



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Current Projects

1. Jackson County Greenways: Tuckaseigee River Conservation Plan

Location: Jackson County, SW NC; County includes Nantahala NF and the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, a border with the Blue Ridge Parkway and Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Congressional District: 11
Project Partner: Jackson County Greenways/Parks & Recreation Dept.
NPS Contact: Dawn Godwin

Project Goal

Endorse protections, access and conservation measures for 40 miles of the Tuckaseigee River; at least 20 miles of feeder streams; 10 additional miles of greenway river trails; and at least 10 additional acres of parkland/access areas along these waterways and the five lakes in Jackson County.

RTCA Role

RTCA will provide guidance for public outreach, assist in identifying a management strategy for the river, and help create recreational access to this resource.

2. Pioneering Healthier Communities

Location: Downtown Asheville, NC
Congressional District: 11
Project Partner: YMCA
NPS Contact: Dawn Godwin

Project Goal

The YMCA's "Activate America" Program plans to create a strategic plan for increasing physical activity in the region through improved green infrastructure. The "Pioneering Healthier Communities" steering committee—which is led by the YMCA and consists of a variety of stakeholders seeks to identify opportunities to focus on projects in the built environment that encourage and increase physical activity.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in the facilitation of the planning process, public workshops, and the provision of strategies for marketing to the communities, and partnerships.

3. 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 District(s): 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). 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

Identify partners for the "main corridor" of the trail, using 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.

4. Waccamaw River Blue Trail

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

Project Goal

Develop marketing material (blueway guide, paddling events) and build support for trail development on the NC side of the project.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in developing partnerships between SC and NC agencies and nonprofits and a Blue Trail guide.