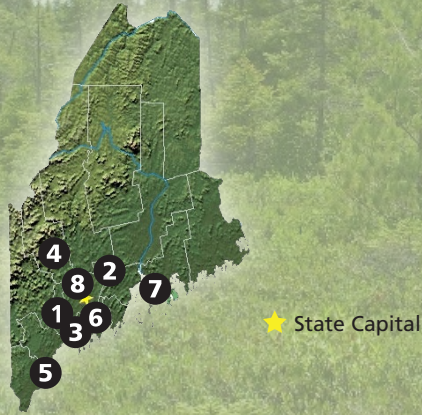




Maine News



Exploring the heath in Trenton, a possible site for an educational boardwalk.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Androscoggin Greenway
Androscoggin Land Trust
2. CommUnity Trails Expansion
Unity Barn Raisers
3. Former Brunswick Naval Air Station Open Space and Trails
Town of Brunswick
4. High Peaks Trails
High Peaks Alliance
5. Maine Island Trail Southern Extension
Maine Island Trail Association
6. Merrymeeting Trail
Midcoast Council of Governments
7. Trenton Community Trails
Friends of Acadia, Town of Trenton, and Acadia National Park
8. Teens to Trails - College Mentors for Maine Teens
Teens to Trails

Find out more about each 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

Trenton Community Trails

In numerous public meetings, residents of Trenton, Maine expressed a desire for local trails. When Friends of Acadia purchased land for an Acadia National Park visitor center along a main road, it opened a new opportunity. Friends of Acadia invited townspeople to form a committee and create trails on 217-acres of conservation land in the back of the property. Local volunteers, Friends of Acadia staff members, Acadia National Park staff members, and RTCA worked together to explore the property and flag 1.8 miles of new trail corridors that show off a mix of vegetation types, including a large heath, while avoiding the wettest areas of the property. During summer 2011, Friends of Acadia organized five work days for community volunteers to begin brushing out dry sections of trail. RTCA assisted with organizing the committee, property mapping, trail layout, and management planning. In coming months, the committee will complete fundraising, wetlands permits, and construction of trail structures in wet sections.

continued on page 4.

“With assistance from RTCA, Friends of Acadia and Trenton residents have designed and are building a new trail in Trenton that provides not only a new outdoor destination, but an opportunity to learn about the area’s outstanding natural habitats.”

-Marla S. O’Byrne, President, Friends of Acadia

Current Projects

1. Androscoggin Greenway

Project Partner: Androscoggin Land Trust

RTCA Contact: Julie Isbill

Location: Lewiston and Auburn, Maine

Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

A plan and implementation of conserved land, water access/water trail, and trail connections in the five-mile river corridor between Lewiston/Auburn and Riverlands State Park, and beyond to Turner, Leeds, and Greene.

RTCA Role

Connect in-town neighborhoods to the river through events and trail improvements.



Kids Fishing Day on the Androscoggin River in downtown Lewiston

2. CommUnity Trails Expansion

Project Partner: Unity Barn Raisers

RTCA Contact: Burnham Martin

Location: Unity, Thorndike, Knox,

Freedom, and Montville, Maine

Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

A new off-road connection from Unity to Frye Mountain and locations in between using existing local trail networks and approximately six miles of new trail.

RTCA Role

Assist Unity Barn Raisers and partner land trusts and community organizations to plan and begin creating a new trail.

Project Goal

Create and begin implementing a recreation, trails, and open space management plan for 1,200 acres of the former Naval Air Station.

RTCA Role

Help guide the plan including facilitation of stakeholder group, site visits, mapping, public relations, and funding strategies.

3. Former Brunswick Naval Air Station Open Space and Trails

Project Partner: Town of Brunswick

RTCA Contact: Julie Isbill

Location: Brunswick, Maine

Congressional District: ME - 1

4. High Peaks Trails

Project Partner: High Peaks Alliance

RTCA Contact: Burnham Martin

Location: Franklin County, Maine

Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Complete the 40-mile Fly Rod Crosby Trail, conserve 17,743 acres of forest land, and develop additional motorized and non-motorized trails in the High Peaks region.

RTCA Role

Assist with youth engagement, trail planning, conference organization, fundraising, and building organizational capacity.



The new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Sandy Stream, shown here under construction, connects Unity Village with Unity College.

Current Projects cont.

5. Maine Island Trail Southern Extension

Project Partner: Maine Island Trail Association (MITA)

RTCA Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Coastal Maine between Portland and Kittery
Congressional District: ME - 1

Project Goal

A 50-mile extension of the Maine Island Trail from Portland southward to Kittery using islands and shore access points.

RTCA Role

Assist MITA to develop new camping and day-use sites, build stewardship groups, and expand education efforts.

6. Merrymeeting Trail

Project Partner: Midcoast Council of Governments

RTCA Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Gardiner, Richmond, Bowdoinham, and Topsham, Maine
Congressional District: ME - 1

Project Goal

A 26-mile long rail-with-trail connecting four towns along the Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay to existing shared use paths, which are part of the East Coast Greenway.

RTCA Role

Assist with project organization, planning a municipal organization, organizing public outreach, creating a maintenance plan, and raising funds.

7. Trenton Community Trails

Project Partners: Friends of Acadia, Town of Trenton, and Acadia National Park

RTCA Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Trenton, Maine
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

A trail system that provides access to 217 acres of conservation land in Trenton and connects it to the Acadia Gateway Center.



Maine Island Trail Association volunteers and staff visit an island on Maine's southern coast.

RTCA Role

Assist with design, permitting, fundraising, and construction of a 1.8-mile footpath.

relationship of sharing outdoor activities with local high school outing clubs.

RTCA Role

Help develop and implement a strategy to create ongoing outdoor collaborations between Maine high schools and Maine colleges and universities with outdoor recreation/adventure tourism programs and outing clubs.

8. Teens to Trails – College Mentors for Maine Teens

Project Partner: Teens to Trails

RTCA Contact: Julie Isbill
Location: Statewide
Congressional Districts: ME - 1, 2

Project Goal

Cultivate in Maine colleges and universities an institutionalized



The proposed route of the Merrymeeting Trail will pass beside these railroad tracks in Bowdoinham.

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



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Recent Successes cont.

Chisholm Trails

Just two years after this group formed, the 3-mile Riverfront School Trail is well on its way. The State Department of Conservation finalized a deal with Pan Am to purchase a critical rail right-of-way that will extend the Whistle Stop Trail into the heart of downtown. A successful grant application has resulted in engineering for another section of the trail. Otis Mill, at the center of the Riverfront School Trail, is hosting a pedestrian riverside trail as well as a railside ATV and snowmobile trail. The mill owners have also created a hand-carry boat launch and hosted several community paddling events. For the first time in many years, people are returning to the Androscoggin River.



On National Trails Day, all seventh graders in Jay and Livermore Falls participated in educational activities about the Androscoggin River.

“Help from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program became a real shot in the arm to the community of Jay and Livermore Falls and to the Androscoggin Land Trust’s efforts to connect conservation to their economic development goals. After several years of developing ideas, Julie organized us around action, and that momentum will continue after her two years with us.”

-Jonathan P. LaBonté, Executive Director, Androscoggin Land Trust



Androscoggin River Source to the Sea Canoe Trek.