

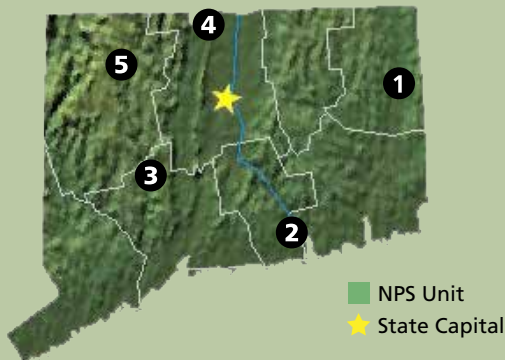


Connecticut News



Paddlers approach a bridge on the Willimantic River in Mansfield, Connecticut. Photo: Cynthia MacDonald

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Last Green Valley Water Trails Video
The Last Green Valley, Inc.
2. Lower CT River GIS Workshops
Lower CT River Council of Governments
3. Naugatuck River Greenway
Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee
4. New England National Scenic Trail
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
5. Torrington Trails Network
Northwest Connecticut YMCA

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Naugatuck River Greenway

For almost 20 years, several towns and cities along the 44-mile Naugatuck River corridor have created riverfront greenway trail segments. With designation, in 2012, as an original America's Great Outdoors project, focus of the greenway shifted to raising regional awareness in towns from Torrington to Derby.

A cycling event in 2012, and follow-up video released in 2013, built momentum. The Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce awarded the steering committee its silver medal award to recognize "extraordinary contributions to the community."

In 2014, Recreational Trails funding, from the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, will support the development of a trail segment from Thomaston to Watertown and help produce signs for all 11 communities and the Thomaston Dam (US Army Corps of Engineers).



Shelton Mayor, Mark Loretto; Congresswoman, Rosa DeLauro; State Representative, Linda Gentile; Ansonia Mayor, Jim DellaVolpe; and Derby Mayor, Anthony Staffieri unveil the America's Great Outdoors bronze plaque joined by John Monroe, of the NPS, and Jack Walsh, from Valley United Way (left to right). Photo: Sam Gold

Current Projects

1. Last Green Valley Water Trails Video

Project Partner: The Last Green Valley, Inc.

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Location: Northeastern Connecticut, Southcentral Massachusetts

Congressional Districts: CT - 2; MA - 2

Project Goal

Produce six five-minute promotional videos about regional water trails in conjunction with Woodstock Academy public high school students and faculty.

NPS Role

Assist partners with completing video project funded in part by the NPS Challenge Cost-Share Program.

2. Lower CT River GIS Workshops

Project Partner: Lower Connecticut River Council of Governments

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Location: Lower Connecticut River
Congressional Districts: CT - 1, 2, 3

Project Goal

Reach consensus on data layers to set land conservation priorities.

NPS Role

Facilitate a series of four workshops with the Lower Connecticut River Coastal Land Trust Exchange to set priorities for on-going land acquisition by the 14 land trusts and 17 communities in the region.

3. Naugatuck River Greenway

Project Partner: Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Location: Torrington to Derby
Congressional Districts: CT - 3, 5

Project Goal

Create, extend, and promote the completion of the Naugatuck River Greenway.

NPS Role

Help the steering committee to define strategic roles, organize events, increase access to the river, promote connections to economic development, implement uniform signage and wayfinding, and design and construct 2.7 miles of new trail in Thomaston and Watertown.

“The Naugatuck River Greenway project has been a true catalyst in spurring economic development and downtown revitalization in each of our valley towns.”

- Bill Purcell, Executive Director, Valley Chamber of Commerce



The Naugatuck River flows through Torrington, Connecticut. Photo: Joe Savarese

4. New England National Scenic Trail

Project Partner: Connecticut Forest and Park Association

NPS Contact: Charles Tracy

Location: Massachusetts, Connecticut
Congressional Districts: MA - 1, 2;
CT - 1, 2, 3, 5

Project Goal

Provide the best trail experience for all users of the New England Trail.

NPS Role

Assist the trail stewardship council with trail corridor land conservation, natural and cultural resource interpretation, public outreach, and trail management.

5. Torrington Trails Network

Project Partner: Northwest Connecticut YMCA

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Location: Torrington

Congressional District: CT - 5

Project Goal

Create an interconnected, accessible trail system throughout the City of Torrington for health and recreation.

NPS Role

Assist with planning, construction and opening of new trails, including connections between Stillwater Pond State Park, a University of Connecticut campus, and a one-mile segment on Naugatuck River levees.



Artists, Bruce and Joanne Hunter, created this 30-by-30-foot mosaic called “Cool Waters” in Waterbury with partnerships and 1,200 volunteers to celebrate the Naugatuck River. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You.

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



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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

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



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Recent Successes cont.

Torrington Trails Network – John Brown Trail

While abolitionist John Brown is a contentious figure in history, the beauty and serenity of his birthplace in Torrington is undisputed. Working with the historical society and water company, volunteers with the Torrington Trails Network secured an agreement for a nearly one-mile loop trail on the 40-acre property. More than 80 volunteers turned out for a three-hour trail-building event.



Mark McEachern, Director of the Torrington Historical Society, congratulates volunteers on their speedy completion of the John Brown Trail. Photo: NPS

Steele Brook Greenway – Phase 1 Completion

Years of planning and permitting led to a ribbon-cutting for Phase 1 of the Steele Brook Greenway in Watertown, Connecticut. The Siemon Company donated an easement for the 1,200-foot segment. Future segments will connect to soccer fields and to the downstream section of the Naugatuck River.



Two Siemon Company employees enjoy a lunchtime walk on the Steele Brook Greenway. Photo: NPS

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program 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.