

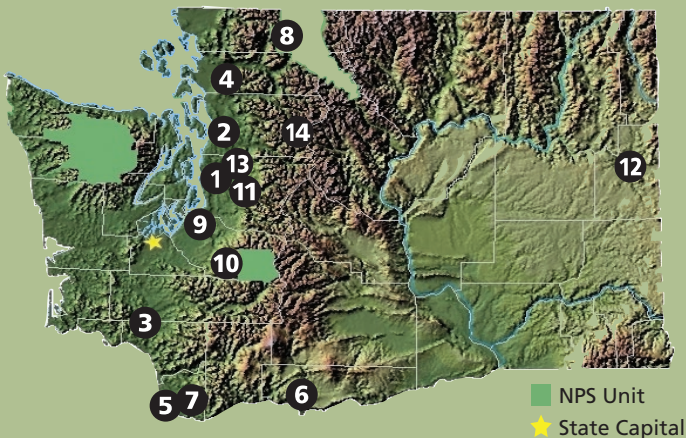


# Washington News



Turnbull Marsh is part of the City of Cheney's proposed new Scabland Recreation Zone. Photo: City of Cheney

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Beacon Hill Street Stories
2. Central Puget Sound Regional Open Space
3. Cowlitz County Trails
4. Healthy Communities Initiative
5. Intertwine Conservation Initiative
6. Lyle Cherry Orchard Trails
7. Metro Vancouver Regional Youth Action
8. Nooksack River Recreation
9. Pierce County Open Space
10. Pioneer Trek Trail
11. Rainer Valley Greenways: Safe Routes to Transit
12. Scablands Recreation
13. Seattle Great Blue Heron Habitat
14. Wilkeson Coke Ovens Park

Find out more about each project starting on page 2

## Recent Successes

### Near Nature, Near Perfect: Spokane's Regional Network of Trails and Open Space

Community needs surveys in Spokane County show that trails are the most used and desired amenities. When line-item budget cuts meant the County could not move forward with development of a non-motorized trails plan, the Inland Northwest Trails Coalition—with support from Greater Spokane Incorporated, the Bicycle Alliance of Washington, and RTCA—stepped in. Over the course of three years, nonprofit, agency and public members of the coalition, and outdoor conservationists developed the regional trails plan and successfully advocated for city and county adoption. The coalition and its partners have since collaborated on implementing the plan, with a whopping \$7,000,000 invested in the trails and open space that residents so highly value.

### Wayfinding Kiosks Promote Neighborhood Walking in West Seattle

In 2007, RTCA helped Feet First and neighborhood activists in West Seattle develop a walking map and trail system that link sidewalks, streets, stairs and trails to connect city green spaces, parks, schools and businesses. Eight kiosks and 86 wayfinding signs were recently installed to help orient residents and visitors to this diverse trail network. The kiosks complement the West Seattle Trails Map and make it easier for people to find their way around the neighborhood on foot—which will also increase physical activity, lead to more support of public safety efforts and improve the environment.

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# Current Projects

## 1. Beacon Hill Street Stories

Lead Partner: Feet First  
Congressional District: WA - 9

RTCA is helping Feet First develop a curriculum for reaching and promoting the voice of youth within Seattle's diverse Beacon Hill neighborhood with a digital storytelling program centered on young people's walking experiences. Project partners are striving to make stronger connections among neighborhood organizations and area youth while reinforcing residents' sense of place through a new appreciation of neighborhood destinations and resources.

## 2. Central Puget Sound Regional Open Space

Lead Partner: University of Washington, Green Futures Design Lab  
Congressional Districts: WA - 6, 7

RTCA is assisting the Open Space steering committee in developing an overarching conservation strategy for the central Puget Sound region that encompasses Snohomish, King, Pierce, and Kitsap counties. Specific components of the strategy include: recreation and trails; ecosystems; rural and resource lands; and urban/community development.

## 3. Cowlitz County Trails

Lead Partner: Pathways 2020  
Congressional District: WA - 3



Rafters prepare to launch at the confluence of the Mashel and Nisqually Rivers at future Nisqually State Park along the Pioneer Trek Trail. Photo: NPS



Mapping good places for walking and biking in Rainier Valley. Photo: Seattle Neighborhood Greenways

With help from RTCA, health advocates and local jurisdictions in Cowlitz County will look at ways to connect the cities of Kalama and Kelso with a trail, and explore the potential for a 14-mile rail-trail in the vicinity of Mount Saint Helens.

## 4. Healthy Communities Initiative

Lead Partner: Whatcom County Health Department  
Congressional District: WA - 1

Seven county health departments—Whatcom, Skagit, Kitsap, Island, San Juan, Clallam and Jefferson—are collaborating on a regional approach for building community capacity and addressing health disparities, including opportunities for physical activity. This is a new model, and RTCA will help the sponsors organize local efforts and integrate strategies for public participation.

## 5. Intertwine Conservation Initiative

Lead Partner: Intertwine Alliance  
Congressional District: WA - 3

The Intertwine Alliance is planning a series of watershed-based workshops in the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area highlighting areas with a high value for conservation. RTCA will help conduct these workshops, exploring how partners can better work together to meet the natural resource needs of each watershed, and develop action plans based on their input. RTCA will also assist with reaching out to non-traditional conservation organizations

# Current Projects cont.

— including the health community and nonprofit organizations — that focus on the region’s underserved communities.

## 6. Lyle Cherry Orchard Trails

Lead Partner: Friends of the Columbia Gorge  
Congressional District: WA - 3

Friends of the Gorge purchased a 55-acre parcel of land that includes an old cherry orchard immediately east of Lyle, WA, for its unique natural and cultural resources. RTCA will work with project partners, including the local high school, to develop a comprehensive trail plan for the Lyle Cherry Orchard parcel, which will include the development of a trailhead adjacent to Lyle High School. Project partners will explore potential development of trails on the Friends’ property and on willing landowners’ adjacent properties.

## 7. Metro Vancouver Regional Youth Action

Lead Partners: SW Washington Boys and Girls Club; Fort Vancouver National Historic Site  
Congressional District: WA - 3

RTCA will help convene, coordinate, and facilitate a youth action plan for the Vancouver Metro region. Partners will work together to discuss how the youth oriented organizations and

agencies can collectively address issues such as nature deficit disorder and childhood obesity.

## 8. Nooksack River Recreation

Lead Partner: American Rivers  
Congressional District: WA - 8

RTCA will collaborate with land managers, recreation user groups, and non-profits to develop a recreation plan for 120 miles of the upper Nooksack River watershed in northwestern Washington. The plan will document use, identify issues and needs, and recommend strategies for providing high quality recreation experiences while preserving conservation goals.

## 9. Pierce County Open Space

Lead Partner: Pierce County Department of Parks and Recreation  
Congressional District: WA - 8

RTCA is helping Pierce County modify the role and function of the Conservation Futures Citizen Advisory Board to include an expanded Open Space agenda. The changes will result in a collaborative countywide forum where all open space stakeholders are represented. The new ‘Open Space Council’ will leverage the efforts of multiple stakeholder groups, benefiting both citizens and the environment.



An ofrenda decorated by the Rainbow Haven of Tukwila, WA, honors Roberto Maestas, founder and long-time Executive Director of El Centro de la Raza. El Centro’s name means “The Center for People of All Races.” Located in Seattle’s Beacon Hill neighborhood, the Center is a voice and hub for the Latino community, and will likely play a key role in the Beacon Hill Street Stories project. Photo: NPS

## 10. Pioneer Trek Trail

Lead Partners: Pioneer Farm Museum, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park  
Congressional District: WA - 8

RTCA is helping local partners develop a Memorandum of Understanding to help facilitate development of a trail in southeast Pierce County that connects Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Pioneer Farm Museum, the Town of Eatonville and Nisqually State Park.

## 11. Rainier Valley Greenways as Safe Routes to Transit

Lead Partners: Seattle Neighborhood Greenways; BikeWorks  
Congressional District: WA - 7

RTCA will help partners in the Rainier Valley engage the community in mapping routes for pedestrians and bicyclists that safely connect transit hubs, businesses and community destinations in one of Seattle’s most diverse and underserved neighborhoods. The project is part of



Hand car races in front of historic coke ovens during annual ‘Wilkeson Days’ celebration. Photo: NPS

## We're Here For You.

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

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## 2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 2,154 Miles of Trail Developed
- 1,074 Miles of River Conserved
- 70,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
- 94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

## 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.

[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)

## Current Projects cont.

a growing grassroots effort to create a network of neighborhood greenways across Seattle.

### 12. Scablands Recreation

Lead Partner: City of Cheney  
Congressional District: WA - 5

The City of Cheney's recreation and community development departments are collaborating on a recreation plan for the "Scabland Recreation Zone" and branding of the city as its gateway. RTCA is assisting with public input on a vision for Cheney's recreation opportunities that emphasizes a healthy and active community and celebrates being part of the channeled scablands.

### 13. Seattle Great Blue Heron Habitat

Lead Partner: Heron Habitat Helpers  
Congressional District: WA - 8

Kiwanis Memorial Preserve Park is home to Seattle's largest nesting colony of Great Blue Herons. The city recently designated the park a wildlife sanctuary, and has been working to improve its visibility and protection. RTCA is working with project partners to collect ideas from the community for improving interpretation of the birds and their habitat.

### 14. Wilkeson Coke Ovens Park

Lead Partner: Town of Wilkeson  
Congressional District: WA - 8

RTCA is helping the Town of Wilkeson, a gateway community to Mount Rainier National Park, complete a master plan for Coke Ovens Park. The park will be developed as a regional recreation destination that focuses on protection, restoration, and interpretation of the area's coal mining history.

## Recent Successes cont.

The West Seattle Wayfinding project was a community-wide, year-long effort that resulted in participation from over 100 community members. The installation of the kiosks was promoted as a community event, generating lots of local news and blog coverage. The King County Food and Fitness Initiative is now using this map and wayfinding system in programs to encourage more walking and healthy eating in other parts of the city.

