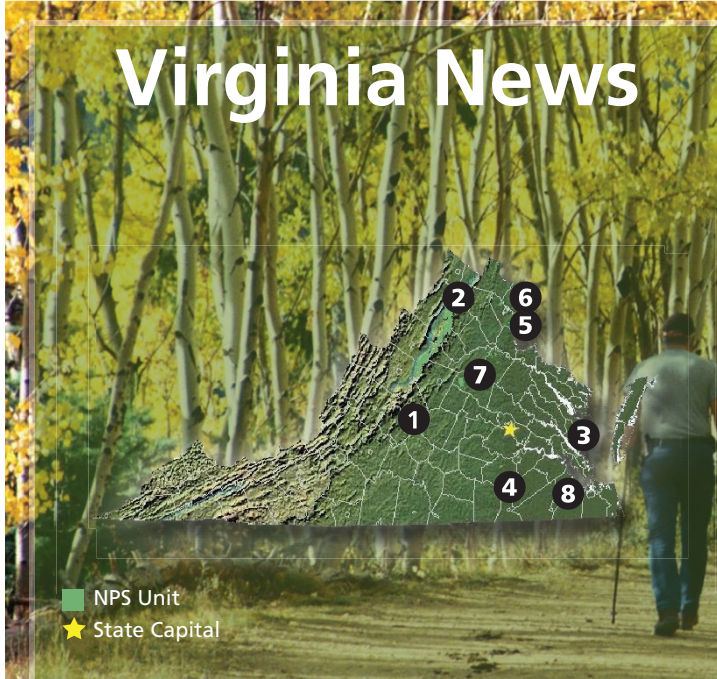




# Virginia News



The Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative (SGI) is working to connect people to the outdoors and the history of the region. Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Blue Ridge Tunnel Restoration and Rail-Trail**  
Nelson County, Dept of Planning and Zoning
- 2. Cedar Creek Interpretive Trails**  
Cedar Creek/Belle Grove National Battlefield Park,  
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District
- 3. Mathews Heritage Park**  
Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority
- 4. Meherrin River Trail**  
Roanoke River Rails To Trails
- 5. Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail**  
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- 6. September 11th National Memorial Trail**  
September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
- 7. Spotsylvania Greenway Initiative**  
Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
- 8. Suffolk Water Trails**  
Nansemond River Preservation Alliance, Suffolk River Heritage

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative

The Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative (SGI) envisions a future when everyone is within walking distance of a path or park to connect county residents to nature, to recreation, to each other, and, to regional trail networks. Founded in 2009, SGI opened the first 1-mile segment of the Ni River Trail on National Trails Day, June 5, 2010. Since then SGI has been working in partnership with RTCA, Spotsylvania County elected officials, staff, and citizens to implement a countywide trail and bike-pedestrian system. A partnership has also been launched with Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park to identify potential connections between the county trailway system and the four National Park Service battlefield parks.

*“RTCA has moved us forward in so many ways—guiding our strategic planning process, connecting us with trail experts throughout Virginia, and helping us partner with the NPS battlefield in ways that help us support their mission and further ours.”*

- Chris Folger, Chair, Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative

# Current Projects

## 1. Blue Ridge Tunnel Restoration and Rail-Trail

Project Partners: Nelson County, Department of Planning and Zoning  
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski  
Location: Nelson and Augusta Counties  
Congressional Districts: VA - 5, 6

### Project Goal

Restore, re-open, and interpret the historic Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel, and create the associated 2.2 miles of trails infrastructure needed for public access.

### NPS Role

Assist with collaborative, multi-jurisdictional, trail planning, and partnership development, facilitation, and coordination with Blue Ridge Parkway and Shenandoah National Parks.

## 2. Cedar Creek Interpretive Trails

Project Partner: Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District  
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski  
Location: Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren Counties  
Congressional Districts: VA - 6, 10

### Project Goal

Enhance trail connectivity within the National Heritage District and increase understanding and appreciation of historic features, while protecting battlefield resources and landscapes.



Trail planners discuss options at a workshop for the Deep Run Greenway, a project of the Spotsylvania Greenway Initiative. Photo: NPS

### NPS Role

Initiate preliminary planning for park-wide interpretive trails and waysides at both NPS and key partner property within the National Heritage District.

## 3. Mathews Heritage Park

Project Partner: Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority  
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski  
Location: Moon, VA (Billup's Creek)  
Congressional District: VA - 1

### Project Goal

Development of a management strategy for a newly acquired 9-acre waterfront parcel that addresses community needs, legal requirements, and balances long-term recreation, education, and water access goals.

### NPS Role

Provide water access and park planning guidance; facilitation of a planning process that merges the various ideas of community stakeholders, to gain consensus on a vision, goals, uses, and management approach for the site.

## 4. Meherrin River Trail

Project Partner: Roanoke River Rails To Trails  
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski  
Location: Southside VA  
Congressional Districts: VA - 4, 5



Partners provide opportunities for youth to learn and explore local waterways by kayak.  
Photo: Benouameur

### Project Goal

Develop a water trail on the Meherrin River to increase river access, recreational opportunities, economic development, and river stewardship in Southside Virginia.

### NPS Role

Identify and evaluate potential water access sites; assess connections to other recreation infrastructure (parks, trails, and visitor attractions); and assist with water trail design and funding strategies.

## 5. Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Project Partners: Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail  
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski  
Location: Potomac River corridor in MD and VA  
Congressional Districts: VA - 1, 8, 10, 11 and MD - 4, 5, 6, 8

### Project Goal

Improved quality of life for residents and visitors to the Potomac watershed through the development of an interconnected network of trails for recreation, transportation and heritage tourism.

### NPS Role

Assist with state-level policy development, community outreach, and technical assistance to local jurisdictions in Maryland and Virginia.



## We're Here For You.

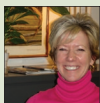
Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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## 2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

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

Find more information online at  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects cont.

## 6. September 11th National Memorial Trail

Project Partner: September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance  
RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings  
Location: Seven state triangle including Shanksville, PA (Flight 93 crash site), New York City (World Trade Center), Washington DC (Pentagon).  
Congressional District: VA - 8

### Project Goal

A 1,100-mile hiking, biking and driving trail physically connecting the three national memorials commemorating the tragic events that occurred in 2001.

### NPS Role

Assist with implementing strategies for board development and public awareness.

## 7. Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative

Project Partners: Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative, Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park  
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski  
Location: Spotsylvania County and City of Fredericksburg  
Congressional Districts: VA - 1, 7

### Project Goal

Development of a 100-mile system of trails and greenways in Spotsylvania County, that connect natural and cultural sites, provide recreation and wellness opportunities, and inspire respect and responsible stewardship of green space resources.

### NPS Role

Provide technical assistance, facilitation, and trail planning advice to gain consensus on trail usage and

connections, and to ensure appropriate and compatible connections to the four NPS battlefield parks.

## 8. Suffolk Water Trail

Project Partners: Nansemond River Preservation Alliance (NRPA), Suffolk River Heritage  
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski  
Location: Suffolk, VA  
Congressional District: VA - 4

### Project Goal

Development of a water trail network in Suffolk that increases access for non-motorized recreation, and generates awareness of the historical and environmental significance of the Nansemond River, Chuckatuck Creek, and tributary streams.

### NPS Role

Provide technical assistance with water trail planning including: assessment of water access sites, partnership development, and creation of a water trail map and guide.

*“RTCA has helped us develop a comprehensive vision for the Suffolk Water Trail, providing advice and mentoring that has led us through many agency labyrinths.”*

- John Wass, Nansemond River Preservation Alliance

## 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.