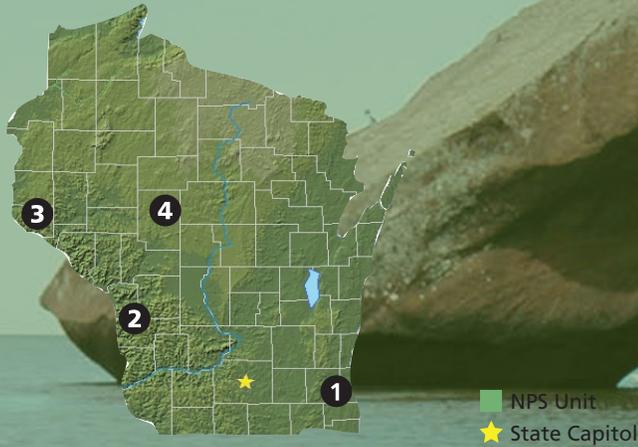




Wisconsin News



Kayaking Lake Superior Water Trail

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

1. Milwaukee Urban River Corridor Protection
Milwaukee River Work Group
2. Mississippi River Connections
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.
3. The Great Rivers Confluence
Friends of Freedom Park
4. Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Trail
River Country Resource Conservation & Development

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

Wisconsin's Lake Superior Water Trail

The official opening of the Wisconsin's Lake Superior Water Trail was announced the summer of 2009 along the shores of Wisconsin's Bayfield Peninsula. This long sought-after trail stretches the entire 400-mile length of Wisconsin's Lake Superior shoreline from Superior, Wisconsin, to the Montreal River at the Michigan border. The Wisconsin Water Trail also links with Minnesota's Lake Superior Water Trail which follows the shoreline to Canada.

The water trail committee consisted of tribal, Federal, regional, and state agencies and the Inland Sea Society and was coordinated by the RTCA Program. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore staff were part of the planning team. All public access sites were identified and ranked for appropriate use and inclusion in the trail; gaps in access were also identified. The trail emphasizes safe and legal access and camping sites while highlighting the need to steward the shore's abundant natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

"Thanks to the Rivers & Trails Program for your persistence in completing Wisconsin's Lake Superior Water Trail. It wouldn't have happened without you."

-Bill Smith, WI Department of Natural Resources

The detailed trail map and brochure is complemented by a web-based mapping portal at the Northwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. The portal includes an interactive map that takes the user to a photo, expanded map, and site description for each site. See <http://maps.nwrpc.com/coastal/lake-superior-water-trail>.

Current Projects

1. Milwaukee Urban River Corridor Protection

Project Partner: Milwaukee River Work Group

RTCA Contact: Angie Tornes

Location: Milwaukee

Congressional District(s): 4

Project Goal:

Create a master plan for river protection in a 3.9-mile segment of the Milwaukee River adjacent to downtown Milwaukee. Planning includes development of habitat restoration and a multi-use trail management plan. This project complements an existing effort to protect through city ordinance the river's viewshed and sensitive areas along the same stretch of river.

RTCA Role:

Ensure solid public involvement including workshops and open houses; assist the community in achieving riparian corridor and viewshed protection; assist in developing a corridor master plan to include management plans for recreation and habitat restoration as well as a framework for coordination management activities in the corridor

2. Mississippi River Connections

Project Partner: Mississippi River Trail, Inc.

RTCA Contacts: Diana Allen, Randy Thoreson



Milwaukee River in Fall

Location: Headwaters of Mississippi River in Minnesota to Gulf of Mexico, New Orleans

Congressional District(s): WI-3

Project Goal:

Through connections with 18 National Parks and Trails, build a collaborative partnership that highlights and enhances 3,000 miles of trail (land and water) and 30,000 acres of open space along the entire Mississippi River corridor.

RTCA Role:

Provide support and technical assistance to the Mississippi River Parks and Trails Collaboration. Through facilitation, research and coordination with 18 NPS Parks and Trails, the Mississippi River will be viewed as a valuable national

natural resource and recreational corridor. Facilitation will enhance local, state, regional, and national efforts to: 1) protect and preserve the Mississippi River and the Mississippi River Trail as a national landscape; 2) demonstrate the impact of partnership development by and between NPS superintendents and other public and private partners.

3. The Great Rivers Confluence

Project Partner: Friends of Freedom Park

RTCA Contact: Randy Thoreson

Location: Prescott, Pierce County, WI and Hastings, Dakota County, and Washington County, MN

Congressional District(s): MN -6; WI-3

Project Goal:

Through collaborative efforts, establish a multi-state partnerships for the planning and implementation of a 17-mile trail (land and water) connecting the communities of Prescott, WI and Hastings, MN (including Pierce County, WI and Dakota and Washington County, MN).

RTCA Role:

Assist partners in public involvement and outreach to landowners.



Trail users enjoying the Milwaukee River

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 cont.

4. Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Trail

Project Partner: River Country Resource Conservation & Development

RTCA Contact: Angie Tornes

Location: West Central Wisconsin

Congressional District(s): 3

Project Goal:

Develop a nine-mile non-motorized multi-purpose trail (hiking, biking, cross-country ski, snowshoe & horseback riding) linking Eau Galle Recreation Area (ACOE) with communities of Elmwood and Spring Valley and, eventually, to the St. Croix Wilderness Trail and the Red Cedar River Trail.

RTCA Role:

Provide technical assistance in partnership development, private land owner engagement, public involvement, alternative management options, and sources of funding for implementation.

“The Rivers & Trails Program was key in making this water trail a reality. Your program is an ideal example of how the federal government should work.”

- Charlie Ray, Inland Sea Society



Kayakers at the Fox River Locks