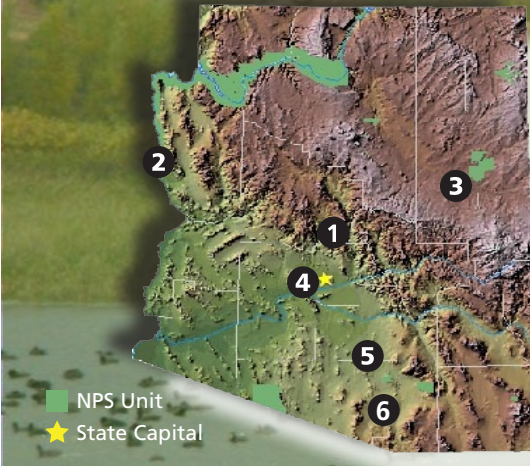




# Arizona News



A raft of ducks find refuge at Hidden Cove Park.

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. **Black Canyon Community Park**  
**Black Canyon City Community Association**
2. **Colorado River Nature Center**  
**Bullhead City**
3. **Hidden Cove Petroglyph & Ranch Ruins**  
**City of Holbrook**
4. **Monument Hill - Avondale Historic Preservation**  
**City of Avondale**
5. **Pinal Partnership Open Space Initiative**  
**Pinal Partnership**
6. **Tucson Groundwork Feasibility Study**  
**City of Tucson Community Development Services Department**

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

### Hidden Cove Petroglyph & Ranch Ruins

The City of Holbrook is a “Gateway Community” to Petrified Forest National Park. The park has cast a long shadow over Holbrook, which has been viewed largely as a service port for park visitors to lodge, get a meal, or refuel their vehicles. Community leaders believe they have a diamond in the rough to complement the National Park: “Petroglyph Park,” as it is called by the locals.

A 320-acre site on the western outskirts of the City, the park is geologically older than Petrified Forest and includes hundreds of petroglyphs, archeological artifacts, and remnants of a historical ranch, as well as several acres of open water, wetlands, and riparian habitat that serve as a paradise for a wide range of wildlife species. RTCA and representatives from the park are working with city officials and community members to develop a management plan for the park. During that process

continued on last page.

*“With the help of RTCA, we have addressed some immediate concerns, brought individuals from the community together, and got individuals excited about making this into something special for the City of Holbrook and others.”*

- Randall L. Sullivan Jr.,  
Financial Director, City of Holbrook

# Current Projects



Black Canyon Heritage Park's renovated visitors center.

*“With the assistance of RTCA, the Black Canyon Heritage Park project has active participation of eight agencies & organizations, has received over \$500,000 in grant funds, & the previously bare land is now being transformed into a beautiful desert riparian area.”*

- Bob Cothorn, President, Black Canyon City Community Association

## 1. Black Canyon Community Park

Project Partner: Black Canyon City Community Association  
RTCA Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Black Canyon City

### Project Goal

Restore and manage 26.5 acres of riparian habitat and 1.5 acres of aquatic habitat for wildlife and endangered Arizona native fish while designating 5 acres for visitor facilities.

### RTCA Role

Assist in identifying, seeking, and obtaining project funding. Work with other project partners in preparing for the April 2012 Grand Opening, preparing a phase one visitor experience and marketing plan, and participating in project meetings.

## 2. Colorado River Nature Center

Project Partner: Bullhead City  
RTCA Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Bullhead City

### Project Goal

Develop a 1.25-mile interpretive trail with the goal of having the trail selected to the State Trail System. Obtain additional funding to implement the approved trail system masterplan.

### RTCA Role

Assist in identifying and obtaining project funding. Work with project partners in implementing the proposed Backwater Nature Center Trail System to the State Trail System for eligibility for Heritage Grant funding. Facilitate a community-based trail planning process that addresses the needs and desires of the community and constraints of the land managers.

### Project Goal

Preserve, protect, and promote ancient petroglyphs historic ranch features and riparian habitat located on City property as a tourist attraction off Historic Route 66.

### RTCA Role

Assist the City of Holbrook in building a coalition of partners and facilitating a community-based park planning process to achieve their vision for a Petroglyph and Ranch Ruin Park and identify funding sources for park implementation.

## 3. Hidden Cove Petroglyph and Ranch Ruins

Project Partner: City of Holbrook  
RTCA Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Holbrook



Ceremonial “Trail Clearing” Substitutes for “Ribbon Cutting” at Casa Grande.

# Current Projects cont.

## 4. Monument Hill - Avondale Historic Preservation

Project Partner: City of Avondale  
RTCA Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Avondale

### Project Goal

Construct a 0.5-mile trail from the base to the top of Monument Hill. This site is on the National Register of Historic Places.

### RTCA Role

Facilitate an ongoing planning process involving multiple entities with the goal of implementing the proposed Monument Trail by Autumn 2012. Identify and pursue potential funding sources.

## 5. Pinal Partnership Open Space Initiative

Project Partner: Pinal Partnership  
RTCA Contact: Cate Bradley  
Location: Pinal County is a rural county located between the metropolitan areas of Tucson and Phoenix

### Project Goal

To identify potential open space projects throughout the County and prioritize them to plan for implementation projects.

### RTCA Role

To assist the Open Space Committee with a strategic planning process to reach their goals of project prioritization.

## 6. Tucson Groundwork Feasibility Study

Project Partner: City of Tucson  
Community Development Services Department  
RTCA Contact: Cate Bradley  
Location: City of Tucson, City of South Tucson and Pima County

### Project Goal

To engage in discussions with local jurisdictions, community organizations and non-profits and neighborhood residents to determine the need for and potential projects of a newly formed Groundwork Trust in the greater Tucson area. Results of the Feasibility Study will include strong partnership agreements

with clear roles and a defined plan of prioritized trails, greenways, open space and public parks projects including potential funding sources and active youth involvement.

### RTCA Role

To assist the greater Tucson area participants in the Groundwork Feasibility Study to conduct an inclusive and thorough discussion and planning process resulting in a clear plan for future actions.



Mountain Bikers and Hikers Share the Trail at Casa Grande.

*“RTCA assistance continues to help us coordinate our efforts with private, state, and tribal entities.”*

-Janeen K. Gaskins, Grants Administrator,  
City of Avondale

## We're Here For You.

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

### Cate Bradley

520.791.6472

cate\_bradley@nps.gov

### Joe Winfield

520.791.6471

joe\_winfield@nps.gov

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

## Recent Successes cont.

some early tangible successes have resulted, such as the fabrication of an entry gate that will control access until a management plan is adopted, the refurbishment of existing shade shelters and tables, and the rehabilitation of an abandoned tree nursery to provide a shaded picnic area. Perhaps the most impressive success to date is the approximately 150 hours spent by volunteers recording the ancient petroglyphs. These records will serve as an important preservation and research tool to monitor environmental and vandal degradation.

### Casa Grande Mountain Park


Folks from Casa Grande and surrounding communities gathered on November 19, 2011 to celebrate the grand opening of Casa Grande Mountain Park's Trail System. Planning assistance from RTCA began in 2005 and finished in 2008. This project's protracted planning process was partly the result of checkerboard landownership that included private, state, and federal properties. In addition to taking time to work with the various landowners, the planners dealt with various adjacent land uses, such as a shooting range, a trap and skeet club, and an active National Guard training facility.

The planners of the Casa Grande Mountain Park trails were comprised of a citizen advisory group, the City of Casa Grande, and major landowners. Through inclusive discussions, a preferred trail system alternative emerged that featured four trailheads and a series of looped trails of varying difficulties and lengths (the longest trail is 4.86 miles one way).

Once the proposal was approved, the City began to aggressively implement the plan. Casa Grande put young people to work by hiring organizations such as Americorps and dedicated volunteers to build the trail. At the time of the groundbreaking, approximately 12.3 miles of trail were ready for hiking and mountain biking. The City of Casa Grande also took advantage of the Recreation & Public Purposes Act by acquiring 80 acres of Bureau of Land Management property, which enlarged the park to about 1,025 acres of public recreational space.



Youth and adults clear an area in order to install a new picnic table.



EXPERIENCE YOUR-AMERICA™  
[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)