



2012 Alaska News



Watch the Goldstream Valley community at work at: <http://vimeo.com/27248517>

2011 Nationwide 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
- 100% Alaska 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 provide technical assistance to community groups, nonprofits, Native organizations, 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 communities initiate.

Recent Success

Goldstream Valley Lions Club Pump Park

Kids (and adults) in Goldstream Valley, Alaska, now have their very own bike pump park and skills course, with bumps, berms, jumps, and varied wooden structures to teach them how to balance, break, jump, and take corners. These technical features give everyone the opportunity to learn bike and safety skills, improve physical activity levels and develop the confidence to get out and enjoy local mountain biking trails.

The pump park and skills course resulted from a 2-year partnership between the Goldstream Valley Lions Club, RTCA, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department. In July, the Lions Club hosted a 3-day workshop, led by Ben Blich of Alpine Trails (www.alpine-trails.com) to provide hands-on education about designing and building pump parks. Over 70 people participated and the community donated over \$54,000 of in-kind services, labor, equipment, and materials to match a \$15,000 Alaska Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant.

RTCA helped draft the Alaska RTP grant, provided ideas for park features, identified possible pump park design and build experts to lead the workshop, and joined everyone else to shovel and pound dirt.

A favorite RTCA quote from the pump park weekend: "There sure will be some TVs and Nintendos sitting at home alone and crying."

Current Projects

1. Kachemak Bay Water Trail

Homer, Alaska

Partners: Alaska State Parks, Cook Inlet Keeper, Dave Brann, Homer Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center, Homer Soil & Water Conservation District, Homer Wilderness Leadership, NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab

RTCA Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice

Project Goal: Develop a water trail from Homer, to the head of Kachemak Bay, south to Seldovia. This 125mile water trail will identify and market access points, landing sites, and associated facilities to enhance the public's recreational and educational experiences along the marine ecosystem.

RTCA Role: Help partners develop a vision and strategic plan for the trail; identify potential funding sources; work with and help expand the network of partners and stakeholders; conduct community outreach to solicit additional support for the trail; and help evaluate the water trail location and facilities.



Kayakers get ready to start paddling on Kachemak Bay, Alaska

2. Palmer Bike Park

Palmer, Alaska

Partners: Ptarmigan Ptrails, Blue Mountain Wellness Center, Backcountry Bikes, Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers

RTCA Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice

Project Goal: Build a bike park to give kids and adults a safe and fun way to gain confidence and skills to get out and enjoy local mountain biking trails. The pump park will fulfill multiple mission goals of the city's community and economic development plan and the current recreation plan in the works.

RTCA Role: Help develop and expand partnerships; help evaluate bike park sites; conduct community outreach; and identify potential funding sources.

3. Skagway Pullen Creek StreamWalk

Skagway, Alaska

Partners: Taiya Inlet Watershed Council, the Municipality of Skagway, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office in Juneau, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park

RTCA Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice



Walkers enjoy the view of Pullen Creek in Skagway, Alaska

Current Projects cont.

Project Goal: Create the Pullen Creek StreamWalk, a contiguous walking path with interpretive signs that ties together the historical and natural history points between Pullen Pond and the City Museum via the Pullen Creek corridor. This half-mile trail will help restore and protect riparian and fish habitat by properly guiding pedestrian traffic near the stream and teaching Skagway residents and visitors about salmon habitat and the local watershed.

RTCA Role: Help identify funding sources; brainstorm grant application content and budgets; review draft grant applications; and walk through associated compliance requirements.

4. Sitka NHP River View and Forest Walk Trails

Sitka, Alaska

Partners: Sitka National Historical Park, the City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka Trail Works, U.S. Forest Service, the Alaska Raptor Center

RTCA Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice

Project Goal: Create sustainably designed River View and Forest Walk Trails on the northwest side of Sitka National Historical Park. The trails respond to the community's desire for more "in town" recreation and help the park protect natural and cultural resources.

RTCA Role: Assist with review, design and implementation of a park trail plan, including providing expertise on sustainable trail design and construction techniques and identifying potential funding sources.

“RTCA has been such an excellent resource during this whole process! You are better than a walking/talking instant display set of Encyclopedias on Trails...I just want to emphasize my appreciation of your resourcefulness and assistance to us. Nothing short of Awesome!”

Nina Davidson

Willow Health Organization

WACO Summer Trails Subcommittee



RTCA facilitates a community trails meeting in Willow, Alaska



Youth are fully engaged in building a bicycle pump park in Goldstream Valley, Alaska

We're Here For You!

Do you have an outdoor recreation or conservation idea for your community? Just ask; we can help! RTCA can walk you through the project step by step. We count on the drive, commitment, and enthusiasm of community members to carry out the project.

Contact us to find out more:

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Communities Can Grow... From A Seed Of An Idea

The premise is simple. Like-minded citizens bring their ideas to an RTCA professional who provides guidance to make projects happen.



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PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

