



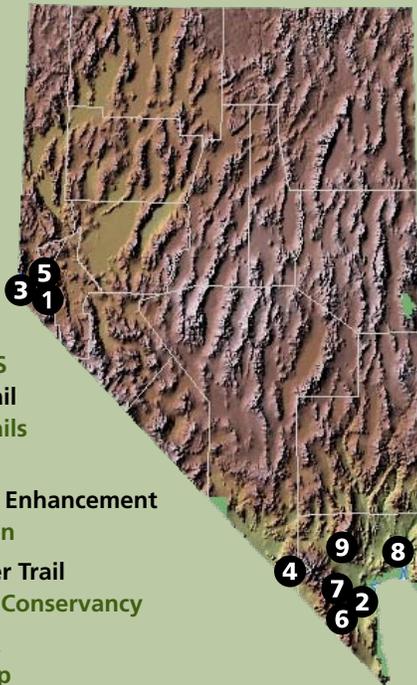
Nevada News



Bill Laub, Advisory Council, enjoys the River Mountains Loop Trail.
Photo: NPS, Lake Mead National Recreation Area

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Carson Valley Trail**
Carson Valley Trails Association
- 2. Henderson Trails Enhancement**
City of Henderson
- 3. Lake Tahoe Water Trail**
California Tahoe Conservancy
- 4. Last Chance Park**
Town of Pahrump
- 5. Silver Saddle Ranch Conservation**
Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch
- 6. Southern Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights**
Public Lands Institute, UNLV
- 7. Spring Valley Trails**
Southwest Action Network (SWAN)
- 8. Valley of Fire State Park Recreation**
State of Nevada
- 9. Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP)**
SNAP Interagency Recreation and OHV Team

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

River Mountains Loop Trail Nears Completion

During the late 1990s, RTCA collaboratively led community members and public and private agencies in developing a shared vision for the 35 mile River Mountains Loop Trail that surrounds the River Mountains connecting Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Hoover Dam, Henderson, Boulder City and the Las Vegas Valley. RTCA also facilitated the establishment of the River Mountains Loop Trail Advisory Council, a community partnership that has continued to serve as the primary project coordinator and advocate for completing the River Mountains Loop Trail for nearly 15 years. This successful partnership developed a Trail Planning, Development and Management Guide, which has served as a blueprint for trail completion.

Approximately 32.5 miles of trail have been built and the remaining 2.5 miles are expected to be completed by late summer 2010. Four trailheads have been completed and amenities such as interpretive signs, kiosks and benches have been installed at some locations. The project has received over \$10 million in grants from multiple sources including monies from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), the Recreational Trails Program (Rec Trails) and the Transportation

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.

Current Projects

1. Carson Valley Trail

Project Partner: Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA)

RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Douglas County

Project Goal

The Carson Valley Trail is envisioned to be a loop trail that will traverse the foothills around the Carson Valley. This regional trail crosses Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service and potentially private lands and includes connections to the Pony Express National Historic Trail and the Tahoe Rim Trails. The CVTA, in partnership with Douglas County and other partners, are working to implement the loop trail. In order to connect existing and planned segments for a continuous trail, investigating opportunities for trails on private lands is a critical next step.

RTCA Role

RTCA will facilitate meetings with landowners in order to identify trail opportunities, issues and solutions for connecting segments of the Carson Valley Trail.

2. Henderson Trails Enhancement

Project Partner: City of Henderson

RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

Location: City of Henderson

Project Goal

This effort seeks to create an interpretive plan for five major developing trail corridors in the City of Henderson which has one of the safest and best connected trails systems in the Las Vegas Valley for recreation and transportation in both the protected desert and built environments.

RTCA Role

RTCA's role is to facilitate the completion of a sign plan for wayfinding and interpretive themes in collaboration with partners including the Parks and Recreation Board, River Mountains



Youth volunteers build portions of the Jobs Peak Trail, which is part of the planned 100 mile Carson Valley Trail. Photo: Carson Valley Trail Association

Loop Trail Partnership and the Outside Las Vegas Foundation.

3. Lake Tahoe Water Trail

Project Partner: California Tahoe Conservancy

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Location: Lake Tahoe Basin in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of CA & NV

Project Goal

Kayaking on Lake Tahoe, jewel of the Sierra known for its outstanding natural and recreational resources, is growing. Public agencies in the Lake Tahoe Basin have come together to address management challenges in support of sustainable recreation in this fragile alpine ecosystem.

RTCA Role

RTCA is assisting a collaborative team of agencies, groups, and community stakeholders and supporting broader community engagement to further shared management stewardship, and interpretation.

4. Last Chance Park

Project Partner: Town of Pahrump

RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: BLM lands northwest of Pahrump

Project Goal

The Last Chance mountain range is a rugged landscape that provides open space, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Residents have identified a need to encourage one access point to the Last Chance Range and provide recreation through a 10-acre park. The Town of Pahrump is working to protect the park land, managed by the BLM, through a Recreation and Public Purpose lease.

RTCA Role

RTCA, in partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects (Nevada Chapter), develop a conceptual plan for Last Chance Park through community engagement and a design workshop.

5. Silver Saddle Ranch Conservation

Project Partner: Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch

RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Eastern area of Carson City

Project Goal

During 2008, the community developed a vision for SSR and adjoining open spaces through a collaborative design charrette. Additionally, the Car-

Current Projects

son City Vital Community Act protected 3,500 acres of SSR and the Carson River through a conservation easement. In order to support management of the land and develop future recreation and educational facilities, building the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch organization is needed.

RTCA Role

Support Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch strategic planning workshops, completed in collaboration with the Sierra Business Council, Carson City and community partners.

6. Southern Nevada: Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Project Partner: Public Lands Institute, UNLV

RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Clark County

Project Goal

The Bill of Rights will serve as a shared community vision for connecting children to nature. A partnership will be developed for implementation, which will include identifying opportunities to protect and enhance open space, increase natural play spaces and develop trails.

RTCA Role

RTCA will facilitate the development of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights through youth and community workshops and build a partnership of federal and local agencies, health and youth partners, educators and community groups for implementation.

7. Spring Valley Trails

Project Partner: Southwest Action Network (SWAN)

RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Clark County, Town of Spring Valley

Project Goal

The Southwest Action Network identified a need for an open space and

trails system in the Spring Valley area that will enhance existing and planned recreational facilities. The project area includes a 500-acre neighborhood that contains approximately 155 acres of County-owned open land, which may present an opportunity for trail development and open space protection. In order to pursue designation of these lands for trail and/or open space uses, a feasibility study and conceptual plan is needed.

RTCA Role

RTCA will facilitate a collaborative planning process in order to develop a conceptual trail plan and support plan adoption and execution of the action plan, including identifying grants and other resources for project completion.

8. Valley of Fire State Park Recreation

Project Partner: State of Nevada

RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Valley of Fire State Park

Project Goal

Valley of Fire State Park is Nevada's oldest and largest State Park and includes red sandstone formations, historic structures, petroglyphs, endangered species and historic trails. The Park's size has been expanded and trails have been developed in adjacent

communities, such as the Logandale trails, that were not considered in the current Plan. A Plan update is needed in order to identify outdoor recreation needs, designate and close trails, and protect sensitive resource areas.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist with public workshops and other strategic engagement related to the Valley of Fire State Park Management Plan update and implementation.

9. Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP)

Project Partner: SNAP Interagency Recreation and OHV Team

RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Southern Nevada region

RTCA staff in Nevada is partially supported through a partnership with the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP). As part of this collaboration, RTCA staff serves as Project Manager for the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) Interagency Recreation and OHV Team. In this capacity, RTCA supports completion of the Interagency Recreation Strategy and Interagency OHV Strategy projects and facilitates team development.



The Last Chance Park design team evaluates possible trailhead sites during a field trip. Photo: NPS, RTCA

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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Recent Successes cont.



River Mountains Loop Trail Advisory Council members and elected officials participate in a trail ribbon-cutting ceremony. Photo: NPS, Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Equity Act (ISTEA and TEA-21). Local partners including the Southern Nevada Water Authority, Regional Flood Control District, Boulder City, Lake Las Vegas, National Park Service and Basic Management Inc. have constructed trails or designated existing trails to complete critical connections.

In addition to facilitating trail completion, the Advisory Council has also been successful in receiving local and national recognition. The Advisory Council was named the “Conservation Group of 2001” by the Nevada Chapter of the National Wildlife Federation. The White House Millennium Council designated the River Mountains Loop Trail as a “Millennium Community”.

“The River Mountains Loop Trail would not have been the success it is without the guidance and leadership that RTCA brought to the organizational process. The facilitation skills were key to developing such a diverse group of stakeholders into a dedicated support group for this long term trail project.”

John Holman,
River Mountains Loop Trail Partnership

The trail has greatly expanded opportunities for close-to-home recreation for area residents and has attracted visitors that utilize the trail for special events, such as the local marathons, the Silverman and Ironman. The partnership also has leveraged greater community support and commitment for trails in the Las Vegas Valley. For example, the group initiated Trail Watch, a volunteer program that has been piloted by the City of Henderson and may be expanded across the region. The Advisory Council also sponsors trail clean-ups and actively participates in regional planning efforts, which has resulted in the trail being con-

nected to several regional and local trails and parks.

For more information about the River Mountains Loop Trail, access the project website and blog at rivermountainstrail.com.