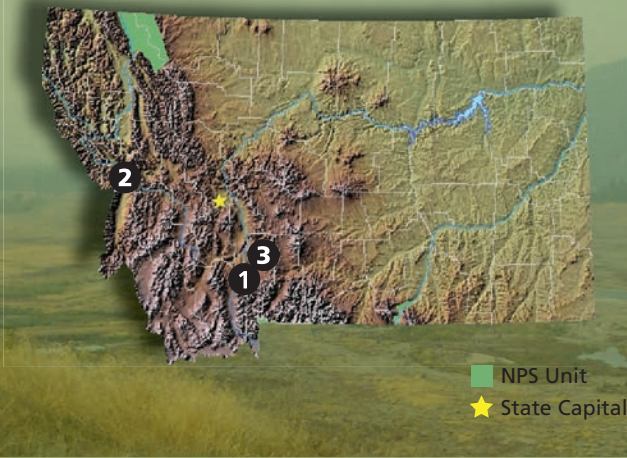




Montana News



Milltown Reservoir restored. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Bozeman Creek Enhancement
City of Bozeman
2. Fort Missoula Regional Park
City of Missoula
3. East Gallatin Recreation Area
Rio Grande Institute

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

Major milestone reached at Milltown Superfund Site

In September 2012, the State of Montana, EPA, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Missoula County, National Park Service and many other stakeholders celebrated the successful conclusion of the final stage of remediation and restoration work at the former Milltown Dam site. The EPA-led Superfund site remediation and the state-led river and floodplain restoration had a combined price tag of over \$110 million.

“RTCA is an invaluable asset for community groups with limited resources but grand ideas.”

- Michael Kustudia, Milltown Superfund Redevelopment Working Group

Superfund site cleanup began in 2006. The Clark Fork River was temporarily re-routed to drain the reservoir, and two million cubic yards of toxic sediment was removed from the Clark Fork floodplain and confluence with the Blackfoot River. Milltown dam was removed in 2009, and the Clark Fork channel was reconstructed in a meandering pattern and reconnected with its historic floodplain. Now, for the first time in a century, a free flowing river system will naturally adjust its course across the valley over time.

Throughout this process, RTCA worked closely with the Milltown Superfund Site Redevelopment Working Group to ensure that restoration accommodated local interests and to create a redevelopment plan for the area. The redevelopment plan was generated at a multi-day design charrette led by RTCA in 2008,

Current Projects

1. Bozeman Creek Enhancement

Project Partner: City of Bozeman
NPS Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: City of Bozeman

Project Goal

Improve the value of Bozeman Creek as a community asset by restoring natural processes, improving water quality and public access, and fostering stewardship.

NPS Role

Facilitate the development and implementation of a long-term enhancement plan for the creek, while working to identify and implement priority early-action projects.



Bozeman Creek. Photo: NPS

2. Fort Missoula Regional Park

Project Partner: City of Missoula
NPS Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: City of Missoula

Project Goal

Create a 246-acre regional park at historic Fort Missoula with sports fields, open space, trails, fishing ponds, a cultural heritage center, and access to the Bitterroot River.

NPS Role

Facilitate interagency collaboration, assist with development of pilot and demonstration projects, and identify sources of technical and financial assistance.



Bozeman Creek Cleanup. Photo: NPS

3. East Gallatin Recreation Area

Project Partner: Gallatin Valley Land Trust
NPS Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: City of Bozeman

Project Goal

Rehabilitation/restoration of 1/4 mile of streamfront along an abandoned landfill, with recreation improvements such as trails, access to the East Gallatin River, and park amenities.

NPS Role

Enlist appropriate project partners, establish and lead a planning process, provide input on stream restoration best practices and establishment of water trails, and assist with fundraising.

Recent Successes

Fort Missoula Regional Park project kicks off with trail dedication

The official kickoff of the \$20 million Fort Missoula Regional Park project was celebrated on National Public Lands Day 2012, in Missoula Montana. Representatives were on hand from the Department of Interior, Forest Service, Missoula County, City of Missoula, Montana Conservation Corps, Senator Jon Tester and the National Park Service. Fort Missoula was a regional center for CCC operations in the 1930s and 1940s. Volunteers put the finishing touches on a new half-mile loop trail and constructed an interpretive kiosk and twelve picnic tables, using a traditional Civilian Conservation Corps design. Nine members of the original CCC attended to help celebrate alongside new MCC recruits.

Fort Missoula Regional Park is one of Montana's two America's Great Outdoors signature projects. RTCA is assisting with planning, interagency cooperation and partnership-building, development of pilot/demonstration projects, project promotion and fundraising. When completed, the Fort Missoula Regional Park will provide the community with facilities for outdoor sporting events, create a cultural-heritage center, preserve open views and wildlife habitat, enhance wetlands and riparian vegetation, provide a base of operations for the Montana Conservation Corps, and serve as an environmental education center for youth activity outdoors on 246 acres of public parkland. Several miles of trails, over 100 acres of natural area, fishing ponds, access to the Bitterroot River, and connectivity to a public transportation system will all attract tourists to the area and bolster the local economy.

“RTCA was critical in facilitating and coaching our local staff, Federal Agencies and Friends groups in finding the resources and partnerships to make a very special National Public Lands Day a huge success at Fort Missoula Regional Park.”

- Donna Gaukler, Director Missoula Parks and Recreation

Fort Belknap expands trail network

With design assistance from RTCA, and with the Montana Conservation Corps as a partner, the Fort Belknap Indian Community constructed more backcountry trail during the summer of 2012. The new Kid Curry Trail follows an alignment from the Mission Canyon Road, one of the area's primary recreational access roads, to a large cave high in the adjacent limestone cliffs (see the area pictured at right, Photo: NPS). Legend has it that Kid Curry, the Sundance Kid and the Wild Bunch took shelter in this cave as they passed through the area. RTCA laid out the alignment for this trail, which is situated between two other recently constructed Mission Canyon trails. RTCA also assisted the tribes in developing a trails plan and brochure which envisioned these three trails and others to come.



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

70,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

resulting in adoption by the Missoula County Commission of the Milltown/Two Rivers Park Conceptual Design Plan. In the ensuing years, the State of Montana has purchased the former reservoir lands, created Milltown State Park, hired a manager, and is now actively implementing the community's conceptual design plan.

Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan adopted

In July 2012, the Bozeman City Commission formally adopted, as policy, the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan. RTCA led a diverse group of community partners - the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Committee (BCEC) - in developing this plan, which was closely informed by substantial public comment.

Under RTCA guidance, the BCEC made great progress over the past two years towards the overall goal of improving Bozeman Creek as a community asset. While developing the creek enhancement plan, the BCEC also identified, raised funds for, and completed work on several high-priority early-action projects:

- A 30% design was developed for an enhancement project at Bogert Park to improve the creek's ecology and community value;
- Concrete bank armor was removed, slopes were re-graded, and bioengineering installed to stabilize the creek banks of two neighboring landowners;
- An hydraulic model was developed to assist with planning, design and permitting for projects in the highly-degraded one-mile creek reach through the downtown business district, and;
- Conceptual plans were developed, in tandem with City partners, to rebuild a downtown creekside parking lot to improve the creek environment, treat on-site stormwater, and bring parking up to code.

“With the help of the NPS RTCA Program, we are much better prepared to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity.”

- Peter Nielsen, Missoula City-County Health Department.



CCC Alumni with Montana Conservation Corps Members. Photo: NPS