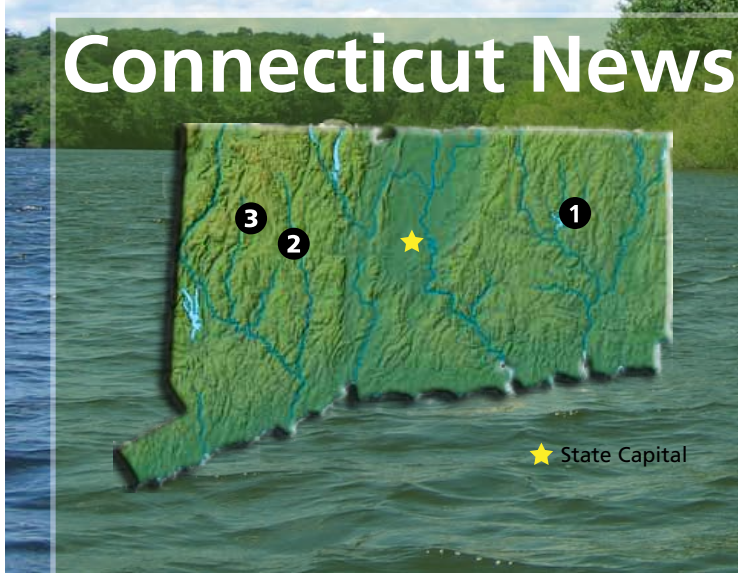




# Connecticut News



## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Last Green Valley Water Trails  
Last Green Valley, Inc.
2. Naugatuck River Greenway  
Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
3. Litchfield Community Greenway  
Litchfield Community Greenway Committee

Find out more about each project 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 provide 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.

Paddlers enjoy having a different perspective of the water. NPS Photos.

## Recent Successes

### Naugatuck River Greenway: Thomaston

Town of Thomaston

Ten years ago, RTCA staff helped Beacon Falls, CT to create a waterfront park, an early step toward an envisioned 4-mile greenway

*“I’ve watched RTCA staff help volunteers, municipal officials and state colleagues to get organized and back on track. NPS experience and ideas help stalled projects become realities.”*

- Laurie Giannotti

CT DEP Recreational Trails & Greenways Program

through this steep and industrial valley. Momentum has grown steadily as other towns installed riverfront trails.

In 2008, upriver in Thomaston, RTCA staff and volunteers worked with townspeople in a greenway trail workshop to produce a list of implementation projects.

In 2009, Trail Committee volunteers created a one-mile loop to celebrate historic architecture and the role of clock-maker Seth Thomas.

A colorful brochure and map provides vignettes about people and places while clock faces stenciled on the sidewalks mark the route. Next, volunteers hope to connect the downtown loop to the recreational area of a Corps of Engineers dam upstream.

## We're Here For You.

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



**John Monroe**  
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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](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects

## 1. Last Green Valley Water Trails

Location: Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, CT and adjacent towns in Massachusetts.  
Congressional Districts: CT -2, MA-2  
Project Partner: Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, incorporated as The Last Green Valley, Inc.  
NPS Contact: John Monroe

### Project Goal

Create a network of water trails in the upper Thames Basin. Gain National Recreation Trail designations for segments on the Quinebaug and the Willimantic Rivers, with provisional Paddle Guides for each.

## 2. Litchfield Community Greenway Trail

Location: Town of Litchfield, CT  
Congressional District: 5  
Project Partner: Litchfield Community Greenway Committee  
NPS Contact: John Monroe

### Project Goal

Establish a five-mile-long greenway trail as the spine of a town-wide recreational trail network for pedestrians and cyclists. For 2010, create one initial trail segment and summarize existing conditions and desired trail features in a work plan and on a vision map.

## 3. Upper Housatonic Valley Trails

Location: Communities within Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area  
Congressional District: 5  
Project Partner: Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area  
NPS Contact: Steve Golden

### Project Goal

Establish a regional network of trails with the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.



## Last Green Valley Water Trails

The Last Green Valley, Inc.

For ten years, the Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers Heritage Corridor (known as The Last Green Valley, Inc.) has mobilized citizens, businesses and public officials to promote locally grown products, create a regional identity and showcase cultural resources. In 2009, two months of Source to Sea events turned attention to the health and recreational potential of the rivers themselves.

While Last Green Valley staff organized more than 100 events, Rivers & Trails staff compiled provisional Paddle Guides for three new water trail segments and one already created by the Corps of Engineers at East Brimfield Lake. A Steering Committee of volunteers will continue to develop the inaugural segments into a water trail network for the Thames River Basin, promoting fun, safety and erosion control.