



# Delaware News



Trail runners young and old enjoy being outside. Photo: DNREC  
Division of Parks and Recreation

*“RTCA has helped bring greater visibility for the resources. Residents are excited by the prospect of cleaner water that will support ecotourism, such as boat trips from the internationally renowned horseshoe crab research center at the river’s mouth to Milford’s riverwalk and historic district.”*

- Bill Pike, Arborist

City of Milford Parks and Recreation Department

## 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.

## Recent Successes

### Mispillion River Conservation Strategy

Delaware Department of Natural Resources  
and Environmental Control

In 2006, the Mispillion River was targeted for nutrient and bacteria reductions by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). RTCA and the City of Milford encouraged DNREC in late 2008 to help with ecotourism by focusing on the river’s water quality. The resulting strategy will protect and ultimately develop an ecotourism plan for eleven miles of scenic river along an agricultural corridor in between the DuPont Nature Observation Center at the river’s mouth and the Milford Historic District. DNREC partnered with the City to create a citizen’s Tributary Action Team (TAT) for the Mispillion Watershed. The TAT, with RTCA as a technical resource, is developing formal recommendations on ways to improve water quality within the watershed. Almost \$5 million dollars so far has been raised in state and federal funding to build trails, bridges, and river access sites.

### Northern Delaware Heritage Network

East Coast Greenway Delaware

During the Revolutionary War, generals George Washington and Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, marched from Rhode Island to Virginia, and on their way went through 26 miles of Delaware. Their path, known as the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, was recently designated a National Historic Trail and also part of the East Coast Greenway.

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



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## Recent Successes cont.

The parks and historic sites along the Delaware corridor of the Route are connected by the Northern Delaware Heritage Network. Working with RTCA, the Northern Delaware Heritage Coalition (NDHC) recently finalized a plan for marketing, interpreting and conserving cultural, recreational and natural resources within northern New Castle County. The plan divides the county north of the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal into five “discovery areas” and proposes a marketing effort to increase public awareness about attractions. NDHC envisions a network of driving, walking, bicycling and public transit routes to link the sites.

*“Our partnership with the National Park Service has been rewarding. Indeed, significant progress on this multi-faceted project has been possible, primarily as a result of the excellent leadership and dedication of Julie Bell.”*

- Jim Smith, Assistant Land Use Department Manager  
New Castle County Land Use Department



Paddlers enjoy getting out on the water with their families and friends.  
Photo: Milford Parks and Recreation Department