

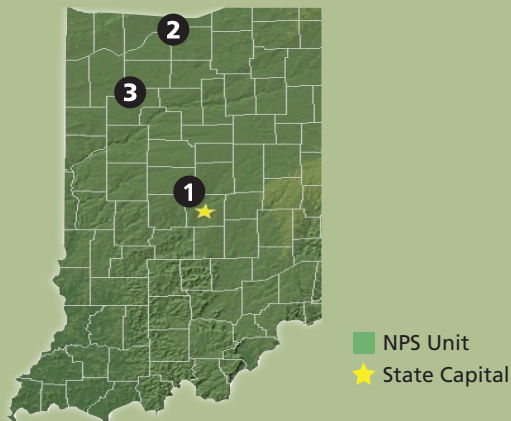


# Indiana News



Wilderness Inquiry youth paddling event! Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Greening the Crossroads: Central Indiana**  
**Central Indiana Land Trust**
- 2. Lake Michigan Trails Organizational Development**  
**Lake Michigan Water Trail Association**
- 3. Rensselaer/Jasper County Trails System**  
**Jasper County Economic Development Organization**

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 Success

### Northwest Indiana Partners provide paddling adventures for youth!

Two programs supported by the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA) were a huge success giving local youth the opportunity to get outdoors and to experience water recreation related to kayaking and canoeing.

The first event, done in conjunction with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Parkkids program involved hosting two dozen teens, between the ages of 13 and 17, from a variety of Northwest Indiana cities. Instruction on kayaking basics was given during two indoor hands-on pool sessions in preparation for a June week-long camping and paddling outing.

The second event engaged partners from the La Porte County Soil and Water Conservation District, NWIPA, Urban Waters Program, EPA, Michigan City Sanitary District, Trail Creek Watershed Committee, Save the Dunes and the National Park Service. Over 500 local students arrived at Washington Park in Michigan City this past summer to paddle a fleet of six 24-foot Voyageur Canoes along Trail Creek and to be engaged in other educational activities that enhanced their knowledge of the environment related to our water resources and local natural history

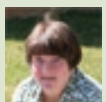
Grants were secured for each project that required matching funds to be raised. For the Park Kids event a \$2,500 grant from American Rivers provided funds for equipment and safety materials. The Wilderness Inquiry Canoemobile was made possible by partners collaboration on a IDNR Coastal Program Grant that has helped make this educational program possible.

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



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# Current Projects

## 1. Greening the Crossroads: Green Infrastructure

Project Partner: Central Indiana Land Trust

RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: Greater Indianapolis area

Congressional Districts: IN - 4, 5, 6, 7

### Project Goal

Completion of three projects: the White Lick Creek greenway project, 15 miles of trail; the Brandywine Greenway/Riparian Restoration Project, 30 miles of trail; and the White River Blueway, a water trail and riparian project, about 19 miles of trail. These projects will define a replicable process that can be used within the Greening the Crossroads plan.

### NPS Role

Work with the Central Indiana Land Trust and local stakeholders to complete three specific projects that will serve as a template for future implementation of the Greening the Crossroads Plan developed by the Central Indiana Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy. Define strategies and approaches for implementation of the Greening the Crossroads Plan. Define strategies and approaches for implementation of the Greening the Crossroads Plan.

## 2 Lake Michigan Trails Organizational Development

Project Partner: Lake Michigan Water Trail Association

RTCA Contact: Diane Banta

Location: IL, IN, MI, WI

Congressional Districts: IN - 1, 2

### Project Goal

Build a partnership organization to work on the Lake Michigan Trails which will provide access to Lake Michigan in four states through planning three recreation travel modes while marketing the trail for increased tourism and economic development opportunities.

### NPS Role

Convene quad state organizations, local governments, and state governments to set vision, mission, goals, and outcomes leading to the development of land and water trails, US Bike Routes and enhancing the Lake Michigan Circle Route.

## 3. Rensselaer/Jasper County Trails System

Project Partner: Jasper County

Economic Development Organization

RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: Rensselaer & Jasper Counties

Congressional District: IN - 4

### Project Goal

Create connectivity to local attractions and amenities, to create connections throughout the entire city of Rensselaer, enabling a more pedestrian friendly city; one with less dependence on vehicular travel. A new focus is being placed on the Iroquois River as a spine for the trail system connecting the downtown to outer areas of the city and county.

### NPS Role

Help the community and county develop a county-wide connectivity plan with strategies for implementation. RTCA will define and facilitate public outreach, work with city, county, and other primary stakeholders including Saint Joseph's College, Jasper County Hospital, private industry (Donalson's, Con Agra), local businesses, and community members.



Department of Interior Secretary, Ken Salazar visits with partners at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Photo: NPS