



Hawai'i News



New Trails at Kalama Park open up access for all to enjoy South Maui's coast.
Photo: Diane Norman

Recent Successes

New Trails at Kalama Park Provide Safe, Healthy Recreation Opportunities for All Users

South Maui has a new trail that is teeming with activity. People young and old can be seen walking, playing, and enjoying their beautiful surroundings. The new trail traverses through the 37-acre Kalama Park and provides a new safe area for people to recre-

“RTCA was instrumental in bringing together all the pieces needed to make this project a success...and turn...vision into reality.”

- Patience Gaia,
Project Partner

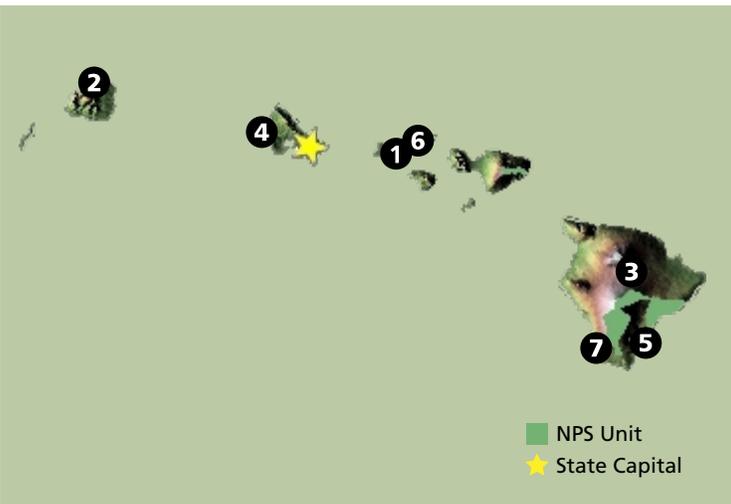
An area that was once feeding a growing problem of crime in the community, Kalama Park is now a safe place for people of all ages to play, congregate, and enjoy the natural surroundings. Improvements to Kalama Park were also seen as key to developing the South Maui Coastal Heritage Trail. The County of Maui Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Recreation) applied for RTCA assistance to create a conceptual plan for the park.

To enable the project to move forward, RTCA staff Helen Felsing

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.

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PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Ala Pala`au Trails
Ke Aupuni Lokahi., Inc
2. Hanalei River Stewardship
Hanalei Watershed Hui
3. Hawai'i Island Trails & Railway
PATH - Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawai'i
4. Ka`ena Point Restoration & Recreation
Friends of Ka`ena
5. Ka`u Gateway Community
County of Hawai'i Planning Department
6. Mānā Plain Wetland Conservation
State DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
7. Piko - Caretaker's Cottage & Trails
Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Current Projects

1. Ala Pala`au Trails

Project Partner: Ke Aupuni Lokahi., Inc
RTCA Contact: Meredith Speicher
Location Moloka`i

Project Goal

The project will result in the restoration of native forest habitat and rare species, interpretation of these resources, and restoration of historic trails to improve access and views of Kalau-papa. The project will also include a natural resource management and restoration training program for youth and residents that will build local capacity for stewardship of the natural, cultural, and historic resources.

RTCA Role

RTCA will provide assistance with developing partnerships and appropriate project ideas for volunteers and community groups, developing educational information about the project for place based learning, supporting facilitation of ongoing community involvement in trail planning, GIS assistance, and identifying funding opportunities.

2. Hanalei River Stewardship

Project Partner: Hanalei Watershed Hui
RTCA Contact: Meredith Speicher
Location: Kauai

Project Goal

The Hanalei River Stewardship project will engage river users and appropriate constituents in planning for enhanced recreational use of sensitive habitat and support stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of the Hanalei River. The Hanalei River system is one of the longest streams in Hawai`i running through habitats from summit bogs of Waialeale to the coral reefs in Hanalei Bay. It is a popular site for kayakers, visitors, and local residents.

RTCA Role

RTCA will provide facilitation services to develop appropriate educational and interpretive outreach to river users. RTCA will assist with partner-



Friends of Ka`ena beach clean-up day, 70 volunteers participate. Photo: Lita Weidenbach

ship development and identification of funding sources for educational materials or other resources that are identified by the river users to enhance stewardship of the river.

3. Hawai`i Island Trails and Railway

Project Partner: PATH - Peoples Advocacy for Trails Hawai`i
RTCA Contact: Meredith Speicher
Location: Hawai`i Island

Project Goal

PATH is working to establish 43.5 miles of historic trails and railway corridors on Hawai`i Island for non-motorized recreation, transportation and natural resource conservation. PATH seeks to work with local partners to identify the opportunities, constraints, and next steps needed to preserve and protect the trails.

RTCA Role

RTCA is continuing to provide assistance to this project through the development of reports that will provide PATH with the tools necessary to turn the historic trails into active trails.

4. Ka`ena Point Restoration and Recreation

Project Partner: Friends of Ka`ena
RTCA Contact: Meredith Speicher
Location: Island of Oahu

Project Goal

The project goals are aimed at improving and protecting the natural resources of the Ka`ena Point area and facilitating effective communication and building partnerships between the user groups of the area. The Ka`ena Point area is home to a diverse group of users including endangered and threatened wildlife, cultural practitioners, fishers, recreational users, and naturalists. Friends of Ka`ena have formed a partnership with State Parks called a Kokua Partnership Agreement which allows the group to conduct activities and outreach that aims to improve and protect the natural resources of the Ka`ena Point area. In its second year of RTCA assistance, Friends of Ka`ena continue to support long-term restoration efforts of the native coastal ecosystems of Ka`ena Point, reduce human-induced threats, and develop an improved access/trail system for the area.

Current Projects

RTCA Role

RTCA's role has been meeting facilitation, building partnerships and organizational development of the group. RTCA will continue to provide assistance with an end goal being buy-in from the user groups on a plan that incorporates an improved trail system, educational signage, balanced recreational access, improved enforcement presence, and partnerships with organizations and individuals for education and resources management.

5. Ka`ū Gateway Community

Project Partner: County of Hawai'i Planning Department

RTCA Contact: Meredith Speicher

Location: Island of Hawai'i in the Ka`ū Community Planning area

Project Goal

The Ka`ū Gateway Community Project goals are to increase the preservation of open space, scenic byways, view planes, and recreation opportunities for the Ka`ū district. The County of Hawai'i is engaged in the development of an updated Community Develop-

ment Plan (CDP) that translates the broad general plan goals, policies, and standards into implementation actions for the judicial district of Ka`ū. The vast majority of the land in the district of Ka`ū is publicly managed and has a wealth of natural and cultural resources. Conservation and recreation are central to Ka`ū's economic future. The CDP process engages the community and stakeholders to develop a shared vision for Ka`ū's future that includes improved stewardship, management, and use of natural and recreational resources for residents and visitors. The majority of the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is located within the Ka`ū district offering potential partnerships and support with conservation and recreation efforts. In addition, the Ala Kahakai National Historical Trail will include segments within Ka`ū.

RTCA Role

RTCA is providing expertise in gateway planning and building partnerships among the various stakeholders involved in the development of the CDP. Once the CDP is adopted, implementa-

tion assistance from RTCA will include technical assistance in developing a more detailed action plan focused on conservation, recreation, and gateway planning.

6. Mānā Plain Wetland Conservation

Project Partner: State DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

RTCA Contact: Meredith Speicher

Location: Island of Kaua'i

Project Goal

The state of Hawai'i, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and community partners are working together to restore native wetlands to Mānā Plain. Mānā Plain Wetland Conservation Reserve will be a 141-acre coastal wetland habitat that supports recovery of endangered endemic Hawaiian waterbirds and provides new opportunities for public education and recreation.

RTCA Role

RTCA is working with the planning team to engage the local community in

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Artist rendition of the Mana Plain Wetland Reserve Artist Greg Koob

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?

Contact us to find out.

Meredith Speicher

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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.

engaged the newly formed community group, Kalama Park Action Team (KPAT) in the planning process. She was able to assist and guide the group to achieve their goals and objectives through park planning. KPAT was established with the Maui County Prosecutors Office to identify crime in the community and ways to improve the area. Local residents and neighbors to the park were unsure of the plans for trails and saw the potential for more crime and problems by opening up the park to more users. Their fears have been abated and the park improvements have transformed the area.

“I was asking if Maui had any parks with sidewalks so I could walk the baby in the stroller and everyone said that Kalama is the only one.”

- Young mother strolling with her baby in Kalama Park

RTCA worked with KPAT to develop a conceptual trail plan that was submitted to the County. The design includes a trail that traverses the park and provides access to the coast line from the street. The final design that was implemented has brought a safe area for people of all ages to access the coastline, view wildlife (including humpback whales), learn about the natural and cultural resources through interpretive signs (part of the South Maui Heritage Corridor), provide access to amenities such as the whale sculpture and a children’s playground, and recreate. The trail design has successfully eliminated many of the problem areas that were once havens for criminal activity and has improved the safety for both residents and visitors. The whale sculpture has been restored and includes landscaping and use of recycled glass. Solar lights have been installed for the trail and signs have been put up that encourage coral reef protection.

Current Projects cont.

the planning, restoration, and stewardship of their reserve. This will include developing a Friends of Mānā group and working with schools to plan and support the outdoor recreation and environmental education components of the reserve. RTCA will also aid with funding proposals for these components, and help facilitate a planning process for incorporation of trails and interpretive elements into the larger wetland restoration plan.

7. Piko-Caretaker’s Cottage & Trails

Project Partner: Ala Kahakai Trail Association

RTCA Contact: Meredith Speicher

Location and Congressional District: Hawai`i Island, (HI-2)

Project Goal

This project, which is a part of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, will result in the creation of a trail head, meeting space, and renovations of the historic caretaker’s cottage. Piko has been established to provide Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and the Association a focus and central location for community groups to form partnerships for the preservation of the social, cultural, educational, recreational, and environmental resources.

RTCA Role

RTCA will work to help the Ala Kahakai Trail Association organize and develop a plan for creating a trailhead, meeting space, and cottage renovations for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail which will also serve Pu`u Kohola Heiau National Historic Site.