



Maine News



A fishing outing for Tree Street Youth on the Little Androscoggin River.
Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Bethel Pathway**
Mahoosuc Pathways
- 2. Brunswick Naval Air Station Open Space and Trails Plan**
Town of Brunswick
- 3. High Peaks Trails**
High Peaks Alliance
- 4. Merrymeeting Trail**
Town of Bowdoinham
- 5. College Mentors for Maine Teens**
Teens To Trails
- 6. Virgil Parris Forest Management**
Western Foothills Land Trust
- 7. Waldo County Trails**
Unity Barn Raisers
- 8. West Side Trail**
Yarmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Former Brunswick Naval Air Station Open Space and Trails Plan

Something big is coming to the Town of Brunswick – over 724 acres of open space! In 2011, the 3,200-acre Brunswick Naval Air Station officially closed. The Town and Redevelopment Authority have been working hard ever since, to create a vision for a vibrant new section of the community in this space, including a network of trails, recreation, and open space with wildlife habitat. The largest block of open land is bisected by a stunning estuary. The place is remarkably wild and will provide recreation and retreat for the region's population. RTCA has been assisting the Town and a stakeholders group to create a recreation, trails, and open space plan for the new land. In a few years, the people of Brunswick will be out in all seasons enjoying over 15 miles of trail with many neighborhood connections. An area that has been off limits since the 1940s will be open for public enjoyment!



Exploring the former naval air station's open space. Photo: Catherine Ferdinand

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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.

Current Projects

1. Bethel Pathway

Project Partner: Mahoosuc Pathways
NPS Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Bethel, ME
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

A completed Bethel Pathway linking Telstar Regional Middle and High Schools with Bethel Village, Angevine Park (a recreation area), and local parklands and trails.

NPS Role

Help move the trail towards completion with support for landowner agreements, trail design, fundraising, and construction sequencing

2. Former Brunswick Naval Air Station Open Space and Trails Plan

Project Partner: Town of Brunswick
NPS Contact: Julie Isbill
Location: Brunswick, ME
Congressional District: ME - 1

Project Goal

Complete an open space, trails, and recreation management plan for 600 acres of former naval air station.



NPS sponsored 3 videos in New England, illustrating urban youth discovering the outdoors. This group from Lewiston-Auburn enjoyed a 2-day camping trip in Acadia National Park. Photo: NPS

NPS Role

Assist with stakeholder and trails group meetings to complete a management plan, designate a perimeter trail, and apply for funding.

NPS Role

Help increase collaboration among trail and other groups, extend Fly Rod Crosby Trail (a connector trail with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail), and improve organizational capacity.

3. High Peaks Trails

Project Partner: High Peaks Alliance
NPS Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Northern Franklin County, Maine in the region bounded by State Routes 4, 27, and 16.
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Conserve land and maintain and enhance public access in the High Peaks.

4. Merrymeeting Trail

Project Partner: Town of Bowdoinham
NPS Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Gardiner, Richmond, Bowdoinham, and Topsham, Maine.
Congressional District: ME - 1, 2

Project Goal

Create a 26-mile long rail-with-trail connecting four towns along the Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay with existing shared use paths, part of the East Coast Greenway.

NPS Role

Help with outreach, fundraising, and creation of an on-road route.

5. College Mentors for Maine Teens

Project Partner: Teens To Trails
NPS Contact: Julie Isbill
Location: Statewide
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Continue to create college to high school outdoor mentoring relationships and to support high school outing clubs.



Bob and Carol Leone, Founders of Teens To Trails, receive a conservation award from LL Bean
Photo: LL Bean

Current Projects cont.

NPS Role

Support Teens To Trails volunteer leader and new staff, and assist with pilot projects.

6. Virgil Parris Forest Management

Project Partner: Western Foothills Land Trust

NPS Contact: Julie Isbill

Location: 1,250 acres of lake, forest and field in Hebron and Buckfield Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

A management plan leading to a well managed 1,250-acre preserve that protects wildlife and plant habitat and water quality while also allowing recreational use and enjoyment.

NPS Role

Help with stakeholder meetings including motorized trail groups, creating management plan, completing 2-mile foot trail, and building a new ATV trail across the property.

7. Waldo County Trails

Project Partner: Unity Barn Raisers

NPS Contact: Burnham Martin

Location: Unity, Thorndike, Knox, Freedom, and Montville, Maine Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Create trails connecting villages and existing trail systems in Waldo County.

NPS Role

Assist partners with completing Phase I trail construction; plan second phase of trail; strengthen trail coalition.

8. West Side Trail

Project Partner: Yarmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

NPS Contact: Julie Isbill

Location: Trails within a Central Maine Power right of way along the entire west side of the Town of Yarmouth Congressional District: ME - 1



Waldo County Trail Coalition members review a section of trail flagged for construction in Unity. Photo: NPS

Project Goal

A 12-mile loop trail connecting many neighborhoods and centers, for hiking, trail running, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

NPS Role

Assist with community outreach for the next trail segment, fundraising, building a volunteer corps, and developing the organization.

“With Julie’s leadership, the trails layout and design for the open space and a conceptual perimeter trail system have been developed. Thanks to the RTCA program, the services provided have saved the Town, and the collaborative approach helped the community.”

- Denise Clavette, Town of Brunswick



The first gathering of the College Coalition of Outdoor Mentors. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?

Contact us to find out.



Burnham Martin

Burnham_Martin@nps.gov
207.725.4934



Julie Isbill

Julie_Isbill@nps.gov
207.725.5028

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



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Recent Successes cont.

Maine Island Trails Plan

When the time came to extend the Maine Island Trail along 50 miles of challenging coastline, the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) asked RTCA for help. MITA began creating the trail in 1987 by linking state-owned islands between

“One of the most important ways Rivers & Trails helped was by gently nudging us to keep making progress. Thanks to that help, we accomplished much more than we might have otherwise.”

- Brian Marcaurelle, Program Director
Maine Island Trail Association



Maine Island Trail scouting on Wood Island in Biddeford. Photo: NPS

Portland and Jonesport. MITA's strong advocacy of user stewardship soon inspired additional private and public owners to place their islands and mainland sites on the trail.

Nearly 200 sites are currently listed. During 2011 and 2012, MITA received RTCA assistance with extending the trail along the heavily-developed coast southwest of Portland. RTCA helped MITA organize stakeholder meetings, site identification, field visits, and follow up with the owners and managers of potential sites. As a result, landowners have listed three new overnight sites, four new day-use sites, and five new launch sites, and MITA continues discussions with others. Next steps for MITA include ramping up volunteer stewardship activities and planning more educational outreach for recreational boaters.



Scouting an island off the York County coast for potential inclusion in the Maine Island Trail. Photo: NPS