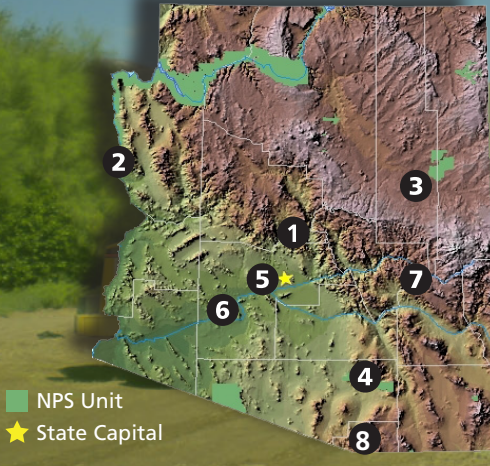




# Arizona News



Black Canyon stream and pond construction

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Black Canyon Community Park**  
Black Canyon City Community Association
- 2. Colorado River Nature Center**  
City of Bullhead City
- 3. Hidden Cove Petroglyph & Ranch Ruins**  
City of Holbrook
- 4. Trips for Kids**  
Trips for Kids Southern AZ
- 5. Monument Hill - Avondale Historic Preservation**  
City of Avondale
- 6. Gila Bend Anza Trail**  
Anza Trail Coalition of AZ
- 7. Miami (AZ) Bloody Tanks Wash**  
Miami, AZ
- 8. Anza Trail Las Lagunas Conservation Project**  
Paula & Cabot Sedgwick Family Foundation

Find out more about each project starting on page 3.

### 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 Successes

### Las Lagunas de Anza Wetlands Restoration

Las Lagunas de Anza is a wetlands restoration and public access project conducted in collaboration with the private land owner, local and regional partners, high school science club students, City of Nogales and Santa Cruz County. The project goal is to remove cattail overgrowth and create open water areas to attract water fowl and create other wildlife habitat, establish an outdoor environmental education classroom, develop recreation trails, and interpret the area as Campsite #13 on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

The overall project has many targets. First, and most essential, is the restoration of the wetlands through the efforts of volunteers who value the site as an important part of the community history. Second, to involve community youth in a meaningful way so they embrace the place as their own and encourage those who come after to help manage and improve it over time.

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*“RTCA has provided a breadth of experience and assistance that allowed the partners to become involved and committed to the dream and the reality. We are planning this year’s goals based on last year’s accomplishments to continue to function and grow.”*

- Tony Sedgwick, owner Las Lagunas wetlands

## We're Here For You.

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

### Cate Bradley

520.791.6472  
cate\_bradley@nps.gov

### Joe Winfield

520.791.6471  
joe\_winfield@nps.gov

## 2010 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 1,251 Miles of Trail Developed
- 1,694 Miles of River Conserved
- 25,370 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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## Recent Successes cont.

The third target is to provide recreational opportunities and develop and tell the story of this important and unique site so that others will protect and support it into the future. Tony Sedgwick, owner of Las Lagunas, said, "These goals have required authentic partnership building, strategic planning and implementation events that would not have happened without the RTCA process."

RTCA staff helped convene the partners and facilitate the meetings, which led to a unified goal and mission for the project, guided the planning process to include consultations with other agencies, researched restoration strategies and funding opportunities, and helped build the foundation of community support that will be necessary for future management of the wetlands.

Project partners include Santa Cruz County Community Development Department, Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, City of Nogales and Clean City/Healthy City Program, Friends of the Santa Cruz River and River Watch Program, Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, Nogales High School Science Club, and birding and photography experts. Each has played a critical role in the planning and implementation of this restoration project. Alex Silva, president of the Nogales High School Science Club, said, "This project is important and should be preserved because it represents our past and points the way to our future. The Science Club should carry on the work of this year and keep adding to it. It's a great project, something we can show our grandkids we helped to save – it's something to be proud of."

Las Lagunas is part of the larger Santa Cruz River system and watershed. "It is the last natural cienega of the upper watershed and represents a unique environmental habitat type that provides biological diversity that adds to the whole riparian system," said Sherry Sass, President of the Friends of the Santa Cruz River. "It's also a part of the City of Nogales and helps those residents reconnect with the river habitat and embrace the riparian environment. Tony made a huge leap to provide public access and make environmental education here a priority."



Nogales High School Science Club, volunteers from the Clean City Healthy City Program, and members of the Las Lagunas Project Team pause during work to clean up and restore Las Lagunas de Anza.



# Current Projects

*“With the assistance of the RTCA Program the Black Canyon Heritage Park project has active participation of eight agencies and organizations, has received over \$500,000 in grant funds, and the previously bare land is now being transformed into a beautiful desert riparian area.”*

- Bob Cothern, President, Black Canyon City Community Association

## 1. Black Canyon Community Park

Project Partner: Black Canyon City Community Association  
RTCA Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Black Canyon City

### Project Goal

Restore and manage 23.5 acres of riparian and 1.5 acres of aquatic habitat for wildlife and endangered Arizona native fish.

### RTCA Role

Assist in identifying, seeking, and obtaining project funding. Work with other project partners in developing a strategic plan, preparing a visitor experience and marketing plan, and participating in project meetings. Help with capacity building and organizational development.

## 2. Colorado River Nature Center

Project Partner: City of Bullhead City  
RTCA Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Bullhead City

### Project Goal

Develop a non-motorized multi-use trail system within a 500 acre area co-managed by the City of Bullhead City, Arizona Game & Fish, and Bureau of Land Management.

### RTCA Role

Facilitate a community-based trail planning process that addresses the needs and desires of the community and constraints of the land managers.

## 3. Hidden Cove Petroglyph and Ranch Ruins

Project Partner: City of Holbrook  
RTCA Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Holbrook

### Project Goal

Preserve, protect, and promote ancient petroglyphs and ranch ruins located on City property as a tourist attraction off Historic Route 66.

### RTCA Role

Assist the City of Holbrook in building a coalition of partners and facilitating a community-based park planning process to achieve their vision for a Petroglyph and Ranch Ruin Park and identify funding sources for park implementation.

## 4. Trips for Kids

Project Partner: Trips for Kids Southern AZ  
RTCA Contact: Cate Bradley  
Location: Tucson and southern AZ

### Project Goal

Partner with schools and youth organizations to provide mountain biking experiences for minority and disadvantaged youth in National Park Service units.

### RTCA Role

Assist with logistics of youth involvement at NPS units, engage youth in outdoor recreation and NPS mission goals, and encourage youth to enjoy NPS units on their own and with their families.

## 5. Monument Hill - Avondale Historic Preservation

Project Partner: City of Avondale  
RTCA Contact: Joe Winfield  
Location: Avondale

### Project Goal

Improved visitor access and interpretation of this site on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Prehistoric petroglyphs at Hidden Cove

# Current Projects



Youth on the trail in Saguaro National Park

## RTCA Role

Convene stakeholders and help prepare a trail and interpretive plan for Monument Hill.

## 6. Gila Bend Anza Trail

Project Partner: Anza Trail Coalition of AZ  
RTCA Contact: Cate Bradley  
Location: Gila Bend, AZ

## Project Goal

Establish a connecting link for the Anza Trail in Gila Bend, AZ to the adjacent Sonoran Desert National Monument, administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and become a gateway community for both.

## RTCA Role

Convene interested partners in Gila Bend with the San Lucy District of the Tohono O'odham Nation, BLM, and Maricopa County, to identify benefits of the trail to each community, create a plan, and begin implementation to establish over 16 miles of Anza NHT and interpret the significant role of the native people to the historic 1775-1776 Anza Expedition from Mexico to San Francisco, CA.

## 7. Miami (AZ) Bloody Tanks Wash

Project Partner: Miami, AZ  
RTCA Contact: Cate Bradley  
Location: Miami, AZ

## Project Goal

Establish a connecting trail along the Bloody Tanks Wash to link the wash to the downtown commercial area and community recreation facilities. The trail will be established on top of the new sewage line infrastructure corridor.



Volunteers on Anza Trail restoration project in Gila Bend

## RTCA Role

Provide technical assistance to the trail planning process. Interface with the AZ Department of Environmental Quality to coordinate building the trail during the construction phase of the infrastructure project.

## 8. Las Lagunas de Anza Wetlands Restoration

Project Partner: Santa Fe Ranch Environmental Educational Center  
RTCA Contact: Cate Bradley  
Location: Nogales, AZ

## Project Goal

Remove cattail overgrowth and create open water areas to attract water fowl and create other wildlife habitat. Establish an outdoor environmental education classroom with recreation trails. Interpret the area as Campsite #13 on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

## RTCA Role

Convene interested parties and facilitate the project strategic plan while helping to involve youth in project planning and implementation. Develop a fund-raising plan to support the project.