



Connecticut News



Willimantic River Water Trail

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Last Green Valley Water Trails
The Last Green Valley, Inc.
2. Naugatuck River Greenway
Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
3. New England National Scenic Trail
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
4. Norwalk River Valley Trail
Norwalk River Valley Trail Steering Committee
5. Steele Brook Greenway
Town of Watertown

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 Successes

Willimantic River Water Trail

Building on the success of Last Green Valley Source-to-Sea events in 2009, the Willimantic River Alliance requested assistance to establish a water trail. RTCA staff worked with volunteers to assess launch sites and produce an online and downloadable Paddle Guide (www.tlgv.org/preserve/water-shedprojects/water-trails.html).

In the future, information distilled from access site assessments will guide stewardship improvements such as erosion control, signage, and removal of invasive vegetation. This project will also lead to a nomination for National Recreation Trail designation in 2011.

“Our volunteer trail planners appreciate the training and confidence they get from Rivers & Trails assistance.”

- Lois Bruinooge,
Deputy Executive Director
The Last Green Valley, Inc.

The Willimantic River lies within the Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor (known as The Last Green Valley, Inc.). RTCA staff will continue to assist with the assessment of water trail access sites and the production of guides that encourage less experienced paddlers to explore these wonderful rivers safely.

Current Projects

1. Last Green Valley Water Trails

Project Partner: Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, incorporated as The Last Green Valley, Inc.
RTCA Contact: John Monroe
Location: Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, CT and adjacent towns in Massachusetts.
Congressional District: CT-2, MA-2

Project Goal

Create and implement a network of water trails in the upper Thames Basin.

2. Naugatuck River Greenway

Project Partner: Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
RTCA Contact: John Monroe
Location: Western Connecticut, from Torrington at the headwaters to Derby at the confluence with the Housatonic River.
Congressional District: CT-1, 3, 5

Project Goal

Create partnerships and begin implementation of Greenway concept plan.

3. New England National Scenic Trail

Project Partner: Connecticut Forest & Park Association
RTCA Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: 220-mile hiking trail route



Litchfield Community Greenway Trail

through 39 communities in central Connecticut and Massachusetts.
Congressional District: CT-1, 2, 3, 5

Project Goal

Implementation of scenic trail activities including launching GIS, holding public trail events, creating brochure for visitors, and strengthening Trail Stewardship Committee.

clude: Redding, Ridgefield and Wilton.
Congressional District: CT-4, 5

Project Goal

Develop an overall vision for the trail and an implementation strategy with town-level actions.

4. Norwalk River Valley Trail

Project Partner: Norwalk River Valley Trail Steering Committee
RTCA Contact: John Monroe
Location: Norwalk River Valley in southwestern Connecticut, from Danbury at the headwaters to Norwalk at Long Island Sound. Other towns in-

5. Steele Brook Greenway

Project Partner: Town of Watertown
RTCA Contact: John Monroe
Location: Watertown CT, a small town just west of Waterbury.
Congressional District: CT-5

Project Goal

Develop community greenway connecting the downtown, a major employer, the high school and the Naugatuck River.



Willimantic River Water Trail ribbon cutting

“John Monroe walked the whole length of the trail with us and showed us how to create a trail log. We had no idea how useful such a document could be until we starting working with him on it.”

- Barbara Putnam

We're Here For You.

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



John Monroe
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617.223.5049

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



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Recent Successes cont.

Litchfield Community Greenway

For years, a hardy group of volunteers have kept alive the dream of a community trail on the old Bantam railroad line. RTCA staff helped the volunteers to focus on making on-the-ground results by completing a comprehensive trail log and action plan for the 4.5 mile corridor. On National Trails Day, the group cut ribbon on a segment of trail through the White Memorial Foundation preserve, posting trail signs that will someday guide walkers and cyclists from end to end. In the coming year, the focus of the work will be on organizational development.



Willimantic River Water Trail