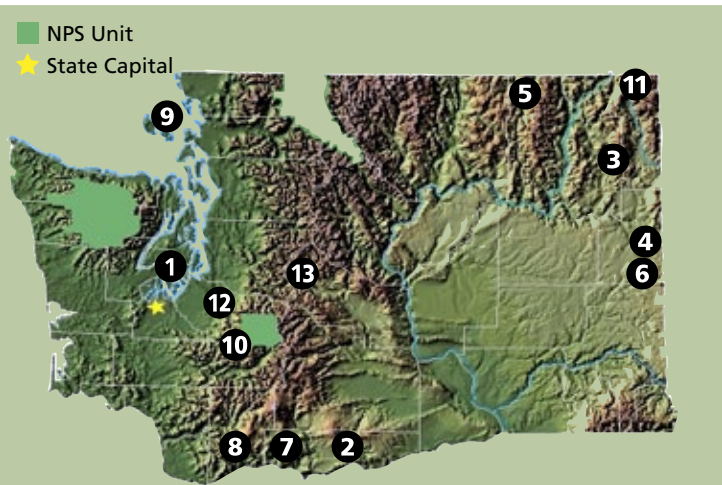




Washington News



Spokane County's "Step Out and Get Moving!" brochure features eight great walks for people of all ages and abilities. Graphic: Spokane County Health Department



2011 PROJECTS

1. Blackjack Creek Wilderness Trail
2. Central Klickitat Recreation Connections
3. Chewelah Path Trail
4. Dishman Hills-Iller Creek Conservation Corridor
5. Ferry County Rail-Trail
6. Five-Mile Prairie Pathways
7. Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy
8. Lewis River - Vancouver Lake Water Trail
9. Lopez Community Trail Network
10. Nisqually Community Forest
11. Pend Oreille Water Trail
12. Pierce County Open Space
13. Roslyn Urban Forest Comprehensive Recreation

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Recent Successes

Spokane Takes A Step for Health

In 2009, the Spokane Health District, Inland Northwest Trails Coalition, and RTCA joined forces to improve the health of Spokane County residents by encouraging more walking and bicycling in the community.

"The walking maps were a huge success with people and it gave us one more step forward to make Spokane County a healthier community."

--Heleen Dewey,
Spokane Health District

A walking brochure was produced featuring eight great walks, along with health statistics on calories burned and steps taken for each walk. The featured walks are for beginners and individuals of all ages and ability levels. Pedestrian and bicycle videos were also developed to educate all users on safety tips, rules, and etiquette when sharing the streets.

Orcas Island Pathway Becomes a "Born Learning Trail"

In 1998/99, RTCA assisted the Orcas Island Pathways Committee with island-wide trail planning. One successful outcome is an extension of the North Beach Road Pathway, which provides a seamless pedestrian route to the Eastsound community, and a springboard for developing the Born Learning Trail along "Day Care Row." The trail is a collection of 10 sign stations designed to engage pre-schoolers in activities that stimulate physical and

Current Projects



A \$100,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation will help put railings and other safety features on a 770-foot trestle on the Ferry County Rail-Trail that runs 33 miles from Republic to the Canadian border. Photo: Bob Whittaker

1. Blackjack Creek Wilderness Trail

Lead Partner: City of Port Orchard

The Blackjack Creek Trail project will create a 1.25 mile 'wilderness' trail along a natural, heavily vegetated salmon-bearing stream that flows through Port Orchard to Puget Sound. RTCA is assisting the City of Port Orchard with the design and permitting of the trail.

2. Central Klickitat Recreation Connections

Lead Partner: Klickitat County Health Department

Located in the City of Goldendale and surrounding Central Klickitat County, this project will result in the enhancement of existing trails, creation of 10 miles of walking/biking routes in the city, and connections to regional trails and parks such as the 31-mile Klickitat Rail-Trail and Brooks Memorial State Park.

3. Dishman Hills-Iller Creek Conservation Corridor

Lead Partner: Inland Northwest Trails Coalition

A diverse group of organizations in metropolitan Spokane are partner-

ing to create a corridor between two established conservation areas. The surrounding environment provides critical habitat and a wildlife migration corridor, displays Ice Age flood formations, provides cherished views, and has the potential to link two trail systems. RTCA is helping to engage nearby neighborhoods and the greater community.

4. Chewelah Path Trail

Lead Partner: City of Chewelah

With assistance from RTCA, the City of Chewelah will update a 17-year-old plan for a pathway along the town's creek, and create a master plan for the trail segment in Chewelah City Park. Partners hope the path will connect city parks, City Hall, neighborhoods, schools, and downtown, and build awareness and support for habitat restoration along the creek.

5. Ferry County Rail-Trail

Lead Partner: Ferry County Rail Corridor Committee

Project partners and RTCA are working to transform an abandoned rail line in Ferry County linking Kettle River, Curlew Creek and Curlew Lake into 26 miles of non-motorized trail.

6. Five-Mile Prairie Pathways

Lead Partner: Spokane County Division of Engineering & Roads

Trail proponents want to create a network of public trails in this city/county neighborhood that connect residents, neighborhood destinations, and natural areas before the opportunities are lost to residential growth and development. Safe routes for school-bound children are a critical component of the plan.



Current Projects cont.



Intertwine partners are looking at ways to maintain and improve natural resources. Photo: Mike Houck

7. Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy

Lead Partner: Urban Greenspaces Institute

RTCA is providing assistance to Urban Greenspaces Institute, Columbia Land Trust, Metro, City of Vancouver and other Intertwine partners to develop a regional conservation strategy. This plan will detail the current conditions, on-going conservation efforts, and strategies to maintain and improve the Region's natural resources.

8. Lewis River – Vancouver Lake Water Trail

Lead Partner: Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department

This water trail will link the Lewis River to Vancouver Lake via public lands along these waterways. The project goal is to create a master plan, signage, and a map.



9. Lopez Community Trail Network

Lead Partner: Lopez Community Trail Network

RTCA will help this community coalition create a potential 20-mile network of trails on Lopez Island that will connect key community destinations, including existing parks and trails, Lopez Village, and the ferry landing.



Members of Lopez Community Trails Network acquire new trail-building skills, thanks to local partners with the San Juan County Land Bank and BLM. Photo: Lopez Community Trails Network

10. Nisqually Community Forest

Lead Partner: Nisqually Land Trust

RTCA is assisting the Nisqually Land Trust on a project to develop a business plan model for a non-profit owned and managed community forest in the Upper Mashel River watershed near the Town of Eatonville. The forest will be managed for multiple public benefit (i.e., forest practices recreation, habitat, ecosystem services). Funding will come from timber sale proceeds.

11. Pend Oreille Water Trail

Lead Partner: Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance

RTCA is helping trail partners develop a plan for a 70-mile recreational boating route along the Pend Oreille River. Key goals are to preserve habitat, boost the local economy, and establish destinations for research and education within the river corridor.



A volunteer plants trees on Nisqually Land Trust Forest Reserve property. Photo: Nisqually Land Trust

We're Here For You.

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

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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

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.

www.nps.gov/rtca

Current Projects cont.



Chewelah City Park is part of a new trail master plan. Photo: Tracy Ferrell

12. Pierce County Open Space

Lead Partner: Pierce County Parks & Recreation Department

RTCA is facilitating an Open Space Task Force, appointed by the Pierce County

Council, on a project to undertake a comprehensive review of open space resources and financing options in the development of recommendations for a coordinated and robust countywide open space preservation effort.

13. Roslyn Urban Forest Comprehensive Recreation

Lead Partner: City of Roslyn

The city of Roslyn wants to develop a plan for non-motorized recreation and trails that connects the city to regional recreation and wildlife networks and enhances both individual health and community livability. The project area includes over 300 acres and several miles of trails.



The Foothills Trail, near Mount Rainier National Park, is an important component of a county-wide system of trails and greenways. Photo: Pierce County Open Space Task Force

Recent Successes cont.

mental learning abilities. The signs are a product of Born Learning and United Way, and were acquired through donations from Orcas Family Connections, a non-profit coalition of pre-schools, the state Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program, and citizens. Trail sponsorship came from local doctors, dentists, and private donors; Girl Scouts and local residents helped install the signs. The kids love using the trail, and get plenty of outdoor exercise in the process!