



New Jersey News



Paddling on the Delaware River

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Delaware River Water Trail
Delaware River Greenway Partnership
2. Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh
D&R Greenway Land Trust/Friends for the Marsh
3. Twin Lights Trail
Twin Lights Historical Society and Gateway
National Recreation Area
4. Common Waters
Pinchot Institute for Conservation

Find out more about each project 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

Water Trail Plan Makes River User-Friendly

The Delaware River, in addition to being one of the finest and most popular recreational destinations in the northeastern United States, offers 220 miles of water trail. In recent years, RTCA has teamed with a steering committee made up of everyone from local residents to local, state, and national organizations to enhance river access by developing comprehensive signage, safety, and marketing programs, including the creation of a web site and trail guide, for paddlers. Celeste Tracy of the Delaware River Greenway Partnership says, "The Delaware River is a vitally important recreational resource for thousands of people who get on the river each year. Implementation of recommendations in the water trail plan is helping to make the river more of a safe and enjoyable experience."

Passaic River Heals with Help from Partners

Once noted for its intense levels of pollution, the Passaic River is on its way to recovery, enough to begin the process of designating a Passaic River Blueway. Rivers & Trails staff assisted in development of a comprehensive action plan identifying more than 20 public access points along the upper stretch of the Passaic River. The plan spells out the required actions needed to incorporate these sites into the Passaic River Blueway Canoe & Kayak Trail and identifies partnership opportunities to make them happen. The Action Plan has been an invaluable tool for reaching out to community and elected officials along the river. When tied in with the lower Passaic River, the Blueway will consist of over 50 public access points along nearly 70 miles of trail through the most densely populated region in the nation.

We're Here For You.

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



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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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Projects

1. Delaware River Water Trail

Location: Delaware River in Burlington, Mercer, Hunterdon, Warren, Sussex counties in New Jersey and parts of New York and Pennsylvania
Congressional District(s): NJ-4,5,7,12; NY-19, 22; PA-8,10,11,15
Project Partner: Delaware River Greenway Partnership
NPS Contact: Julie Bell

Project Goal

Develop comprehensive signage for the Delaware River Water Trail and improved river stewardship by area youth and communities.

2. Hamilton-Trenton-Bordentown Marsh

Location: Central NJ
Congressional District(s): 4
Project Partner: D&R Greenway Land Trust/Friends for the Marsh
NPS Contact: Sherry Peck

Project Goal

Coordinate long-term stewardship of the marsh by multiple public and private landowners; create a new entity or multi-agency agreement to jointly manage the marsh; and increase public appreciation of the marsh as an environmental and recreational treasure.

3. Twin Lights Trail

Location: Coastal, central New Jersey
Congressional District(s): 6,12
Project Partner: Twin Lights Historical Society and Gateway National Recreation Area
NPS Contact: Jerry Willis

Project Goal

Develop a 2-mile trail connecting the site to a network of 37-miles of existing trails.

4. Common Waters

Location: Counties surrounding Delaware Water Gap NRA and Upper Delaware Scenic River in PA, NY, and NJ
Congressional District(s): NJ-5; NY-19,22; PA-10
Project Partner: Pinchot Institute for Conservation
NPS Contact: David Lange

Project Goal

Long-term conservation of the Delaware River Highlands region in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey surrounding Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware National Scenic River.



Paddling on the River

“Assistance from the Rivers & Trails Program in identifying potential public access, drafting the Action Plan, and reaching out to the community has put us in a position to realize our goals years ahead of what many of thought was possible when we first discussed the creation a water trail on the Passaic River.”

- Tara Casella, Essex County Environmental Center Director.