



# New Hampshire News



SCA members relax after a long day of work on the Newfound Pathway.  
Photo: Student Conservation Association

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail:  
Stewardship-Expansion  
Vermont Rivers Conservancy
2. Granite State Rail Trail  
New Hampshire Rail Trail Coalition
3. Quabbin to Cardigan Trail  
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests,  
Appalachian Mountain Club
4. Souhegan River Walk  
Town of Merrimack Town Center Committee
5. Upper Valley High School Trail Corps  
Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### SCA-Manchester Crews Aid NH Trails

Two New Hampshire RTCA projects benefited from NH youth's work in the summer of 2012. Ten NH high school students gave their strength, time, and talents to two projects in the Granite State through Student Conservation Association's (SCA) New

Hampshire-specific high school trail crews.

On the Newfound Pathway, an SCA crew built the first section of a 17-mile trail that will eventually go around Newfound Lake. On the Quabbin to Cardigan Trail, the SCA crew worked on two different sites: the Lincoln Trail in Rollins State Park on Mt. Kearsarge and the Society for the Protection of NH's Forests' Renny Memorial Forest.

*"The energy and joie-de-vive that the teenagers brought boosted the spirits of all the trail volunteers... Besides getting our first section of trail built, they energized the Pathway Team,"*

- Jan Collins, President of the  
Newfound Pathway Team

SCA Manchester works

with youth throughout the year. These two RTCA projects were able to bring two of their summer trail crews together for a total of four weeks through the National Park Service's Call to Action. New trail was built, old trail was re-established, a third trail improved; it was a tremendous experience having RTCA project partners working with NH youth.

## We're Here For You.

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



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## 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

### 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.

Find more information online at [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects

## 1. Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail

Project Partner: VT Rivers Conservancy  
NPS Contact: Lelia Mellen  
Location: Connecticut and White Rivers  
Congressional District: NH - 2

### Project Goal

A network of 20 conservation organizations working towards shared trail stewardship, complementing the CT River AGO National Blueway.

### NPS Role

Help to develop a stewardship fund; assist with marketing, funding, community outreach, and specific access projects; launch a trail map; and organize a volunteer steward program.

## 2. Granite State Rail Trail

Project Partner: NH Rail Trail Coalition  
NPS Contact: Lelia Mellen  
Location: Merrimack, Hillsborough, Rockingham, and Grafton Counties  
Congressional Districts: NH - 1, 2

### Project Goal

A 110-mile rail-trail from MA to VT linking existing trails from Salem through Londonderry; and a new trail from Hooksett to Concord that connects with the Northern Rail Trail.

### NPS Role

Assist with the completion of missing trail links; complete a marketing strategy.

## 3. Quabbin-Cardigan Trail

Project Partner: Society for the Protection of NH Forests and AMC  
NPS Contact: Lelia Mellen  
Location: Cheshire, Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, and Sullivan Counties  
Congressional Districts: NH - 1, 2

### Project Goal

A completed trail plan, with community endorsement, for an 80-mile trail in the NH portion of the Quabbin to Cardigan region.

### NPS Role

Work with the communities and trail groups to develop a strategy and management plan for the trail.

## 4. Souhegan River Walk

Project Partner: Town of Merrimack Town Center Committee  
NPS Contact: Lelia Mellen  
Location: Merrimack County  
Congressional District: NH - 1

### Project Goal

Develop a 4.5-mile walking trail system along the Souhegan, connecting many town amenities and re-connecting the town to its historic river.

### NPS Role

Assist with coordinating potential partners to protect several parcels; design and construct the trail across an old dam sluiceway and along the river.

## 5. Upper Valley HS Trail Corps

Project Partner: Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA)  
NPS Contact: Lelia Mellen  
Location: Upper Valley towns in NH, VT  
Congressional District: NH - 2

### Project Goal

Create a local High School Trail Corps in the Upper Valley region. The Corps will work on no fewer than 5 local trails, learning about the natural world, teamwork, and assisting UVTA in programming youth trail projects.

### NPS Role

Help refine programmatic vision, bring local partners and schools to the table, share examples of similar programs, provide leveraging ideas, assist in creating a sustainable corps.



Quabbin to Cardigan map session. Photo: NPS