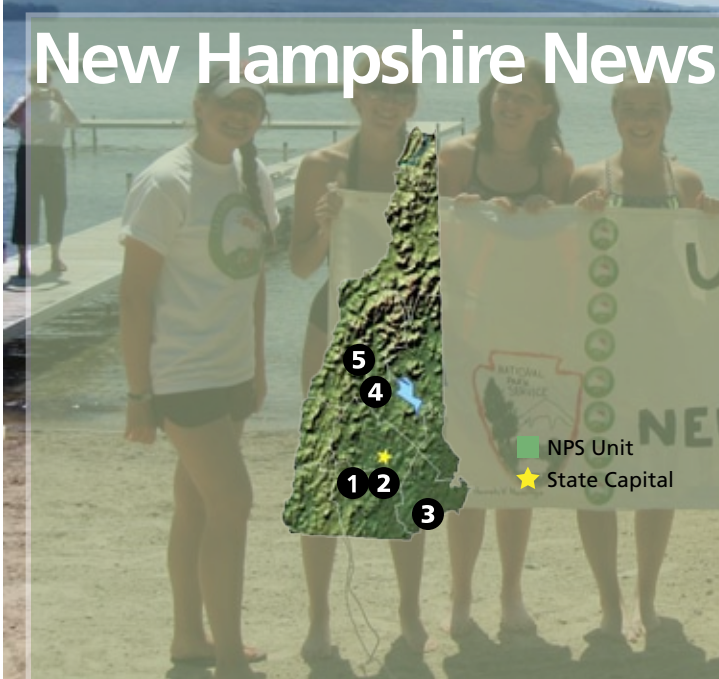




New Hampshire News



Newfound Lake Relay

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Cross Lyndeborough Trail
Lyndeborough Trails Association
2. Granite State Rail Trail
NH Rail Trails Coalition
3. Lamprey River Nominations
Lamprey River Watershed Association, Lamprey River Nomination Committee
4. Newfound Lake Pathway
Newfound Lake Pathway Committee
5. Quabbin to Cardigan Trail Study
Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Appalachian Mountain Club

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

Newfound Lake Pathway

This year the Newfound Lake Pathway Committee began building a strong board of trustees and garnered active committee members and volunteers. They launched a web site and improved their brochure with the assistance of an NPS intern. Three grants helped boost their productivity and allowed them to hire an engineering firm to draw up a professional conceptual plan to present to the communities. They began working with DOT to show them the road safety issues. The NH Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator took a bicycle tour with local activists to witness the road problems first hand. The highlight of the year came from working with five of the summer camps around the lake and four NPS SCA Youth Interns to create a Relay, "Uniting Youth around Newfound Lake." The Relay's goal was to raise awareness of health and safety needed on the roads around the lake. The Relay included a week of events, water and road relays, and an award ceremony. The Relay has been extremely educational for the area youth and was great fun for all.

"This year has been an exciting year! With the help of RTCA we have been able to accomplish more in a year than we thought possible."

- Jan Collins, Chair of the Newfound Lake Pathway Committee

Current Projects

1. Cross Lyndeborough Trail

Project Partners: Lyndeborough Trails Association

RTCA Contact: Lelia Mellen

Location: Lyndeborough

Congressional Districts: NH-2

Project Goal

Identify, develop and maintain a system of trails for non-motorized recreational use throughout Lyndeborough that will connect to the existing trail networks in the surrounding communities. By capitalizing on Lyndeborough's incredible scenic beauty, the trails system will serve residents who value open space, encourage a sense of community, and help Lyndeborough to retain its rural character.

RTCA Role

Complete Phase II, an 8-mile trail linking Lyndeborough with neighboring towns and their trail networks.

2. Granite State Rail Trail

Project Partners: New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition

RTCA Contact: Lelia Mellen

Location: Merrimack, Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties

Congressional Districts: NH-1, 2

Project Goal

Further development of the Granite

State Rail Trail, linking approximately 70 miles from Concord to Salem and possibly adding 60 miles from Lebanon to Concord using the Northern Rail Trail.

RTCA Role

Assist with the development of a marketing strategy to publicize the overall trail concept and the assist with the creation and organization expansion of missing links in the trail between Concord and Manchester.

3. Lamprey River - Extending NH State Protection Upstream

Project Partner: Lamprey River Watershed Association

RTCA Contact: Lelia Mellen

Location: 34-mile upstream portion of the Lamprey River through the towns of Northwood, Deerfield, Candia and Pawtuckaway River in Raymond

Congressional Districts: NH-1

Project Goal

Gain state-protected river status, with 34 new miles added to the current 13.5 miles of state and federally protected downstream portion of the Lamprey River. With designation comes recognition and education of the resource, coupled hopefully with land protection, riverine improvements, recreation

access and more.

RTCA Role

Assist with additional outreach to ensure the nomination and then celebrate the successful nomination and initiate the Rivers Advisory Committee.

4. Newfound Lake Pathway

Project Partner: Newfound Lake Pathway Committee

RTCA Contact: Lelia Mellen

Location: Newfound Lake, in central New Hampshire

Congressional Districts: NH-2

Project Goal

An 18-mile multi-use pathway around the perimeter of Newfound Lake.

RTCA Role

NPS will continue to help the Pathway Committee in their organization and strategizing next steps in building the pathway; identify further funding sources, and help to build additional support from the schools and the summer camps we worked with via a summer 2010 relay.

5. Quabbin to Cardigan Trail

Project Partners: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Appalachian Mountain Club

RTCA Contact: Lelia Mellen

Location: Quabbin, MA to Cardigan Mountain, NH

Congressional Districts: NH-1, 2

Project Goal

Develop an 80-mile hiking trail from the Quabbin area of Massachusetts to Cardigan Mountain.

RTCA Role

Develop a vision and plan for this long-distance trail by providing leadership and coordination, building capacity amongst local groups, and craft an action plan for the trail.



Trail Building Volunteers

We're Here For You.

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



Lelia Mellen

Lelia_Mellen@nps.gov
802.457.3368 x14

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.

Lamprey River Nomination

In 2010, RTCA's Lelia Mellen began working with the Lamprey River Watershed Association to add 34 upstream miles to the 13.5 miles of the Lamprey River that are currently state- and federally-protected.

“We appreciate [the NPS's] extraordinary work in assisting us to complete the ‘Nomination Application’ to NH-DES to include the remainder of the Lamprey River and its major tributaries into the New Hampshire Rivers Management & Protection Program. As you know this was the first submission during this 20-year program that included a comprehensive watershed approach to protecting not just the main stem but also the major tributaries that impact water quality, etc. Your work to complete deadlines during crunch-time to get this nomination completed was greatly appreciated.”

- Jim Hadley, Chair, Lamprey River Nomination Committee

“The assistance of Lelia Mellen of RTCA has been invaluable to the progress and success achieved by the Lamprey River Nominating Committee (LRNC) thus far. In year one of RTCA's assistance the LRNC has successfully submitted their first nomination to the NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee, met monthly to discuss and plan for the nomination process and scheduled a tour of the river's important and unique features for the NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee. It is clear that the assistance provided by RTCA was crucial to meeting the goals involved with nominating the Lamprey River for protection by NHDES, and further assistance will allow the LRNC to continue its work of protecting the entire Lamprey River Watershed from irreparable harm.”

- Senator Jean Shaheen



Lamprey River