



# Montana News



Lake MacDonald in Glacier Park



■ NPS Unit  
★ State Capital

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Bozeman Creek Enhancement**  
City of Bozeman
- 2. Park County Recreational Trails**  
Park County
- 3. Fort Missoula Regional Park**  
City of Missoula Parks and Recreation Department

Find out more about each project starting on page 3.

### 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

### A Creek Runs Through Bozeman

The Bozeman Creek Enhancement Project is spearheaded by a committee of community organizations, city and agency staff, and creekside landowners. Under RTCA guidance, the Bozeman Creek Enhancement Committee (BCEC) has made great progress in its first year towards the overall goal of improving Bozeman Creek as a community asset. Work has proceeded on two fronts: developing a long-term creek enhancement plan while simultaneously identifying and beginning work on high-priority, early-action projects.

The committee has engaged the community about the project and solicited them for ideas, comments, and concerns through

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Fort Belknap tribal members building trail.

## We're Here For You.

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

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## 2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,991 Miles of Trail Developed

1,925 Miles of River Conserved

33,230 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at

[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Successes cont.



Kitchen riprap is common along Bozeman Creek.

public workshops, monthly meetings, presentations to neighborhood associations, driving and walking tours, and opinion surveys. Community input has provided the basis for development of a vision statement and project goals and objectives.

The BCEC's first site enhancement project is to improve the ecology and recreational value of Bozeman Creek through Bogert Park, a city park near downtown. The pro bono services of a local consulting team were secured and several alternative conceptual plans were developed. Public comment was solicited at a city-wide open house, to

develop a preferred conceptual design. The next steps will be to secure the support of the city commission, then raise funds for final design and construction.

A second project involves working with the Downtown Bozeman Partnership and Bozeman Parking Commission to redesign a city public parking lot adjacent the creek. The objectives of this project are to enhance Bozeman Creek and create a creekside park, reconfigure public parking for greater efficiency, and mitigate on-site stormwater impacts.

The BCEC has raised funds to hire an engineering firm to develop a hydraulic model of the creek for the one-mile reach through the heart of town. The committee conducted their first annual creek cleanup event in October and is providing technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in stabilizing their creek banks.

## Fort Belknap moves further down the trail

With design assistance from RTCA, and with the Montana Conservation Corps as a partner, the Fort Belknap Indian Community constructed additional backcountry trails during the summer of 2011. The tribes were able to construct two trail projects in this heavily used Mission Canyon. The Hole-in-the-Wall Trail was completed, climbing 500 feet in a little under a mile, through an area rich with limestone bridges, windows, and arches. This trail rewards hikers with bird's-eye views of Mission Canyon and the North Fork Little Peoples Creek valley. The second trail was constructed along the South Fork of Little People's Creek. With its trailhead at the Pow-wow grounds, this trail will be a tremendous asset to participants of the many events held here.

RTCA also teamed up with tribal staff along with planning and GIS staff from NPS's Denver office to design and produce a 4-color Fort Belknap Trails brochure. This publication will serve as a trails plan, an educational piece about the benefits of trails, and a marketing tool to attract visitors.



A switchback on the Hole-in-the-Wall Trail, Fort Belknap



# Current Projects

## 1. Bozeman Creek Enhancement

Project Partner: City of Bozeman  
RTCA Contact: Gary Weiner  
Location: Bozeman

### Project Goal

Enhance the structure and function of the 4-mile stretch of Bozeman Creek within the City of Bozeman, potentially through daylighting, revetment removal, floodplain restoration, riparian vegetation enhancement, and creation of greenways and riverside parks. Community benefits include improved water quality, fisheries, and wildlife habitat, abatement of localized flooding, and public access to a new recreational-amenity focused downtown, and spanning the length of the city.

### RTCA Role

Conduct field investigations, work with stakeholders, and conduct a public process leading to the development of a Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan. Identify funding and support construction of one or more early-action projects.



Bozeman Creek flooding, Spring 2011

*“RTCA is exactly the kind of federal program that makes sense. RTCA program staff provide a variety of types of assistance to help organizations like ours establish themselves and become effective.”*

--Mark Holston, Flathead River Partnership

## 2. Park County Recreational Trails

Project Partner: Park County  
RTCA Contact: Gary Weiner  
Location: Park County

### Project Goal

Develop a 1.5-mile non-motorized trail on the historic Chico-Chicory Road, potentially including development of two county parks/picnic sites, habitat enhancement along 1.5 miles of the Yellowstone River, and protection of 11 acres of open space. Develop a 7-mile non-motorized trail on the historic Castle Mountain Road, potentially including development of a county park/picnic site, and protection of 133 acres of habitat and open space.

### RTCA Role

Advise and assist in aspects of trail design and operation, river corridor conservation, land protection, and park planning. Help with partnership building, organizational development, resource assessment, concept plan development, public education and participation, and funding source identification.

## 3. Fort Missoula Regional Park


Project Partner: City of Missoula Parks and Recreation Department  
RTCA Contact: Gary Weiner  
Location: City of Missoula

### Project Goal

Create a 246-acre regional Park at historic Fort Missoula with sports fields, open space, trails, fishing ponds, a cultural heritage center, and access to the Bitterroot River.

### RTCA Role

Facilitate collaboration with federal partners, identify sources of technical and financial assistance, and assist in positioning the park as a regional center for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps.



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