



Rhode Island News



NPS Photo.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Tillinghast Pond Trail Management
Tillinghast Pond Management Council

Find out more about this 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

Trail Management Plan Protects Resources

“Thanks for all of your help in setting this informative workshop... we had a great time with a great group of folks! Excellent job.”

- Steven T. Wright,
Superintendent of RI State Parks

In the largest land conservation deal ever in Rhode Island, The Nature Conservancy, the Town of West Greenwich and the RI Department of Environmental Management partnered to purchase 1,800 acres around Tillinghast Pond in 2007. In 2009, Rivers & Trails staff created a Trail Management Plan to protect sensitive resources, interpret on-going forest management cuts and showcase the beauty and history

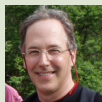
of the landscape. Using an old, hand-drawn map, volunteer Mike Parker uncovered an historic road; this restored way will reconnect the pond with an old home site. In a hands-on trail workshop, participants re-routed a trail segment away from the pond and cut a new trail to a glacial erratic.

Rhode Island is Paddling Destination

During a final year of NPS assistance, the Blueways Alliance organized more events, matured as an organization, and expanded outreach and partnerships. With the international distribution of a Feature Release, Rhode Island is now a destination for novice and experienced paddlers, with trips and packages offered by river groups, outfitters, and inns. A second summer of paddling events expanded to include 18 trips by outfitters and river groups. The board of directors added members and became a 501c3 nonprofit. Blueways is now a thriving alumnus of Rivers & Trails assistance.

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



Tillinghast Pond

1. Tillinghast Pond Trail Management

Location: Western Rhode Island, on the Connecticut border.

Congressional District(s): 2

Project Partner: The Nature Conservancy - Rhode Island Chapter

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Project Goal

Develop a sustainable trail network on 1,800 acres, with connections to adjacent conservation areas and the

North-South Trail.

RTCA Role

Based on the completed Trail Management Plan, establish a Friends of Tillinghast Pond and build their capacity to organize trail work and other events and to raise awareness and appreciation for the management area.



Paddling on Rhode Island's Blueways