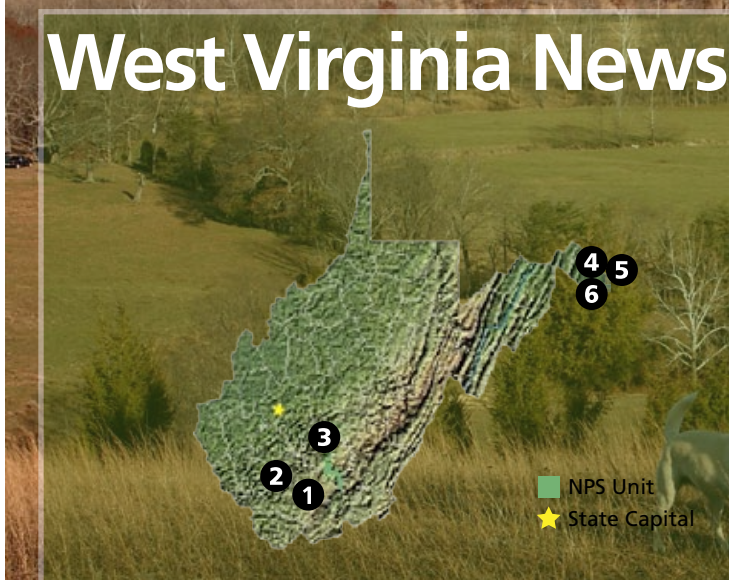




West Virginia News



Cacapon Voices, photo by Tom Cogill

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Great Eastern Trail - KY/VA/WV links
Great Eastern Trail Association
2. Groundwork Wyoming County
Groundwork Wyoming County
3. Meadow River Rail - Trail
Fayette & Greenbrier County Commissions
4. Revitalize the Shepherdstown Waterfront
Corporation of Shepherdstown
5. Trail Towns along the C&O Canal Towpath
Progress Fund, C&O Canal Trust
6. Wild and Wonderful Trails for Every Child
Eastern Area Health Education Center

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

Meadow River Rail-trail: Riding the acquisition wave

A new 17-mile rail-trail project along the Meadow River between Rainelle and Nallen, WV has easily obtained local, state, and federal government interest and support since the spring of 2008 when CSX Transportation filed for railroad abandonment. RTCA notified the community about the opportunity for converting it to a trail, and in 2009, helped to coordinate the process with leaders in Fayette and Greenbrier Counties. With RTCA support, the community activated a Leadership Team, received Recreational Trails and ARRA Stimulus grants, completed an independent property appraisal, and are coordinating with CSX representatives for acquisition. The project received a \$4,500 NPS Challenge Cost Share grant to help with the appraisal, and creation of a map, fact sheet and slide show presentation.

“Personally I would hesitate to undertake a rails-to-trails project without the participation of RTCA.”

-Matt Wender, Fayette County Commission

The rail corridor follows the scenic Meadow River, which flows into the Gauley River, and links to a 15-mile long abandoned, rail line to the west, within the Gauley River National Recreation Area boundary, some of which is still in private ownership. In 2011, the goal is completion of the required soil testing and soil management plan; acquisition of the corridor;

Current Projects

1. Great Eastern Trail - KY/VA/WV links

Project Partner: Great Eastern Trail Association

RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings

Location: Southern WV, eastern KY, southwestern VA

Congressional District: KY-4, VA-9, WV-3

Project Goal

Create a 350 mile hiking trail link between the Breaks Interstate Park in VA/KY to the Allegheny Trail on the WV/VA border.

2. Groundwork Wyoming County

Project Partner: Groundwork Wyoming County

RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings

Location: Wyoming County, in the coalfields of southern WV, part of the National Coal Heritage Area

Congressional District: WV-3

Project Goal

Develop a youth-based Green Team to collaborate with New River Gorge National River and National Coal Heritage Area, and local trails and park work.

3. Meadow River Rail-Trail

Project Partner: Fayette & Greenbrier County Commissions

RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings

Location: Along the Meadow River, between Rainelle and Nallen, WV, in Greenbrier and Fayette Counties.

Congressional District: WV-3

Project Goal

Convert 16.7 miles of abandoned rail corridor to trail, between Nallen and Rainelle, WV.

4. Revitalize the Shepherdstown Waterfront

Location: Shepherdstown, West Virginia on the Potomac River

Congressional District(s): 2

Project Partner: Corporation of Shepherdstown

NPS Contact: Christopher Niewold

Project Goal

Develop a coordinated revitalization plan for the city which includes a fundraising strategy. Complete a master plan as one part of an overall community visioning project.

5. Trail Towns along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath

Project Partners: Progress Fund, C&O Canal Trust

RTCA Contact: Beth Porter

Location: Communities along the C&O Canal Towpath including: Hancock,

Maryland; Williamsport, Maryland;

Point of Rocks, Maryland; Brunswick, Maryland; Shepherdstown, West Virginia and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

Congressional District: MD-6, PA-18, WV-2

Project Goal

Prepare management plan for Trail, pursue designation of Trail as segment of Star Spangled Banner NST, and support phase one of Trail construction.

6. Wild and Wonderful Trails for Every Child

Project Partner: Eastern Area Health Education Center

RTCA Contact: Anne O'Neill

Location: Jefferson County, WV

Congressional District: WV-58

Project Goal

Build a trail, garden, and wetland at Page Jackson Elementary School. Future phases will include mapping safe routes to schools and developing an action plan with possible sidewalk additions and signage. Achieve a trail county plan, prioritize projects, and continue to build community coalitions which will eventually lead to a comprehensive county network of trails.



Assessing the Meadow River Rail Trail

We're Here For You.

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



Peggy Pings
304.293.7528
peggy_pings@nps.gov



Chris Niewold
202.690.5153
christopher_niewold@nps.gov



Beth Porter
202.690.5169
beth_porter@nps.gov



Anne O'Neill
202.360.9715
anne_o'neill@nps.gov

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

engineering design & construction of the first mile, long trestle, and trailhead near Russellville, WV; and development of a Trail Management Plan. NPS RTCA continues assisting the very capable team with guidance on the process, and community involvement strategies.

Cacapon Voices: Celebrating the Connection between People and the Land

Amidst many recent changes, much of the Cacapon River Valley remains as it was generations ago; a rich tapestry of farms and forests in the upper Potomac watershed. The deep connections that locals — original descendants and newcomers alike — have for their land has not been diminished. This connection of people and land became quite apparent to Nancy Ailes, director of Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust, as landowners expressed their feelings when signing conservation easements to protect their land. *Cacapon Voices*, a series of landowner oral histories was born out of this love for land. This soon-to-be-published book is about how these connections have rallied landowners to protect their way of life. It's also about how a local land trust — with more passion than money — is helping them protect their land, their heritage, and their community values. Photographs that will accompany the text capture the emotional essence of the land and the Valley's people. Through these images the reader will see the hope and conviction on landowners' faces and evidence of hard work on their hands. *Cacapon Voices* is currently being considered for publication by the West Virginia University Press.

“This book is a tribute to the landowners whose families have for generations shaped the Lost and Cacapon River Valley. It is also a plea to present and future landowners to respect the lands tended by our forbearers and to honor the lands we will bequeath to coming generations.”

- Nancy Ailes, Executive Director, Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust



Cacapon Voices, photo by Tom Cogill © 2010