



# Washington News



The William O. Douglas Trail runs 75 miles from the Supreme Court Justice's hometown of Yakima to Mount Rainier National Park. Photo: Coviche Canyon Conservancy

## Recent Successes

### “Healthy Communities” Focuses on Trails

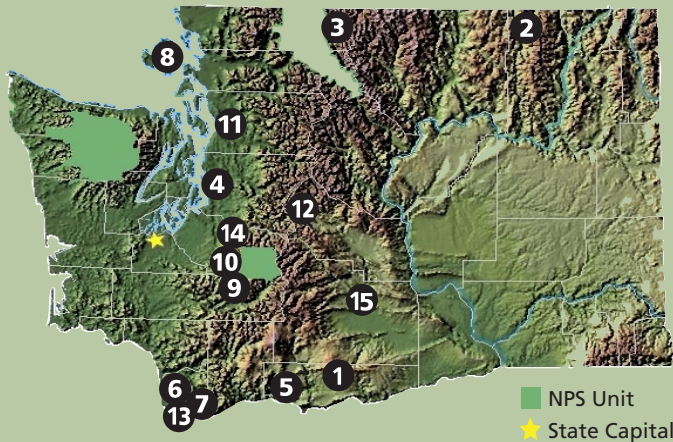
When Mount Vernon began creating a “Healthy Communities” component for the city’s action plan, citizens identified trails as a top priority for community health. A diverse ad hoc trail committee was organized, and their focus quickly broadened from public access to the levees to a citywide system of “urban trails” and connectivity. Initially recruited for 12-18 months, the Urban Trails Committee has worked for more than six years to make dramatic progress on creating a connected trail system, with more than \$3 million in grants and local match funding a rich variety of trails.



Mount Vernon’s Kiwanis Boardwalk, opened Spring 2011, is hugely popular – including with nearby residents in an assisted living facility. Photo: City of Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation Department

### Funding Creates Access on Snoqualmie’s Middle Fork

The Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River is a popular destination for the Seattle area, just a short drive away for more than three million people. RTCA helped American Whitewater, land managers and environmental groups develop a plan to create better access for boaters, fishermen, and families along



### 2012 PROJECTS

1. Central Klickitat Recreation Connections
2. Ferry County Rail-Trail
3. Healthy Communities “Hub” Development
4. Hylebos Watershed Action Plan
5. Jewett Creek Community Greenway
6. Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy
7. Lewis River—Vancouver Lake Water Trail
8. Lopez Community Trail Network
9. Nisqually Community Forest
10. Pioneer Trek Trail
11. Puget Sound Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS)
12. Roslyn Urban Forest Comprehensive Recreation Plan
13. Vancouver–Portland Metro Regional Youth Action Plan
14. Wilkeson’s Coke Oven Park
15. William O. Douglas Trail

Find out more about each project starting on page 2

# Current Projects

## 1. Central Klickitat Recreation Connections

Lead Partner: Klickitat County Health Department

Located in the City of Goldendale and surrounding Central Klickitat County, this project will result in the enhancement of existing trails, creation of 10 miles of walking/biking routes in the city, and connections to regional trails and parks such as the 31-mile Klickitat Rail-Trail and Brooks Memorial State Park.

## 2. Ferry County Rail-Trail

Lead Partner: Ferry County Rail Corridor Committee

Project partners and RTCA are working to transform an abandoned rail line in Ferry County linking Kettle River, Curlew Creek, and Curlew Lake into 26 miles of non-motorized trail.

## 3. Healthy Communities "Hub" Development

Lead Partner: Whatcom County Health Department

Three county health departments—Whatcom, Skagit, and Kitstap—are collaborating on a regional approach for building community capacity and addressing health disparities, including

opportunities for physical activity. This is a new model, and RTCA will help the sponsors organize the local effort and integrate strategies for public participation.

## 4. Hylebos Watershed Action Plan

Lead Partner: EarthCorps

RTCA will help EarthCorps, Friends of Hylebos, the City of Federal Way, and partners create an action plan that engages citizens in hands-on service to restore the environmental health of the 745-acre Hylebos Watershed and inspire its urban residents—especially young people—to connect with nature.

## 5. Jewett Creek Community Greenway

Lead Partner: Underwood Conservation District

Underwood Conservation District (UCD) and Jewett Streamkeepers have a vision to create a community greenway within the Jewett Creek watershed in White Salmon. They want to work with partners and willing landowners to create trail access, restoration opportunities and a heightened awareness of the creek within this Columbia Gorge community. RTCA will help guide them in working with government entities,



Jewett Creek Watershed gets new bird boxes and appreciation from the next generation. Photo: NPS

approaching private landowners, developing a diverse stakeholder group, and charting a course to success.

## 6. Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy

Lead Partner: Urban Greenspaces Institute

RTCA is providing assistance to the Urban Greenspaces Institute, Columbia Land Trust, Metro, City of Vancouver, and other Intertwine partners to develop a regional conservation strategy. This plan will detail the current conditions, ongoing conservation efforts, and strategies to maintain and improve the region's natural resources.

## 7. Lewis River – Vancouver Lake Water Trail

Lead Partner: Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department

This water trail will link the Lewis River to Vancouver Lake via public lands along these waterways. The project goals are to create a master plan, signage, and a map.



Racers get ready to start the annual "Run Wild" 5k and 8k at Northwest Trek. Photo: Northwest Trek

# Current Projects cont.

## 8. Lopez Community Trail Network

Lead Partner: Lopez Community Trail Network

RTCA will help this community coalition create a potential 20-mile network of trails on Lopez Island that will connect key community destinations, including existing parks and trails, Lopez Village, and the ferry landing.



Water trails help people discover new perspectives about their waterways and their communities, while benefiting the local economy. Photo: Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Department

## 9. Nisqually Community Forest

Lead Partner: Nisqually Land Trust

RTCA is helping the Nisqually Land Trust develop a business model for a non-profit, community-owned and managed forest in the Upper Mashel River watershed near the Town of Eatonville. The forest will be managed for multiple public benefits. Funding will come from timber sale proceeds.

## 10. Pioneer Trek Trail

Lead Partners: Pioneer Farm Museum and Northwest Trek

RTCA is assisting Pioneer Farm Museum and Northwest Trek near Eatonville on a project to build visibility and public support for a five mile trail linking these two recreation/tourism/educational destinations, the Town of Eatonville, and the future Nisqually State Park.

## 11. Puget Sound Regional Open Space Strategy (ROSS)

Lead Partners: University of Washington, Green Futures Research and Design Lab

RTCA is serving on the ROSS steering committee working to create a preliminary conservation strategy to frame overarching issues and provide the conceptual foundation for seven central Puget Sound watershed studies. In addition, RTCA will assist in public participation and outreach during the watershed-scale studies.



An EarthCorps "Grubbing Group" works to restore watershed health. Photo: EarthCorps

## 12. Roslyn Urban Forest Comprehensive Recreation Plan

Lead Partner: City of Roslyn

Roslyn is developing a plan for non-motorized recreation and trails that connects the city to regional recreation and wildlife networks and enhances individual health and community livability. The study area includes more than 300 acres of forest in city limits.

## We're Here For You.

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

**Michael Linde**, Program Manager  
206.220.4113  
michael\_linde@nps.gov

**Alex Stone**  
206.220.4108  
alex\_stone@nps.gov

**Bryan Bowden**  
360.569.2211 ext 2306  
bryan\_bowden@nps.gov

**Dan Miller**  
360.816.6232  
dan\_miller@nps.gov

**Emily Linroth**  
206.220.4118  
emily\_linroth@partner.nps.gov

**Sue Abbott**  
206.220.4116  
sue\_abbott@nps.gov

**Susan Rosebrough**  
206.220.4121  
susan\_rosebrough@nps.gov

## 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

## 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.

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

## Current Projects cont.

### 13. Metro Regional Youth Action Plan Vancouver-Portland

Lead Partners: Southwest Washington Boys and Girls Club; Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

RTCA will help convene, coordinate, and facilitate a youth action plan for the Vancouver Metro region. Partners will work together to discuss how the youth oriented organizations and agencies can collectively address issues such as nature deficit disorder and childhood obesity.

### 14. Wilkeson's Coke Oven Park

Lead Partner: Town of Wilkeson

RTCA will help Wilkeson, a gateway community to Mount Rainier National Park, develop a master plan for Coke Oven Park, a registered site on the Na-

tional Historic Register. Project partners want to develop the park as a regional recreation destination that focuses on protection, restoration, and interpretation of the area's coal mining history.

### 15. William O. Douglas Trail

Lead Partner: Cowiche Canyon Conservancy

The project goal is to develop a comprehensive management plan for this 75-mile non-motorized trail that begins in the former Supreme Court justice's hometown of Yakima and ends in Mount Rainier National Park. Trail partners also want to apply for National Recreation Trail designation.



## Recent Successes cont.

Better access to the Snoqualmie River creates more fun for everyone! Photo: Tom O'Keefe

a 20-mile stretch of the river. Nearly \$400,000, including a recent boost of \$74,000 from NPS's state side LWCF program, has been leveraged since the plan was created. The funds are being used to improve 12 access sites, create a river map, and install signs along the river corridor. Volunteer work parties that included youth were an integral component of implementation. The river is now recognized as a treasured community asset and a destination that will be enjoyed for generations to come.