

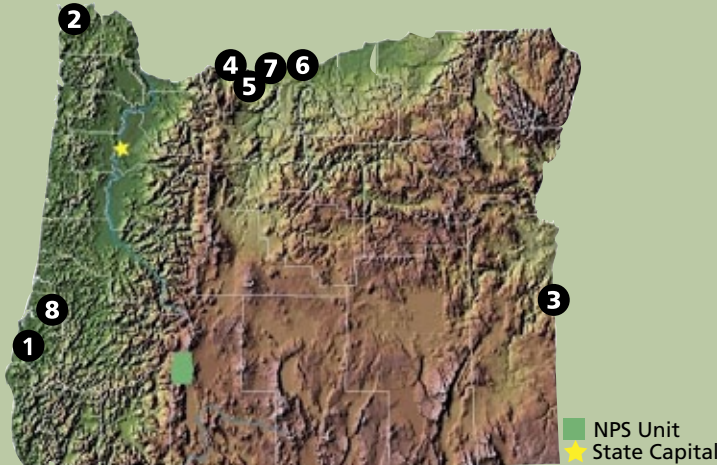


# Oregon News



The Tillamook Estuary Partnership hosts 350 enthusiastic third graders at Hoquarton Slough every year. Photo: Roger Ross Photography

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011



1. Coos Bay Walkway  
International Port of Coos Bay
2. Greater Ecola Conservation Area  
City of Cannon Beach
3. Idaho-Oregon Snake River Water Trail  
Canyon County Parks, Recreation, & Waterways
4. Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy  
Urban Greenspaces Institute
5. Johnson Creek Conservation  
Johnson Creek Watershed Association
6. Post Canyon Trail Plan  
Columbia River Gorge Natural Scenic Area
7. Wyeth Bench Trails  
US Forest Service
8. Umpqua Water Trail  
Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Find out more about each project starting on page 2

## Recent Successes

### The River City Gets a Riverfront Park

The City of Keizer, known as “The River City,” had a problem: no access to the Willamette River! In 2004, RTCA worked with the City, the Trust for Public Land, Oregon State Parks, and the American Heritage Rivers Initiative to acquire 120 acres of potential park land along the river. The group worked with a committee of elected

*“RTCA was able to bring together fundamentally opposed interests within the City to ultimately create a park for everyone to love and enjoy.”*

—Richard Walsh,  
Keizer City Council President

officials, adjacent neighbors and concerned citizens to involve citizens and develop a concept plan for the park. In 2006, through an NPS partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects, a community design for the site was created. Today, park facilities include a 400-seat amphitheater, dog-park, trails, picnic tables and shelters, an ultimate frisbee course, and a boat-in campsite for the Willamette River Water Trail.

### Third Graders Go “Down by the Riverside”

RTCA began working with the Hoquarton Interpretive Trail Committee, City of Tillamook and the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership in 2001 on a forgotten community resource: the historic slough meandering through downtown on its way to the ocean. Nine years and \$500,000 later, with sweat equity to match, Hoquarton Slough is the crown jewel of the community.

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This sketch is one of several designed to portray levels of development along a walkway on Coos Bay's industrial waterfront. Art work: City of Coos Bay

## Current Projects

### 1. Coos Bay Walkway

Lead Partner: International Port of Coos Bay

Project partners are working to develop a walkway along the Coos Bay coastline that will be an asset to the community and a draw for the thousands of Hwy 101 travelers passing through town. An industrial landscape and multiple landowners pose unique development challenges. RTCA is providing assistance in planning the six-mile community walkway.



The City of Cannon Beach and partners are collaborating on a conservation plan. Photo: John Fowler

### 2. Greater Ecola Conservation Area

Lead Partner: City of Cannon Beach

The City of Cannon Beach and partners envision a protected area along this

portion of the northern Oregon coastline. RTCA will provide guidance to the City and partners to collaboratively develop a conservation area plan for the region to tie together local, state, and federally protected lands and make recommendations for increased resource protection and outdoor recreation opportunities.

### 3. Idaho-Oregon Snake River Water Trail

Lead Partner: Canyon County Parks, Recreation, & Waterways

RTCA is helping a broad range of partners in two states build a coalition to plan a 205-mile, multi-use water trail between Three Island Crossing State Park, ID, and Farewell Bend State Park, Oregon. Public awareness of river resources and access to the water are key project goals.

### 4. Intertwine Regional Conservation Strategy

Lead Partner: Urban Greenspaces Institute

RTCA is providing assistance to Urban Greenspaces Institute, Columbia Land Trust, Metro, City of Portland, and other Intertwine partners to develop a regional conservation strategy. This plan will detail current conditions, on-going conservation efforts, and

strategies to maintain and improve the natural resources of the Intertwine Region.



Intertwine partners are planning a regional conservation strategy with RTCA's help. Photo: Mike Houck

### 5. Johnson Creek Conservation

Lead Partner: Johnson Creek Watershed Association

RTCA is working with Johnson Creek Watershed Association, the City of Portland, Portland Metro, Trust for Public Land, Audubon Society, and local municipalities to develop a land acquisition plan that outlines principles for conservation and areas of the watershed that should be targeted for protection.

# Current Projects cont.



High School students provide some TLC for restoration efforts on Post Canyon trails. Photo: Hood River County Forestry Department

## 6. Post Canyon Trails System

Lead Partner: Columbia River Gorge Natural Scenic Area

The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area applied to RTCA for assistance in developing a trail plan for the popular but unmanaged Post Canyon Trails. RTCA is helping to develop an action



plan for the planning effort, conduct a trail inventory, and facilitate decision making. Other partners in the project include Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, Hood River County, International Mountain Bicycling Association, and the Backcountry Horsemen of America.

## 7. Umpqua Water Trail

Lead Partner: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

RTCA is working with project partners to provide a low-impact recreational and educational experience for paddlers through the development of a water trail and guidebook for a 127-mile-long corridor along the Smith and Umpqua Rivers. Phoenix Charter High School, in Roseburg, will play a key role in helping to train a cadre of community volunteers to serve as watershed stewards.

## 8. Wyeth Bench Trails

Lead Partner: City of Cascade Locks

The City of Cascade Locks and the International Mountain Bicycling Association have a vision to develop a non-motorized trail system on Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area lands near town. RTCA is helping project partners develop a plan that balances recreation with the natural environment and encourages nature-based tourism.



Umpqua Water Trail partners envision 127 miles of the Umpqua and Smith Rivers will provide a low-impact recreational and educational experience for paddlers. Photo: Partnership for Umpqua Rivers

## We're Here For You.

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

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## 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

## 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)

## Recent Successes cont.

Every third grader in the county experiences this slice of open space during the annual 5-day "Down by the Riverside" event. High school students and resource staff use the outdoor space as a science lab with learning stations and projects like re-chipping the trail, pulling weeds, and planting trees to get kids active. Life has returned to the waterfront!



Hoquarton Slough has been transformed into an outdoor science lab. Photo: Roger Ross Photography



The Eagle Scouts in Sisters have given more than 600 hours of sweat equity toward improving the 140-mile community trail system. Photo: Sisters Boy Scout Troop 188

## Kids Rock in Sisters

In 2002, RTCA helped the Sisters Trails Committee plan a 140-mile trail system that connects neighborhoods, schools, and downtown businesses with the surrounding Deschutes National Forest. Youth have played a big role in shaping Sisters Community Trails (see [www.sisterstrails.com](http://www.sisterstrails.com)).

High School students in the Interdisciplinary Environmental Expedition (IEE) program conducted peer surveys and field work for the Tollgate-High School

Trail. They researched surface types, worked with land owners for easements, built trail segments, and constructed a bridge.

Several Eagle Scout candidate projects from Troop 188 also contributed to Sisters trails, providing over 600 hours of volunteer labor to install signs, create single track, construct rock walls and restore illegal OHV roads.

*"This class has made me want to incorporate my love of the outdoors into the rest of my life."*

--Sisters High School Student