

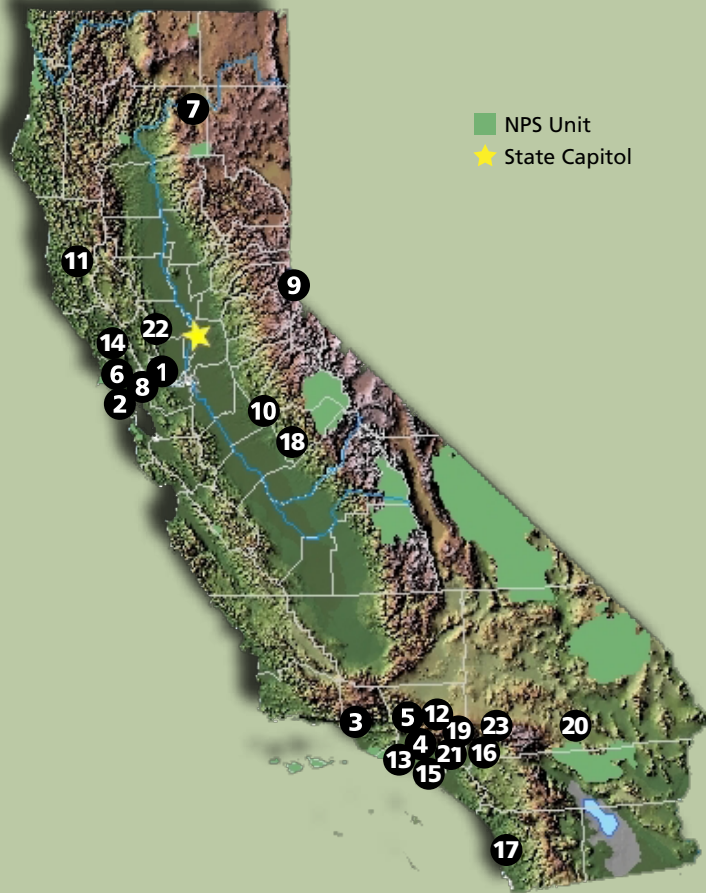


California News



The Salinas River near Paso Robles, California. Photo: Sally Sheridan.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011



Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Success

Salinas River: Follow the River, Follow the Dream

The Salinas River is a distinguishing feature of the Paso Robles, California landscape. This spirited and mysterious “Upside-Down River”—it flows from south to north—changes seasonally from a raging river running bank to bank in the winter to a summertime skeleton course of pools of water and braided sandy riverbeds. However, physical barriers such as the railroad and Hwy 101 separate the River from the community of Paso Robles, steep geology along the west side of the corridor constricts access, and exponential population growth has resulted in a loss of open space and River access.

City leaders and community advocates recognized the need to embrace the River and plan for its future, and, in 2003, received a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to help create a vision and management strategy for the Salinas River. After many community meetings and workshops including a design charrette (in partnership with the American Society of Landscape Architects), the Follow the River, Follow the Dream illustrative vision was created that displays how the River and its environs within Paso Robles can be utilized, preserved or developed over time, and reveals a dynamic system of both

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.

Current Projects



High school students from the Arroyo Seco Academy participating in a walkability assessment of urban trails in the Cornfield Arroyo Specific Plan area near downtown Los Angeles. Photo: Patrick Johnston.

1. Alhambra Creek & Botanical Trail to John Muir National Historic Site

Project Partner: Friends of Alhambra Creek

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: City of Martinez

This project, located in the City of Martinez in the San Francisco Bay Area, will result in a 3.5 mile trail that will connect the downtown train station (Amtrak) with John Muir National Historic Site, highlighting Alhambra Creek and native plant gardens along the route with connections to regional trails.

2. Art in the Park at Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Project Partner: Headlands Center for the Arts

RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

Location: Marin Headlands and the greater Golden Gate National Recreation Area

This effort will develop an "art-in-the-park" program at GGNRA to help enhance visitor appreciation and enjoyment, reach a broader visitor audience, and enhance connections to community and partner organizations through the involvement of artists in park projects and programs.

3. California State University Regional Park

Project Partner: California State University, Channel Islands

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

Located as part of the California State University, Channel Islands campus in Camarillo, California, this new 370-acre regional park will include restoration of riparian and upland habitat and establishment of a trail system that connects to regional trail systems.

4. Cornfield-Arroyo Neighborhood Trail Network

Project Partner: City of Los Angeles, Planning Department

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: City of Los Angeles

This new 7.2-mile neighborhood trail network will traverse the area around the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco confluence including portions of the communities of Lincoln Heights, Cypress Park, and Chinatown. The network will connect the community to the Los Angeles River, Arroyo Seco and Los Angeles State Historic Park and serve as a pilot project for other neighborhood trail planning efforts in the City of Los Angeles.

5. Crest to Coast Trail

Project Partner: City of Santa Clarita

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: City of Santa Clarita

The Crest to Coast Trail corridor will connect the Pacific Crest Trail through the City of Santa Clarita to the Santa Clara River in Los Angeles County and result in a 50-mile trail that will serve as both a regional trail and long-distance trail connector.

Current Projects

“I’m glad the NPS is one of our partners to help guide us through this valuable and enormous undertaking.”

-Ruthann Levison, City of Santa Clarita Parks Commissioner

6. East Peak Access-Mt. Tamalpais State Park

Project Partner: California Dept. of Parks & Recreation
RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson
Location: Mt. Tamalpais State Park in Marin County

This project located at Mt. Tamalpais State Park in Marin County, will focus on the reorganization and improvements to facilities at East Peak, a key visitor use area at the park. Enhancements will include improved organization and reduced impacts of pedestrian and vehicle traffic; ADA facilities; functional and aesthetic settings for interpretive center, restrooms, picnic areas and snack bar; clearer way-finding system featuring the existing trail network; and protection and interpretation of the on-site cultural resources.

7. Great Shasta Rail Trail

Project Partner: McCloud Local First Network
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice
Location: Between McCloud and Burney in Siskiyou and Shasta counties.

This rail-trail project is located in northern California between McCloud and Burney in Siskiyou and Shasta counties and will focus on a proposed 80-mile railbanked recreational trail between with connections to national forest and state park lands, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the communities of Mount Shasta and Weed.

8. Groundwork Richmond

Project Partner: City of Richmond
RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier
Location: City of Richmond

RTCA is helping launch the new Groundwork Richmond, recently established to improve the City’s physical and social environment through on-the-ground, partnership projects that support brownfield reuse, facilitate community involvement with the Richmond Greenway, increase the urban canopy, enhance the urban gardening movement, and foster youth employment in the environment.

9. Lake Tahoe Non-Motorized Boating

Project Partner: California Tahoe Conservancy
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice
Location: Lake Tahoe region

Lake Tahoe, located in the Sierra Nevada mountains in California and Nevada, is known for its beautiful scenery and recreation opportunities on land and water. A facilities and management framework will promote enhanced ecologically-sustainable, responsible, and balanced non-motorized boating access, use and management and provide a blueprint for interpretation of lakeshore natural, cultural, and historic resources.

10. Lower Tuolumne River Boating Trail

Project Partner: California State Parks
RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson
Location: Tuolumne River near the city of Modesto

Building on an earlier plan for the Lower Tuolumne River Parkway, this boating trail will extend along a 52 mile segment of the river near the City of Modesto, approximately 75 miles



Crest to Coast Trail partners conducted field surveys of proposed trail routes in the Santa Clarita area. The trail will eventually link the City of Santa Clarita to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and the California Coastal Trail. Photo: Patrick Johnston.

Current Projects



Paddling in the fall on Lake Tahoe. Photo: Sue Rae Irelan.

southeast of Sacramento in California's Central Valley. The project will result in a quiet-water boating trail with improved public access that runs from below La Grange Dam to the confluence with the San Joaquin River.

11. Navarro River Water Trail

Project Partner: Anderson Valley Land Trust

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Location: Mendocino County from the Anderson Valley to the Pacific coast along the Navarro River and Rancheria Creek

This 46-mile waterway, located in Mendocino County, linking the Anderson Valley to the Pacific coast, includes the Navarro River and Rancheria Creek. A water trail assessment will be completed looking at opportunities to expand river based recreation for visitors, local residents and paddling enthusiasts, while promoting enhanced stewardship of watershed lands.

12. Pacoima Wash Greenway

Project Partner: Pacoima Beautiful

RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin

Location: Community of Pacoima in Los Angeles

The Pacoima Wash Greenway will extend ten miles from the mouth of Lopez Canyon, below the San Gabriel Mountains, to storm water spreading grounds in urban San Fernando Valley following an existing flood protection facility. The greenway will include a bicycle path, recreation trail, dry habitat restoration projects, and neighborhood parks. The project received a grant from the Los Angeles County Public Health's "Policies for Livable, Active Communities and Environments (PLACE) Program".

13. Palos Verdes Nature Preserve Trails

Project Partner: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin

Location: Palos Verde Peninsula in Los Angeles County

The Palos Verdes Nature Preserve is a series of open space holdings in the coastal foothills of the Cities of Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Estates and Rolling Hills Estates, southwestern Los Angeles County. This project will enhance conservation of the 1200-acre preserve and management of a 40-mile trail network.

14. Petaluma River Access

Project Partner: City of Petaluma

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Location: City of Petaluma

This project, in the City of Petaluma in Sonoma County in the San Francisco Bay Area, will expand river access and recreational amenities along three miles of the Petaluma River, including 2-1/2 miles of pedestrian and bicycling trails and expanded launching and landing sites for non-motorized boats.

15. Richland Farms Equestrian Multi-Use Trail

Project Partner: Compton Jr. Posse

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: City of Compton

Richland Farms is an equestrian community within the City of Compton adjacent to Compton Creek in southern California. The goals of this project are to assess existing equestrian trail conditions, make recommendations for trail enhancements, and identify opportunities to connect to other equestrian communities regionally. The project will result in the improvement of 3 miles of existing equestrian multi-use trail along the Compton Creek channel and identify opportunities for trail connections to equestrian communities across the region.

16. Riverside Citizen Science Program

Project Partner: City of Riverside

RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin

Location: City of Riverside

This project will focus on two city parks, Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park and Fairmount Park. The goal of the project is to engage citizens in 40 acres of riverine wetland restoration with boardwalk and interpretative signage, restoration of Kangaroo Rat habitat on 1500 acre Sycamore Canyon Wildlife Park, and a possible loop trail and interpretative signage at Sycamore Canyon.

Current Projects

17. San Diego River Trail Safety Enhancement

Project Partner: San Diego River Park Foundation

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: City of San Diego

The focus of this project is the creation of safety enhancements and public policy recommendations that support use of the 50-mile San Diego River Trail, with a focus on approximately 20 miles in the City of San Diego.

18. San Joaquin River Water Trail

Project Partner: San Joaquin River Partnership

RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

Location: The San Joaquin River from the River Gorge, upstream of Millerton Lake, to the San Francisco Bay Delta

Planning for a San Joaquin River Water Trail as a major feature of a river recreation and access strategy for public lands along the 300-mile San Joaquin is underway by a coalition of non-profits in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies, to increase Central Valley residents' connection to their river and enhance the public's recreational and educational benefits from the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

19. Santa Fe Dam Nature Center Trails

Project Partner: San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: City of Irwindale

The focus of this project is the development of a conceptual trail plan for the Nature Center area of the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. This project will result in a network of trails throughout the 500-acres of natural area surrounding the Nature Center. The trail system will improve connections between the Santa Fe Dam's existing natural and recreational resources.

20. Twentynine Palms Community Trails

Project Partner: Morongo Basin Open Space Group/ Sonoran Institute

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

Location: City of Twentynine Palms

The Twentynine Palms Community Trails project, located in San Bernardino County, will result in the creation of an approximately 20-mile network of public trails that will connect to a future regional Morongo Basin trail network with connections to Joshua Tree National Park and the US Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center.

21. Watts Watershed

Project Partner: Harbot Watts Economic Development Corporation

RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin

Location: Community of Watts in Los Angeles

RTCA staff will assist in the implementation planning of three miles of urban creek trails in the community of Watts located in the City of Los Angeles. The project seeks to create green streets, establish greenways, and connect trail users to the regional trail system via the Los Angeles River Trails system. These improvements will help implement local public health, safety, job

creation, active recreation and watershed health goals.

22. Winters Putah Creek Park Trail

Project Partner: Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: City of Winters

The Lower Putah Creek partners will design and construct a two-mile trail as part of a creek restoration initiative, connecting local communities to the creek, downtown Winters and Winters Putah Creek park, promoting safe walking and bicycling and creek awareness and stewardship.

23. Zanja Trail and Greenway

Project Partner: City of Redlands

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

Location: City of Redlands

This project will result in the creation of a six-mile greenway that follows and protects the alignment of the historic irrigation ditch, "Mill Creek Zanja", located within the City of Redlands in San Bernardino County. The Mill Creek Zanja, constructed by Serrano Indians in 1819, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Children playing in the historic Zanja irrigation channel in Sylvan Park, Redlands. Photo: Anne Dove.

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
- 25,369 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
- 94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.



Artist Libby Tolley shares her painting of the Salinas River during the Festival of the Arts event's river-themed art exhibition. Photo: City of Paso Robles

seasonal and permanent multi-use trails, new connections to the River – as well as a revitalized Riverfront district.

Earthquakes and economic challenges have done nothing to deter this determined community to implement this vision. Based on the River Vision Illustrative and core principles, over 150 acres of River corridor and riparian habitat have been purchased, a 1 ½ mile parkway trail constructed, 4 bilingual interpretive signs installed, 5 acres of sensitive riparian habitat restored, regional connections negotiated, and designation as part of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic trail is being pursued.

Partners continue to help realize the Dream: The Amigos de Anza North County Trails and other “friends of the river” such as The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County and the Upper Salinas Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (RCD) help with the message of conservation, preservation, watershed health, restoration, and historical/trail connections as important aspects of the river’s future. Local artists teamed with the City to create the Paso Robles Festival of the Arts that celebrates both the arts and the environment by focusing on the River corridor. This fine art connection to the river vision theme has resulted in raising over \$215,000 for land acquisition monies.

The river became the artists’ muse at the first Festival of the Arts in 2009 and 63 artists like Libby Tolley were around the river corridor painting and capturing its varied beauty and character. Their art was on display at the Festival of the Arts as a special River themed Art Exhibition. “This will provide the community the opportunity to see the river corridor through the eyes of the artist and hopefully heighten their awareness and reengage their focus on protecting this special resource,” acknowledges Meg Williamson, Assistant City Manager.

“The services and investment in Paso Robles through the NPS RTCA program planted a seed that grew a healthy new attitude about the River corridor and the watershed in general. This community has achieved so much that would not have been possible without you.”

Meg Williamson, Assistant City Manager