

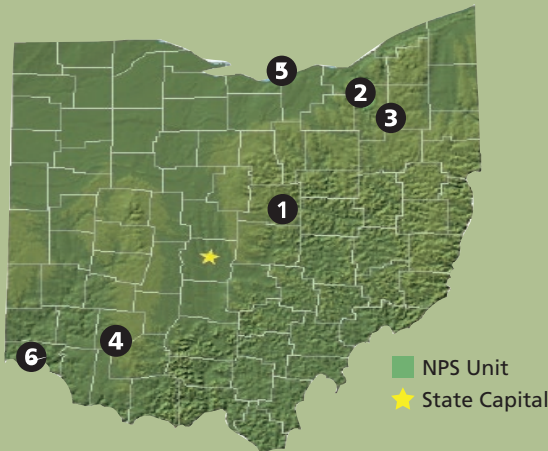


Ohio News



Groundwork Cincinnati Green Team at Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. **Buckeye Trail Association Capacity Building**
Buckeye Trail Association
2. **Cleveland Metroparks Centennial Trails Plan**
Cleveland Metroparks
3. **Cuyahoga River Water Trail**
Friends of the Crooked River
4. **Groundwork Cincinnati Mill Creek**
Groundwork Cincinnati Mill Creek
5. **Lake Erie Paddling Route**
Ohio Sea Grant
6. **OH/KY/IN Trail Forum**
Green Umbrella of Cincinnati

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Groundwork Cincinnati Mill Creek: A New Groundwork Trust Community

Mill Creek Restoration Project, a Cincinnati based non-profit, completed a feasibility study and officially announced their new organization in June 2012.

“There is much to do and GCMC and its partners are highly motivated to collaborate with EPA and NPS on this exciting Groundwork Trust opportunity.”

- Robin Corathers, Executive Director
Groundwork Cincinnati Mill Creek

Mill Creek Restoration Project joined 18 other Groundwork Trusts in a national network focused on revitalizing communities through projects and programs that improve the environment, local economies, and quality of life. Adding to the excitement, Mill Creek Restoration Project also dedicated 3 miles of the Millcreek Greenway Trail

and announced receipt of a major grant from the Audubon Society and Toyota.

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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

1. Buckeye Trail Association Capacity Building

Project Partner: Buckeye Trail Association
RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: Statewide
Congressional Districts: Statewide

Project Goal

Assistance for increasing organizational capacity, creating a “chapter” system and a strong organization that can work effectively and efficiently in developing, maintaining and operating portions of the Buckeye Trail as well as protection of the resources through which the trail goes.

NPS Role

Building the Buckeye Trail Association’s capacity to manage its volunteers more effectively, protect land and promote the use of existing off road portions of the Buckeye Trail, will improve natural resources and enhance outdoor recreation throughout the state for generations to come. This will lead to more trail development as well as trail corridor protection.



Building Buckeye Trail. Photo: NPS



Partners plan out their bike route on a new trail. Photo: NPS

2. Cleveland Metroparks Centennial Trails Plan

Project Partner: Cleveland Metroparks
RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: NE Ohio
Congressional Districts: OH - 11, 12, 13, 16

Project Goal

An enhanced trail system that offers opportunities for improved conservation, environmental education about natural area stewardship and utilization ethics. Project has evolved to include creation of a regional trails forum to facilitate communications and development of a regional trails vision.

NPS Role

Assistance is being requested to help with several areas: 1) Organizational structure and process to integrate staff, partner and public participation. 2) Technical assistance with operational issues of multi-use systems, specifically use compatibility and conflicts, capacity and need. 3) Evaluation for historic and new use considerations of user types such as bridal, mountain bike, etc. 4) Facilitation of public participation and input gathering. 5) Assistance with marketing of the benefits of trail systems and a vision for a world-class regional system. 6) Launching of NE Ohio Trails Forum.

3. Cuyahoga River Water Trail

Project Partner: Friends of the Crooked River
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: NE Ohio
Congressional Districts: OH - 11, 12, 13, 16

Project Goal

The creation, planning, launch and implementation of the 100 mile Cuyahoga River Water Trail. Taking what was once known only for being so polluted that it caught on fire, and promoting it for improved water quality, recreational opportunities, economic development and a regional asset.

NPS Role

Facilitate the steering committee of the Cuyahoga River Water Trail (CRWT) Partners to build support through public engagement and management partner participation to bring sections “on line” with the branded CRWT designation. Also seek State of Ohio Water Trail and National Water Trail System designations.



Cuyahoga River Water Trail. Photo: Eilert Ofstead

Current Projects cont.

4. Groundwork Cincinnati Mill Creek - Implementation

Project Partner: Groundwork Cincinnati Mill Creek

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Cincinnati

Congressional Districts: OH - 1, 2

Project Goal

Using the results of the Feasibility Study for the creation of Groundwork Cincinnati, begin implementation of projects and programs through community partnerships. Continue to develop the Mill Creek Greenway Trail and greenspace in an industrialized urban area and poor natural habitat along the concrete channelized Mill Creek. Involve youth in environmental restoration to create a legacy of stewardship, access, healthy use and natural area connections.

NPS Role

Assist in identifying and developing projects and programs, assessing opportunities; develop partnerships for trail management and technical issues, and to build organizational capacity. Advise on youth involvement and other diverse populations. Promote and gain recognition of the trail, energize efforts and add credibility through public outreach efforts.



Groundwork Green Team. Photo: NPS



Mapping Lake Erie access points. Photo: NPS

5. Lake Erie Paddling Route

Project Partner: Ohio Sea Grant

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Lake Erie Shore of Ohio

Congressional Districts: OH - 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 16

Project Goal

Creation of Lake Erie Paddling Route along entire Ohio Coast through community and partner engagement and including collaboration of on shore recreation opportunities.

NPS Role

Convene partners and stakeholders to assess existing conditions, build support, plan connections and facilities and to provide a comprehensive paddling opportunity along the entire Lake Erie Shoreline in Ohio. Coordinate with Pennsylvania, Michigan, NY and Canada for Lake Erie Circumference opportunities. Seek state and national designations.

Project Goal

Developing and organizing a forum to network and share information about trails in the greater Cincinnati area across city, county, state (OH, IN, KY) and river boundaries.

NPS Role

Facilitate the planning and presentation of a one day forum by gathering stakeholders and invited trail decision makers and creators to gather information and assess future collaboration.

6. OH/KY/IN Trails Forum

Project Partner: Green Umbrella of Cincinnati

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Cincinnati

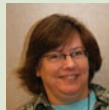
Congressional Districts: OH - 1, 2; KY - 4; IN - 6, 9



Trails forum at work. Photo: Green Umbrella of Cincinnati

We're Here For You.

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



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2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154 Miles of Trail Developed

1,074 Miles of River Conserved

70,385 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.

One of their first projects was the creation of an urban youth “green team” workforce to implement edible gardens and native landscaping projects along the trail. The Green Team ended their season with a visit to Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Greater Cleveland Trails & Greenways Conference Pathways to Successful Communities

Over 200 interested individuals gathered for a day of learning and networking to improve and advance trails in northeast Ohio. A variety of topics were covered including funding, design, and health. Progress was made towards conducting a trails forum to benefit regional efforts. Awards were given at the evening reception to recognize outstanding local trail efforts. This 2nd biennial conference was successful and plans are already underway for the 2014 event, with an expanded regional scope.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Trail Plan Completed

After two years, many meetings, and hundreds of public comments, the Final Trail Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Cuyahoga Valley National Park has been completed and sent for a record of decision. The Plan aims to develop a blueprint that will guide the expansion, restoration, management, operations, and use of the trail system and its associated amenities over the next 15 years, while keeping with the purpose, mission, and significance of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The plan states several goals for the trail network, including: providing for a variety of trail users, sharing the features significant to the Park, minimizing impacts to park resources, sustaining the trails for future generations, and engaging cooperative partnerships.



“This Trail Management Plan is an opportunity for us to work together, to protect and restore the cultural and natural park resources, while creating a world-class trail system for the recreational enjoyment of present and future generations.”

- Stan Austin, Superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley National Park