



Massachusetts News



Biking along the Berkshire Bike Path. NPS Photo.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Berkshire Bike Path**
Berkshire Bike Path Council
- 2. Last Green Valley Water Trails**
Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor
- 3. Public Art on New England Trails**
New England Foundation for the Arts
- 4. Seekonk Area Trails**
Newman YMCA

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

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

Berkshire Bike Path

The Berkshire Bike Path Council is spearheading creation of a scenic north-south bikeway of approximately 75 miles—using railway corridors and off-road bike paths combined with on-road bike lanes—extending from Vermont to Connecticut through eleven Berkshire County communities. Recent successes include the approval of major funding and final design for extension of the Ashwilticook Trail in Adams and construction of a new bike path in Lenox. Other Berkshire communities are at various stages of bikeway development: all have organized local committees, identified the basic alignment for the bikeway route and signed a joint agreement that recognizes the regional significance of the bikeway project.

“We’ve made great strides in realizing the vision of a regional bikeway through Berkshire County, thanks to the National Park Service.”

- Marge Cohan, President
Berkshire Bike Path Council

Great Barrington Trails and Greenways

Great Barrington Trails & Greenways has succeeded in advancing its town-wide trails vision through volunteer trail building at Lake Mansfield Conservation Area and Fountain Pond State Park. Their current outreach is supported by a “Trail Towns” partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy which brought resources for funding a series of local projects designed to promote increased

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We're Here For You.

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



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2009 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,411 Miles of Trail Developed

2,664 Miles of River Conserved

87,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

97% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at www.nps.gov/rtca



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Current Projects

1. Berkshire Bike Path

Location: Berkshire County
Congressional District: 1
Project Partner: Berkshire Bike Path Council
NPS Contact: Steve Golden

Project Goal

Creation of a regional bike trail network.

2. Last Green Valley Water Trails

Location: Within the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor of northeastern Connecticut and adjacent towns in Massachusetts.
Congressional Districts: CT-2; MA-2
Project Partner: Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor
NPS Contact: John Monroe

Project Goal

Six additional ribbon-cuttings and NRT designations for segments on the Quinebaug and the Willimantic Rivers, with provisional Paddle Guides for each, building on 2009's four inaugural segments of water trail and provisional Paddle Guides.

3. Public Art on New England Trails

Location: Great Barrington and Fitchburg MA; Littleton NH; Waterville ME
Congressional Districts: MA-1; NH-1
Project Partner: New England Foundation for the Arts
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy

Project Goal

Public art on community trails and new stewards for conservation.

4. Seekonk Area Trails

Location: City of Seekonk, MA and East Providence, RI
Congressional District: 3
Project Partner: Newman YMCA
NPS Contact: Steve Golden

Project Goal

Connect the Seekonk YMCA and town offices with a universally accessible trail along the Runnins River. Produce a vision map for an interconnected network of walking, biking and watertrails in the Turner Reservoir and Central Pond in the Seekonk and East Providence, RI.



Recent Successes cont.

trail use and greater awareness of the town's connections with the Appalachian Trail. In June 2009, one of Great Barrington's best-loved trails, the Housatonic River Walk, was designated as a National Recreation Trail.