



Pennsylvania News



Boat ferry demonstration on the Delaware River Water Trail

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Cynwyd Heritage Trail
Lower Merion Township
2. Derry Station Heritage Trail
Derry Area Revitalization Corporation
3. Logan Triangle Redevelopment
Logan Community Development Corporation
4. Ohio River Trail
Ohio River Trail Council
5. Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network
Appalachian Mountain Club
6. Schuylkill River to Boars Back Trail Connector
Natural Lands Trust
7. Schuylkill River Water Trail
Schuylkill River Greenway Association

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Delaware River Water Trail

In 2010, RTCA guided a Steering Committee consisting of staff from the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP), and American Canoe Association's Delaware Valley Division in the development of a comprehensive signage program for paddlers on the 220-mile water trail through the three states of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The signage program was based on the previously established Delaware River Water Trail Concept Plan.

A \$26,270 NPS Challenge Cost Share grant funded the development of the sign plan, while Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and NJ DEP funds totaling \$49,000 are contributing to the development of additional plans to improve river safety, and enhance marketing of the water trail, including the creation of an interactive, trip planning web site.

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. Cynwyd Heritage Trail

Project Partner: Lower Merion Township

NPS Contact: Sherry Peck

Location: Rail trail linking suburban and small town areas west of Philadelphia with a section of Philadelphia.

Congressional Districts: PA-6

Project Goal

Develop a 2.5 mile walking & biking trail linking existing open spaces and a regional trail network, connecting suburbs to city and completing an identified gap in the Schuylkill River trail.



Cub Scout Troop water monitoring the Schuylkill River

2. Derry Station Heritage Trail

Project Partner: Derry Area Revitalization Corporation

NPS Contact: Peggy Pings

Location: Derry in Westmoreland County

Congressional Districts: PA-12

Project Goal

Develop 5 acres of park lands within Derry, and 20 miles of trails linking Derry parks, Chestnut Ridge, and communities of Blairsville and Latrobe in Westmoreland County.

3. Logan Triangle Redevelopment

Project Partner: Logan Community Development Corporation

NPS Contact: Sherry Peck

Location: Inner city neighborhood of Philadelphia; 35 acre plot of vacant blighted land

Congressional Districts: PA-1

Project Goal

Create attractive park/green space with walking and bike trails; potentially leading to further site re-development.

4. Ohio River Trail

Project Partner: Ohio River Trail Council

NPS Contact: Peggy Pings

Location: Along the banks of the Ohio River, from Coraopolis PA to 'Point of Beginning' (PA-WV-OH line) and a 100-mile loop into Ohio and West Virginia.

Congressional Districts: PA-4, 14, 18

Project Goal

Develop 41 miles of bike trail along the Ohio River in PA, from Coraopolis west to Point of Beginning (the PA-WV-OH state line), as part of a vision for a linking system of over 100 miles of land & water trails in PA-OH-WV.



Delaware Water Gap

5. Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network

Project Partner: Appalachian Mountain Club

Website: www.outdoors.org

NPS Contact: Sherry Peck

Location: Pennsylvania Highlands region -- portions of 13 counties in south-eastern PA.

Congressional Districts: PA-6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19

Project Goal

Create a trail network of over 100 miles in PA, linking to the Highlands Trail in NY and NJ, that provides communities with close-to-home recreation opportunities.

Current Projects cont.

6. Schuylkill River to Boars Back Trail Connector

Project Partner: Natural Lands Trust
NPS Contact: Kathy Schlegel
Location: Northern Chester County and Southern Berks County, Pennsylvania
Congressional Districts: PA-6

Project Goal

Develop a new 6-mile multi-use trail within the Hopewell Big Woods connecting the Schuylkill River Trail to the Boars Back Trail through French Creek State Park, Hopewell Furnace NHS, and Schuylkill River National Heritage Area. The trail will link with existing trail networks in North and South Coventry townships.

7. Schuylkill River Water Trail

Project Partner: Schuylkill River Greenway Association
NPS Contact: Sherry Peck
Location: 142 miles through 5 counties and 69 cities, townships and boroughs in southeastern Pennsylvania between Pottsville and Philadelphia.
Congressional Districts: PA-1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 17

Project Goal

Improved river safety, riparian stewardship, public awareness & local economies. Connections from river to land trails and into river communities. A manual for water trail partners to evaluate and plan landing locations, facilities, and signs.

“The Delaware River is a vitally important recreational resource for thousands of people who get on the river each year. Implementation of recommendations in the water trail plan is helping to make the river more of a safe and enjoyable experience.”

- Celeste Tracy, Delaware River Greenway Partnership



The 'Hit the Hay 5K,' along the Schuylkill River to Boars Back

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

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



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Recent Successes cont.

Hopewell Big Woods Trails Moving Forward

In 2009 RTCA, working with the Natural Lands Trust and a consortium of more than 40 federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, completed an action plan for a trails system through the Hopewell Big Woods, the last large, unbroken forest in southeastern Pennsylvania. The Hopewell Big Woods Trails and Recreation Concept Plan proposed more than 50 miles of trails that would support heritage tourism and utilize the area's outstanding cultural history and recreational and natural assets. These assets include Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site and French Creek State Park, alone totaling more than 9,000 acres of protected forest and greenspace.

In 2010, 8 out of the 12 municipalities that are part of the Hopewell Big Woods passed resolutions supporting the plan. Outgrowths of the plan include: the addition of three properties totaling 279 acres to French Creek State Park to provide critical connections to the Schuylkill River Trail and Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area, Hopewell Furnace NHS, and Pottstown Borough; the development of a regional conservation and heritage tourism strategy for the lower Schuylkill River corridor from Reading to Valley Forge; and the design and completion of more than five miles of trails within the Hopewell Big Woods. In FY11, RTCA is assisting the design of a multi-use trail connection from the Schuylkill River Trail to the Boar's Back Trail through the heart of French Creek State Park, with connections to Hopewell Furnace, the historic village of St. Peters, and other key destinations.

“By working with the RTCA program, the Partnership completed a trail plan that respects the links among the natural, cultural and recreational systems unique to the Hopewell Big Woods region.”

- Bob Folwell, Trails Project Manager, Schuylkill River National and State Heritage Area



Local schools learn about wildlife in the Hay Creek watershed