



# Delaware News



Mispillion River Conservation



## RECENT PROJECT PARTNERS

1. Mispillion River Conservation Strategy  
City of Milford Parks and Recreation Department
2. Northern Delaware Heritage Network  
New Castle County Department of Land Use

## 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

### Mispillion River Conservation Strategy

In the 1980s, the Mispillion River was listed on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory for its potential to be studied as a National Wild & Scenic River due to its scenic, natural, and historic resources. Over the next couple of decades, water quality in the Mispillion suffered from significant nutrient and bacteria loads, while citizens along the river continued to champion its conservation.

In 2008, RTCA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the City of Milford teamed up with Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to design a conservation strategy to protect 11 miles of this scenic river in between the DuPont Nature Observation Center at the river's mouth and the Milford Historic District. DNREC funded the

*“RTCA has helped bring greater visibility to the resources. Residents are excited by the prospect of cleaner water that will support ecotourism like boat trips from the internationally renowned horseshoe crab research center to Milford’s riverwalk and historic district.”*

- Bill Pike, Arborist  
City of Milford Parks and Recreation Department

## 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](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Successes cont.

creation of a citizen's Tributary Action Team (TAT) for the Mispillion Watershed and Cedar Creek, a subwatershed. The team of 34 people, with representation from the business sector, agriculture, environmental organizations, the City of Milford, state government, and the residential community, finalized recommendations in August of 2010 for a Pollution Control Strategy (PCS) to reduce nutrients and bacteria in the river. In the fall and winter of 2010, the TAT's first order of business will be forming a watershed association to help DNREC implement the PCS recommendations and to maintain and increase public involvement in improving the quality of the watershed.

## Northern Delaware Heritage and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail

During the Revolutionary War, Generals George Washington and Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, led their troops on a 600+ mile march from Rhode Island to Virginia. This march resulted in the Franco-American victory over the British General Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown and, essentially, the end of the war. The troops travelled by land or river through 26 miles of Delaware. Their path, known as the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route (W3R), was designated a National Historic Trail (NHT) in 2009 and a part of the East Coast Greenway.

The parks and historic sites along the New Castle County, Delaware portion of the Route are connected through the Northern Delaware Heritage Network. In 2010, RTCA worked with the Northern Delaware Heritage Coalition (NDHC) to help New Castle County and the Wilmington Area Planning Council formally adopt the plan for moving biking, walking, public transit projects forward that would support improved access to Network resources, including the W3R. More broadly, RTCA assisted the W3R Superintendent in planning and facilitating a series of three strategic visioning sessions with the Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, NDHC, and other partners throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic that will lay the groundwork during the coming years for the Comprehensive Management Plan that is required for all NHTs.



Celebration of the installation of a Delaware historic marker at Robinson House, one of the key stops along the W3R.