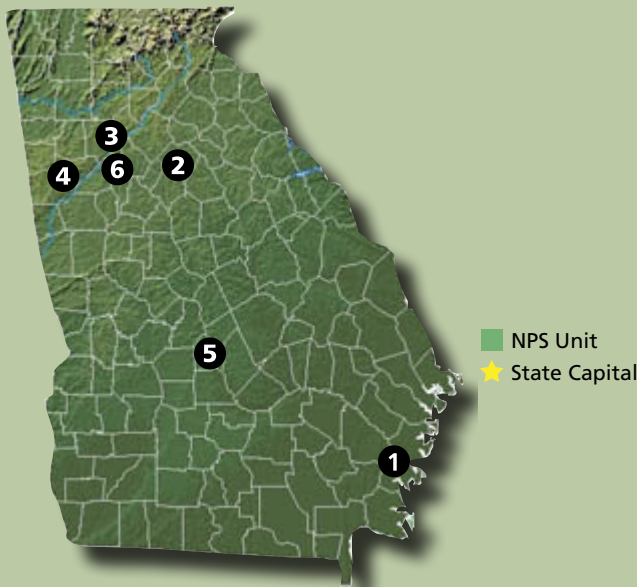




Georgia News



Canoers paddle along the Chattahoochee River at dawn.



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
2. Firefly Rail Trail
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission
3. Georgia Watertrails Clearinghouse
Georgia River Network
4. Middle Chattahoochee Blueway
Carroll County Parks Department
5. Ocmulgee River Blueway
Hawkinsville Better Hometown
6. Best Management Practices for Rivers
The Upper Etowah River Watershed Alliance

Recent Successes

Hawkinsville Pulaski Waterfront Park

Recently RTCA and Hawkinsville Better Hometown have revitalized the 24-acre riverfront park which

“RTCA’s contributions go far beyond our technical assistance request. They were outstanding in providing a plan to revitalize and restore our Pulaski Park.”

-Tom Hunt
Chairman, Hawkinsville,
Pulaski Riverfront Park Advisory Council

will offer boat ramps, hiking, camping, and environmental education.

Also the New Hawkinsville-Pulaski blueway is 14 miles long and incorporates 3 boat launches in the county. The blueway is part of the Ocmulgee

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. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail

Location: The Georgia coast from St. Marys to Savannah. This project is part of a multi-state project from Georgia to Virginia.

Congressional District: 1

Project Partner: Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Project Goal

Identify a "main corridor" for a blueway along the coast of GA (and SC, NC, and VA) with existing canoe and kayak access sites and camping/overnight accommodations for day or multi-day paddling trips. A database and website will be created that combines all the information into one centralized location. The Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail and the Captain John Smith



Canoers along the Etowah River

National Historic Trail will be the connecting points on either end of the SE Coast project

trail, coordination of partners, and the development of the data collection system and websites for the trail.

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in the planning of the



Current Projects

2. Firefly Rail Trail

Location: A historic 39-mile railroad corridor in NE Georgia from Union Point to Athens. Includes 3 counties (Athens-Clarke, Oglethorpe, and Greene) and many towns and small communities

Congressional District: 10

Project Partner: Northeast Georgia Regional Commission

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Project Goal

The project will provide safe, healthy and environmentally friendly recreation opportunities, and connect communities and public open spaces, by converting a 39 mile historic rail corridor into a multi-use path.

RTCA Role

RTCA will partner with NE Georgia Regional Commission to work with various counties, cities, agencies, and groups to develop an organizational framework and conceptual plan for the trail.

3. Georgia Water Trails Clearinghouse

Location: Includes all the rivers and major lakes in the state of Georgia

Congressional Districts: Statewide

Project Partner: Georgia River Network

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Project Goal

Develop a website that lists all existing paddle trails in the state and that can be updated and expanded to include new trails and additional secondary information.

“In Union Point, it goes literally right through the school’s frontyard. In Winterville, it’s probably a quarter-mile from the (elementary) school, but it’s in hundreds of little pieces.

That’s a huge challenge for us.”

-John Devine, Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center,
Speaking on the benefits and challenges of the Firefly Rail Trail.



The ‘Murmur’ trestle which may be rehabilitated to become part of the Firefly Rail Trail

RTCA Role

RTCA will partner with the Georgia River Network (GRN); the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will provide technical information to GRN.

4. Middle Chattahoochee River Blueway

Location: Chattahoochee River in metropolitan Atlanta; section of river

from Peachtree Creek (Fulton County) to Chattahoochee Bend State Park (Coweeta County)

Congressional Districts: 3, 5, 13

Project Partner: Carroll County Parks Department

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Project Goal

The goal for the project is to create a blueway on the Chattahoochee River for canoes and kayaks from the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to Chattahoochee Bend State Park, approximately 53 miles. The blueway will also include Sweetwater Creek State Park and Moores Bridge Park and McIntosh Reserve, both in Carroll County

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in the planning aspect

We're Here For You.

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

Charlotte Gillis

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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.

River Blueway, a 54-mile water trail on the Ocmulgee River connecting Warner Robins and Hawkinsville in central Georgia.



RTCA staff and local citizens discuss the Hawkinsville Pulaski Water front park

Current Projects cont.

of the blueway, provide technical assistance in design standards, mapping, and facilitate meetings with partners and local communities.

5. Ocmulgee River Blueway

Location: Ocmulgee River in central GA from Macon to the confluence with the Altamaha River near Lumber City, GA

Congressional Districts: 1, 8

Project Partner: Hawkinsville Better Hometown

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Project Goal

The project partnership, which is a continuation of the productive partnership from last year will create a plan for an Ocmulgee River blueway from Macon to the Altamaha River. Recreation, conservation, and economic development in the river corridor will be the goals for the 200 mile project.

RTCA Role

RTCA will manage the project, coordinate the planning team and partners and help to create promotional strategies; identify funding sources; and build the sustainability for the blueway.

6. Best Management Practices for Rivers

Location: The Upper Etowah River in north GA specifically the counties of Cherokee, Dawson, Forsyth and Pickens.

Congressional Districts: 6, 9

Project Partner: Upper Etowah River Watershed Alliance

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to create a series of Best Management Practices (BMP) for canoe and kayak access sites along the Upper Etowah River and several of its tributaries. These BMPs will be designed to stabilize banks, control stormwater, restore buffer and native vegetation, and provide for emergency access using low impact design techniques. This section of the river is undammed so significant flood

RTCA Role

RTCA will assist with the production of the final document, development of the BMPs, and evaluation of study sites existing conditions relative to the BMP design.