



North Carolina News



Kayaking along the Waccamaw River

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012



- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Kings Mountain Gateway Trails Phase IV**
Kings Mountain Gateway Trail, Inc.
- 2. Waccamaw River Blue Trail**
Waccamaw Riverkeeper and American Rivers
- 3. West Pender Rail Trail**
Pender County Department of Planning
Community Development

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

Kings Mountain Gateway Project

In 2002, NPS River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program worked with federal, state and local officials to complete a conceptual network of trails and greenways. The plan would span two states and link two state and two national parks. In 2010, the first 5.5 miles of the 60-plus-mile system was opened. The project now includes 90 acres of conservation easements for both existing and proposed trail segments and an established non-profit to further develop the system.



King Mountain Gateway Trail Opening, Kings Mountain, NC

We're Here For You.

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

Bill Lane

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2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,991 Miles of Trail Developed

1,925 Miles of River Conserved

33,230 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Projects

1. Kings Mountain Gateway Trails - Phase IV

Location: City of Kings Mountain, NC
Congressional District: 46
Project Partner: King Mountain Gateway Trail, Inc.
NPS Contact: Bill Lane

Project Goal

Continue the Kings Mountain Gateway's mission to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of the Kings Mountain area, by providing nature-based recreational opportunities with an emphasis on natural, cultural, and historical resources of the area.

RTCA Role

RTCA will help to develop phase IV of the trails master plan. Phase IV will connect the city of Kings Mountain with Crowders Mountain State Park. Assistance will include working with landowners and help to develop alternative trail corridor locations.

"From a group of interested citizens looking to build a walking trail connecting the city of Kings Mountain to two state parks, RTCA was the catalyst in making our dreams come true. Today, there are 2 1/2 miles of paved trails, over 120,000 visitors per year and a newly formed non-profit leading the way. A huge success!"

Shirley Brutko

President, Kings Mountain Gateway Trails, Inc

2. Waccamaw River Blue Trail

Location: Lake Waccamaw, NC to Georgetown, SC - Along eastern seaboard of NC/SC.
Congressional Districts: NC - 7; SC - 1
Project Partner: Waccamaw Riverkeeper and American Rivers
NPS Contact: Bill Lane

Project Goal

To establish a "Blue Trail" and greater conservation awareness along the entire length of the Waccamaw River from Lake Waccamaw, NC to Georgetown, SC. The entire 140-mile trail project will increase recreational opportunity and stewardship.

RTCA Role

RTCA will continue to assist as a member of the Public Relations/Marketing committee in order to build greater public support for the project and increase awareness of the environmental issues surrounding the river.

3. West Pender Rail Trail

Location: Pender County
Congressional District: 7
Project Partner: Pender Co. Dept. of Planning & Community Development
NPS Contact: Bill Lane

Project Goal

Running approximately 85 miles from Wilmington to Fayetteville, North Carolina, the West Pender Rail-Trail will utilize an abandoned Seaboard Coast Line rail corridor to create a non-motorized, multipurpose recreation trail. RTCA will assist with phase I (11.5 miles) located in Pender County which will include a 3 acre trailhead, connections with the East Coast Greenway, and a spur trail to Moores Creek National Battlefield (MOCR).

RTCA Role

RTCA will continue to assist with the development of the trail by working closely with MOCR and Pender County Planning Department to complete a series of "visioning" workshops with the gateway community of Currie, NC.