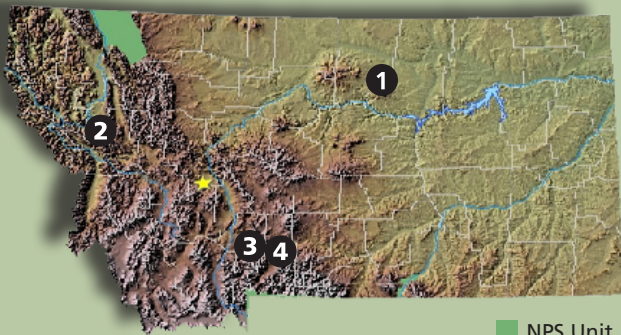




Montana News



Lake MacDonald in Glacier Park



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Fort Belknap Trails**
Fort Belknap Indian Community
- 2. Jocko Valley Trails**
Jocko Valley Trails Committee
- 3. Bozeman Creek Enhancement**
City of Bozeman
- 4. Park County Recreational Trails**
Park County

Find out more about each project starting on page 3.

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

Fort Belknap builds the first leg of a new trail system, immediately popular with users

With assistance from RTCA, the Fort Belknap Indian Community constructed their first backcountry recreational trail in July 2010. Located in the popular Mission Canyon area of the Little Rocky Mountains, the new Hole-in-the-Wall Trail climbs 500 feet in a little under a mile through an area of limestone cliffs rich with natural bridges, windows and arches. The trail allows users to explore these geologic wonders up close, while rewarding them at the top with birdseye views of Mission Canyon and North Fork Little Peoples Creek valley.

continued on page 2



Construction of Hole-in-the-Wall trail, Fort Belknap Indian Reservation

We're Here For You.

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

Gary Weiner
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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.

The Hole-in-the-Wall Trail was constructed in a week by tribal members enrolled in the Temporary Aid to Needy Families program, and by a crew from the Montana Conservation Corps. RTCA facilitated the partnership, designed the trail alignment, and provided construction oversight. An additional 20 miles of interconnected trails are planned to link many of the area's natural and cultural landmarks.

The trails project will help address the community's high rates of obesity and diabetes by providing a much-needed recreational resource to encourage greater physical activity. Schools will use the trails as outdoor classrooms for children. The tribes will market the emerging trail system to attract tourists and expand their economic base, which is currently very limited. The trails project will provide trail construction and maintenance work for tribal members, who experience a 75% rate of unemployment in the winter.

Jocko Valley Trails Committee secures three grants to begin trail construction.

The Jocko Valley Trails Committee raised \$230,000 in grants this year to begin construction of the "Arlee Hub," the nucleus of a trail network envisioned for the valley. Arlee Hub Trails will connect the elementary school, junior high, high school, and Nkum Salish Language Revitalization Institute with the Arlee Community Fitness Center, downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods. The trail system also will connect to the Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Jocko River Restoration Area, a natural area running through the heart of the community. Eventually, a 20-mile arterial trail along the MT State Highway 93 corridor will connect the Arlee Hub trails with the neighboring communities of Evaro and Ravalli.

The Arlee Hub trails will provide safe transportation alternatives for residents, especially children, and will create new close-to-home recreational opportunities. RTCA staff provided guidance in building partnerships, creating community consensus, designing trail alignments and identifying funding sources.

Flathead County Commissioners adopt countywide trails plan.



Great Northern Rail Trail in Flathead County

The Flathead County Trails Plan, developed by a county advisory committee with leadership by RTCA, was formally adopted by the county commission in October 2010. The trails plan envisions a network of pathways, on-street bike-ped facilities, and backcountry trails linking communities and schools to Flathead Lake, Glacier National Park, Flathead National Forest, and state and county parks.

"RTCA is exactly the kind of Federal program that makes sense. RTCA program staff provide a variety of types of assistance to help organizations like ours establish themselves and become effective."

--Mark Holston, Flathead River Partnership

Current Projects

1. Fort Belknap Trails

Project Partner: Fort Belknap Indian Community
RTCA Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: Little Rocky Mountains in the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation

Project Goal

Develop 20 miles of recreational trails near the communities of Hays and Lodgepole. Trails will provide opportunities for recreation and physical activity, to improve health, serve as outdoor classrooms, assist with fire prevention, and attract tourism.

RTCA Role

Provide expertise to identify desired trail alignments, assemble partnerships, find funding, flag trail alignments, and oversee trail construction. Coordinate development of a trails brochure and assist in the creation of a tribal corps.



Frequently flooded area along Bozeman Creek

RTCA Role

Provide guidance to cooperators in creating community consensus, building partnerships, designing trail alignments, and mobilizing resources.

3. Bozeman Creek Enhancement

Project Partner: City of Bozeman
RTCA Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: Bozeman

Project Goal

Enhance the structure and function of the 4-mile stretch of Bozeman Creek within the City of Bozeman, potentially through daylighting, revetment removal, floodplain restoration, riparian vegetation enhancement, and creation of greenways and riverside parks. Community benefits include improved water quality, fisheries, and wildlife habitat, abatement of localized flooding, and public access to a new recreational amenity focused downtown, and spanning the length of the city.

RTCA Role

Conduct field investigations, work with stakeholders, and conduct a public process leading to the development of a Bozeman Creek Enhancement Plan. Identify funding and construct one or more early-action projects.

4. Park County Recreational Trails

Project Partner: Park County
RTCA Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: Park County

Project Goal

Develop a 1.5 mile non-motorized trail on the historic Chico-Chicory Road, potentially including development of two county parks/picnic sites, habitat enhancement along 1.5 miles of the Yellowstone River, and protection of 11 acres of open space. Develop a 7-mile non-motorized trail on the historic Castle Mountain Road, potentially including development of a county park/picnic site, and protection of 133 acres of habitat and open space.

RTCA Role

Advise and assist in aspects of trail design and operation, river corridor conservation, land protection, and park planning. Help with partnership building, organizational development, resource assessment, concept plan development, public education and participation, and funding source identification.

“RTCA is an invaluable asset for community groups with limited resources but grand ideas.”




Community meeting in Arlee, Jocko Valley Trails

2. Jocko Valley Trails

Project Partner: Jocko Valley Trails Committee
RTCA Contact: Gary Weiner
Location: Missoula and Lake Counties

Project Goal

Develop 5-10 miles of trails connecting neighborhoods, schools, and other community assets in the Arlee area, as well as a 20-mile arterial trail running from Evaro to Ravalli.



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