



# Georgia News



Mountain biking in Roswell, Georgia

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Portdale Yellow River Park  
Georgia River Network
2. Middle Chattahoochee Blueway  
Carroll County Parks Department
3. Ocmulgee River Blueway  
Hawkinsville Better Hometown
4. Best Management Practices for Rivers  
The Upper Etowah River Watershed Alliance
5. Get Outdoors Georgia  
State of Georgia
6. Panola Mountain State Park  
State of Georgia, Monastery of the Holy Spirit, and Dekalb, Henry, and Rockdale counties
7. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

### 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

### Ocmulgee “Fireside Chat”

On October 8, 2011 a celebration and program was held at Mile Branch Park with a “fireside chat” that included 10 river experts sharing their knowledge of river protection and waterway development. Speakers included representatives from the National Park Service, Georgia Conservancy, Rivers Alive, and the Georgia River Network. Approximately 175 citizens attended the event and talked about how to build a sustainable blueway on the Ocmulgee River and bring recreation, conservation, and economic development to the river corridor.



# Current Projects

## 1. Porterdale Yellow River Park

Location: Porterdale, Newton County, GA

Congressional District:8

Project Partner: Newton County Trail - Path Foundation

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

### Project Goal

Porterdale Yellow River Park project partners plan to develop walking and biking trails, open green space, and a blueway along the Yellow River extending from Conyers, Georgia to the city of Porterdale. The project also anticipates preparing a plan to preserve, protect, and promote 27-acres along the Yellow River in Newton County, Georgia. The public park will be used for outdoor recreation and the promotion of environmental, recreational, and economic development for the city and local communities.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will work with several local partners to provide technical assistance for blueway development, greenspace conservation, and to help promote community outreach for the project.

## 2. Middle Chattahoochee River Blueway

Location: Chattahoochee River in metropolitan Atlanta, GA. Section of river from Peachtree Creek (Fulton County) to Chattahoochee Bend State Park (Coweta County).

Congressional District(s): 3, 5, 13

Project Partner: Carroll County Parks Department

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

### Project Goal

The goal for the project is to ultimately 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 possibly additional sites, such as Moores Bridge Park and McIntosh Reserve.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in the planning aspect of the blueway, provide technical assistance in design standards, and help map and facilitate meetings with partners and local communities.

## 3. Ocmulgee River Blueway

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

Congressional District(s): 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 work on 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 desired outcomes for the 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.



Volunteers for the Georgia River Network take part in a river cleanup



# Current Projects cont.

## 4. Best Management Practices for Rivers

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

Congressional District(s): 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 flooding has affected the banks and riparian areas.

### 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.

## 5. Get Outdoors Georgia

Location: Statewide

Congressional District: State of Georgia

Project Partner: State of Georgia

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

### Project Goal

A program partnership throughout the state of Georgia and the National Park Service Healthy Parks Healthy People Initiative to promote youth outdoor recreation and the health benefits of parks to enhance recreational access and opportunities for urban youth, and to combat obesity statewide.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will provide technical assistance and help promote the Get Outdoors Georgia initiative in coordination with local and state agencies.

## 6. Panola Mountain State Park

Location: Atlanta, Georgia

Congressional District(s): 4,5

Project Partner: State of Georgia, Monastery of the Holy Spirit, and DeKalb, Henry and Rockdale counties

RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

### Project Goal

An extension of multi-use regional trail system to encourage recreation in and around Panola Mountain State Park.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in the planning aspect of the rail trail, provide technical assistance in design standards, and facilitate meetings with partners and local communities.

*“We have been astounded at how much interest in water trails we encountered throughout the state. RTCA provided us the support needed to get off to a great start to what we think will be a long term program at Georgia River Network.”*

April Ingle, Executive Director

Georgia River Network



Biking at Panola Mountain State Park

# Current Projects cont.

## We're Here For You.

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

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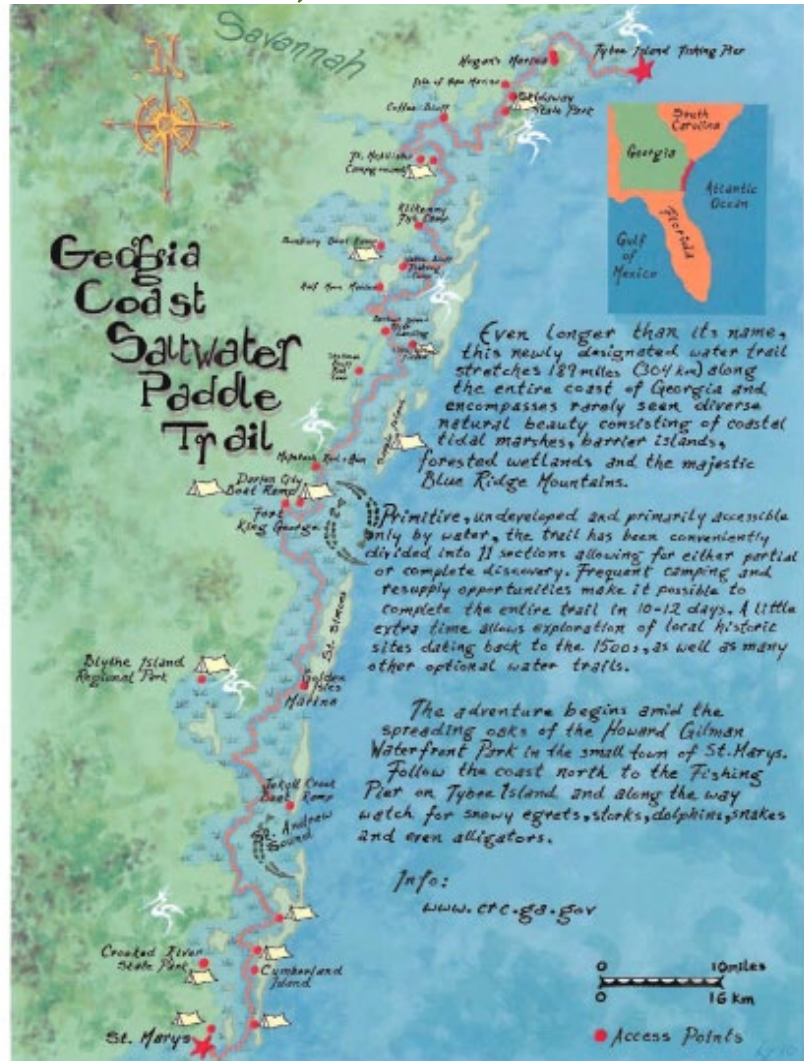
## 2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

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



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## 7. 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 Georgia (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 of the information into one centralized location. The Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail and the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail will be the connecting points on either end of the southeast coast project.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will continue to assist in the planning of the trail, coordination of partners, and the development of the data collection system and websites for the trail.