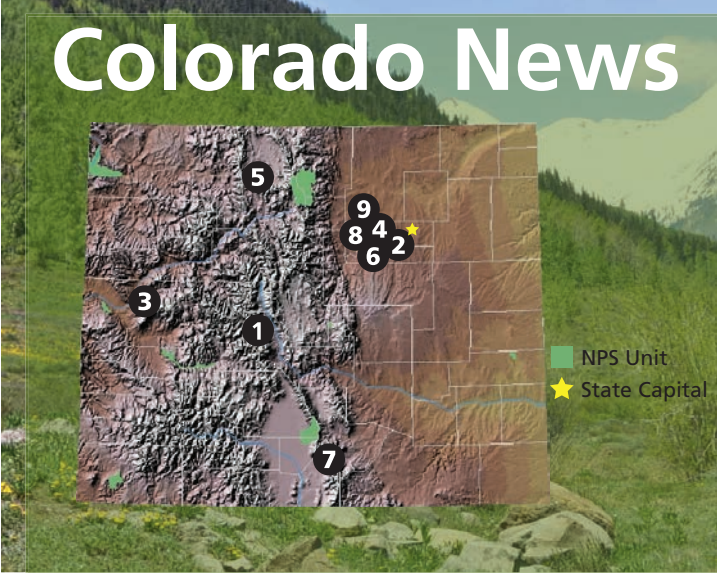




Colorado News



Mountain view from the lower loop of the Crested Butte Perimeter Trail.
Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Crested Butte Perimeter Trail
Town of Crested Butte
2. South Platte River Corridor in Metro Denver
The Greenway Foundation
3. Monument Road Corridor Vision
Mesa Land Trust
4. Denver Mountain Bike Initiative
Colorado Mountain Bike Association
5. Howelsen Hill Emerald Mountain Park Plan
City of Steamboat Springs
6. Bear Creek Watershed Plan
Groundwork Denver
7. San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
San Luis Valley Council of Governments
8. Clear Creek Management Plan
City of Golden
9. Rocky Mountain Greenway
America's Great Outdoors

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

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

Internet Used as Public Outreach Tool

The Town of Crested Butte and the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program teamed up to offer a 21st Century means for public input on the Crested Butte Perimeter Trail. RTCA and Crested Butte worked with MindMixer, a company that specializes in online public involvement strategies, to offer an avenue for people to voice their concerns, opinions, and ideas without attending a public meeting. The website, www.CBPerimeterTrail.com, asked for input on a variety of issues surrounding the trail project. What areas should have priority for new construction? To what extent should existing trails be improved? How to get across the highway that comes into town? These and other topics generated thoughtful idea submissions and civil discussion.

The MindMixer tool was used in addition to face-to-face public meetings. Comments received online will be incorporated into a planning document that will help guide the development and completion of the Crested Butte Perimeter Trail.

"We're excited about working with RTCA on this project. RTCA staff has been instrumental in assisting us with developing creative strategies to move this project forward."

- Rob Bleiberg, Executive Director, Mesa Land Trust

Current Projects

1. Crested Butte Perimeter Trail

Project Partner: Town of Crested Butte
NPS Contact: Hugh Osborne
Location: Crested Butte
Congressional District: CO - 3

Project Goal

Create a continuous, non-motorized trail that encircles the town of Crested Butte, along with a way-finding system to make it easy for both visitors and residents to get around. The project will include improvements to existing trails, building new pathways, and adding more amenities along the route.

NPS Role

Provide technical assistance to improve existing trail and complete the Perimeter Trail around Crested Butte.

2. South Platte River Connections in Metro Denver

Project Partner: The Greenway Foundation, City and County of Denver
NPS Contact: Joy Lujan
Location: City and County of Denver
Congressional District: CO - 1

Project Goal

Increased recreational access, improved physical access, and enhanced educational programming related to approximately 6 miles of trail and river.



A view of the Monument Road Corridor. Photo: NPS

NPS Role

Work with adjacent communities, the City of Denver, The Greenway Foundation, and other partners to identify barriers to access between communities and the South Platte River and explore design and implementation solutions to overcome barriers.

preservation of the Monument Road corridor between Grand Junction and the national monument. Create a shared agreement on addressing uses that may affect the scenic views along the route, access to public lands, and protection of property values.

NPS Role

Work with the Land Trust and all interested or affected parties to design and coordinate an inclusive public engagement program. Provide technical assistance in resource protection; help with the facilitation of public meetings.

3. Monument Road Corridor Vision

Project Partner: Mesa Land Trust
NPS Contact: Hugh Osborne
Location: Mesa County
Congressional District: CO - 3

Project Goal

Work with local landowners and interested parties, the City of Grand Junction, Mesa County, and Colorado National Monument to develop a vision for the protection and

4. Denver Mountain Bike Initiative

Project Partner: Colorado Mountain Bike Association (COMBA)
NPS Contact: Patsy McEntee
Location: City and County of Denver
Congressional District: CO - 1

Project Goal

Creation of a Strategic Design & Planning document which guides the planning, maintenance, and stewardship of natural surface trail projects in urban Denver. The strategic plan will include design criteria and trail standards, a community-based stewardship and programming section, and a grant and outreach toolkit.



The Friends of Barnum Bike Park worked weekly throughout the summer. Photo: NPS

Current Projects

NPS Role

RTCA will coordinate between COMBA, the City & County of Denver, Groundwork Denver, and other partners to develop community-engaged trail and cycling stewardship projects. RTCA will help expand recreational opportunities in urban areas, with an emphasis on outreach to under-served neighborhoods and youth.

5. Howelsen Hill Emerald Mountain Park Plan

Project Partner: City of Steamboat Springs
NPS Contact: Patsy McEntee
Location: City of Steamboat Springs
Congressional District: CO - 3

Project Goal

Provide recreation, health, and cultural interpretative opportunities from expanded public access to a newly acquired parcel. Assist with the process design and planning of a consultative/ collaborative planning process for the site planning of the new parcel.

NPS Role

Aid the City of Steamboat Springs in the facilitation and process design of the recreation and resource planning. Provide technical assistance in meeting facilitation, document design, and graphic/marketing support.

6. Bear Creek Watershed Plan

Project Partner: Groundwork Denver
NPS Contact: Alan Ragins
Location: Cities of Lakewood, Denver, and Sheridan
Congressional District: CO - 1, 7



Tubers enjoying Clear Creek in Golden, Colorado. Photo: NPS

Project Goal

Develop a watershed plan for the last eight miles of Bear Creek, from the discharge of Bear Creek Reservoir to the South Platte River. The planning process will be community-driven and collaborative with the goal of developing a comprehensive watershed plan that provides information and action items to engage residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in reducing pollution in the urban Bear Creek to ultimately help remove Bear Creek from the State of Colorado's list of impaired waters.

NPS Role

Help Groundwork Denver staff coordinate and facilitate quarterly steering committee and public meetings; advise on stakeholder engagement strategies; help with graphics or other displays; help connect other federal agencies that can assist with the watershed planning effort.

7. San Luis Valley Great Outdoors

Project Partner: San Luis Valley Council of Governments
NPS Contact: Katherine Faz
Location: San Luis Valley, Costilla County, Alamosa County, Conejos County, Rio Grande County, Mineral County, Saguache County
Congressional District: CO - 3

Project Goal

Create a long-term plan for increasing physical activity and access to trails and recreation in the San Luis Valley.

NPS Role

Facilitate discussions with stakeholders interested in increasing recreational opportunities in the San Luis Valley and increase accessibility to existing trails and recreation.

8. Clear Creek Management

Project Partner: City of Golden
NPS Contact: Joy Lujan
Location: City of Golden
Congressional District: CO - 7

Project Goal

Produce a Clear Creek Management Plan that establishes a framework for managing the wide variety of recreational uses while balancing the need to restore and preserve the natural ecological state of the river and its banks. The plan will cover

"We are grateful to partner with RTCA to work on a Clear Creek user management plan. They bring a level of expertise and experience to the project that clearly gives Golden an opportunity for success."

- Rod Tarullo, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Golf, City of Golden

We're Here For You.

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



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2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154 Miles of Trail Developed

1,074 Miles of River Conserved

70,385 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.

Animas River Management Plan Completed

RTCA helped to develop the Durango Animas River Corridor Management Plan through an inclusive and collaborative community process. The Plan establishes a framework for community stewardship and conservation of a vital resource in Durango, Colorado.

RTCA worked with the City of Durango and other project partners to develop and facilitate a public engagement strategy for the Durango-area community in developing a plan for more than 9 miles of the Animas River.



Animas River in Durango, Colorado. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

approximately 1 mile of Clear Creek in the heart of Golden.

NPS Role

Facilitate public process to develop the plan. Build understanding about desired experiences among river users and enable robust community involvement in developing shared solutions. Create a process for the community to find workable strategies to mitigate congestion and concerns along Clear Creek.

9. Rocky Mountain Greenway (America's Great Outdoors)

Project Partner: DOI, USDA, Denver Metro, and Boulder County
NPS Contact: Patsy McEntee
Location: Boulder County, Denver Metro Cities and Counties
Congressional District: CO - 1, 2, 4, 6, 7

Project Goal

Create uninterrupted trails and transportation linkages connecting the Denver metro area's trail systems, the three Denver-area units of the National Wildlife Refuge System (Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Two Ponds, and Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuges), Rocky Mountain National Park, and the community trails systems in between.

NPS Role

Compile information that will assist future efforts to coordinate and support projects throughout the Rocky Mountain Greenway. The information will be made available to the RMG steering committee, contributors, stakeholders, and public audiences to support their activities and future planning.