



# Kentucky News



A view of the Green River. Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance**  
Bluegrass Tomorrow Inc.
- 2. Cumberland Gap/Middlesborough Trail**  
Discover Downtown Middlesborough, Inc.
- 3. Devil John's Moonshine Run**  
City of Jenkins
- 4. Green River Blueway Water Trail**  
Barren River Area Development District
- 5. Kentucky River Water Trail**  
Kentucky Riverkeeper
- 6. Mountain Heritage Trail System**  
Letcher County Tourism and Convention Commission
- 7. Tradewater River Blueway Trail System**  
City of Dawson Springs and Dawson Springs Trail Town Committee
- 8. West Louisville Recreation**  
City of Louisville Metro Parks

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### The Bluegrass Tomorrow Vision Award for Conservation and Preservation

Over the past few years, the NPS has helped local community members to develop the Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance and the Kentucky River Water Trails Alliance. The Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance is currently working to develop a multi-use trail system from the existing Legacy Trail in Fayette County connecting to the Kentucky Horse Park, Georgetown College, and up to Sadieville. The Kentucky River Water Trail Alliance is developing a water trail that promotes more river access throughout the community for canoes, kayaks, and other watercraft. The locks from Frankfort to the Ohio River have recently been opened for recreational access by all boating enthusiasts.

Partnership efforts between community members and the NPS are creating enthusiasm about recreation and a growing respect for the Kentucky River as a community natural resource.

In recognition of their support in developing these alliances, NPS staff, Alison Bullock and Russell Clark, were awarded the Bluegrass Tomorrow Vision Award in Conservation and Preservation. The Vision Awards are presented to those individuals and organizations that have worked to improve the quality of life in the Bluegrass area, as well as promoted sustainable local development and preservation.



NPS staff, Alison Bullock and Russell Clark, receive the 2013 Bluegrass Tomorrow Vision Award. Photo: NPS

# Current Projects

## 1. Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance

Project Partner: Bluegrass Tomorrow Inc.

NPS Contact: Russ Clark

Location: Fayette and Scott Counties  
Congressional District: KY - 6

### Project Goal

Create a greenway trail system in the Bluegrass region with support from the Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance, several local organizations, and area governmental units. The proposed greenway is intended to be a destination recreation trail for horseback riding, hiking, and biking and is intended to link several urban, suburban, and rural communities and neighborhoods in Fayette and Scott Counties.

### NPS Role

Provide assistance to project partners with public outreach, short and long-term trail system development strategies, and with finding new potential funding sources to support the project.

## 2. Cumberland Gap / Middlesborough Trail

Project Partner: Discover Downtown Middlesborough, Inc.

NPS Contact: Russ Clark

Location: Middlesborough  
Congressional District: KY - 5

### Project Goal

Develop a trail connection from the central business district of downtown Middlesborough to the entrance of Cumberland Gap National Park. The proposed four-mile loop trail will include opportunities to link schools, medical facilities, greenways, neighborhoods, and businesses with the existing 85 miles of trails at the national park.

### NPS Role

Provide assistance to project partners for the development of the trail connection. Help with organizational development for the Trails Town Taskforce, identify potential funding sources, and public outreach.

## 3. Devil John's Moonshine Run

Project Partner: City of Jenkins

NPS Contact: Russ Clark

Location: Pound Gap, Jenkins  
Congressional District: KY - 5

### Project Goal

Provide recreation opportunities and a linkage for long distance hikers on the Pine Mountain Trail. The proposed trail will be one of the many local recreation features that will help the City of Jenkins to become a Kentucky Certified Trail Town by the Kentucky Office of Adventure Tourism.

### NPS Role

Work with project partners to finalize a proposed master plan for a seven-mile trail for hikers and mountain bikes from the Pine Mountain Trail into the City of Jenkins in Letcher County, Kentucky.

## 4. Green River Blueway Water Trail

Project Partner: Barren River Area Development District

NPS Contact: Russ Clark

Location: Green River in South Central Kentucky including Lincoln, Casey, Taylor, Adair, Green, Hart, Edmonson, Warren, Butler, Ohio, Muhlenburg, McLean, Hopkins, Daviess, Webster, and Henderson Counties  
Congressional Districts: KY - 1, 2

### Project Goal

Develop a 300-mile water trail on the Green River in south-central Kentucky. The 300-mile river corridor traverses through 16 counties, 10 communities, and Mammoth Cave National Park. The planning process for this project will be phased, with the first year focusing on partnership building, resource inventory, and community outreach.

### NPS Role

Work with partners to coordinate and guide river-oriented development and tourism efforts throughout the river corridor. Assist with the partnership alliance process, provide public education, and identify potential funding sources.

*“The Green River is a great resource in our region that has not been utilized to its fullest potential in the past. Hopefully with this project and its many partners it will be a new start and many great opportunities. We greatly appreciate the National Park Service for approving this project, along with everyone that has contributed time and effort in the process.”*

- David Field, Butler County Judge Executive

# Current Projects cont.

## 5. Kentucky River Water Trail

Project Partner: Kentucky Riverkeeper

NPS Contact: Alison Bullock

Location: From Beattyville in the foothills of eastern Kentucky to Carrollton, on the Ohio River in northwest Kentucky

Congressional District: KY - 6

### Project Goal

Establish a water trail along 256 miles of the Kentucky River from Beattyville to the confluence with the Ohio River in Carrollton, Kentucky.

### NPS Role

Assist the Kentucky Riverkeeper in developing an assessment of the Kentucky River, developing designs for portaging 14 dams, supporting the establishment of a pilot access project in Estill County, and facilitating meetings with additional project partners in the region.

## 6. Mountain Heritage Trail System

Project Partner: Letcher County Tourism and Convention Commission

NPS Contact: Russ Clark

Location: Letcher County

Congressional District: KY - 5

### Project Goal

Develop a master plan that includes a complete inventory and mapping section of an extensive network of existing and proposed multi-use trails. The plan will detail local outdoor recreational opportunities for health, fitness, and economic growth.

### NPS Role

Provide assistance to partners in program development, effective public outreach, and targeted marketing for the trail network in the local community.

## 7. Tradewater River Blueway Trail System

Project Partners: Dawson Springs, Dawson Springs Trail Town Committee

NPS Contact: Russ Clark

Location: Hopkins and Caldwell Counties

Congressional District: KY - 1

### Project Goal

Work with the community of Dawson Springs to create a 34-mile blue trail master plan along the Tradewater River in the Pennyrile Region. The Tradewater River Blueway Trail System will help Dawson Springs to become a certified Trail Town by the Kentucky Office for Adventure Tourism.

### NPS Role

Continue the planning process for the Tradewater River Blueway Trail System. Assist with public education,



Kentucky River Water Trail Pool 4 canoe race on National Trails Day 2013. Photo: NPS

## We're Here For You!

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

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## 2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at

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



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# Current Projects cont.

marketing recommendations, and identification of potential sources for project funding.

## 8. West Louisville Recreation

Project Partner: City of Louisville Metro Parks

NPS Contact: Russ Clark

Location: Louisville

Congressional District: KY - 3

### Project Goal

A comprehensive community-supported plan that will serve as a guide for future efforts to implement expanded recreational opportunities. The master plan will incorporate program development, environmental

education, and volunteer-led stewardship opportunities to residents across west Louisville. The plan seeks opportunities to promote healthy lifestyle and outdoor recreation facilities that can help improve health and wellness for local residents.

### NPS Role

Continue to facilitate meetings of local residents and stakeholders in the strategic planning process. Assist in identifying locally-desired recreation amenities that will connect neighborhoods to community and parks, and enhance recreation facilities.



Citizens participate and share their ideas during one of the Bluegrass Bike Hike Horseback Trails Alliance design charette meetings. Photo: Jane Leigh

## ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide 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.