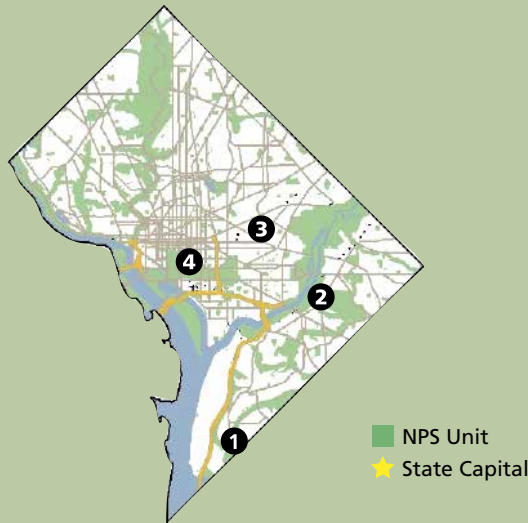




District of Columbia News



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Oxon Cove Trail
2. Sacred Grounds
3. Urban Ecosystem Restorations for DC Metro Region
4. September 11th National Memorial Trail

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

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.

NPS Director Jon Jarvis, Pediatrician Dr. Robert Zarr (Pediatrician at Unity Health Care), and Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, Tara Morrison (left to right) discuss how programs like "Park Prescriptions" help to improve the health of an urban community and act as catalysts to connect people to national parks. Photo: NPS

Recent Successes

DC Park Rx: A Doctor, A Patient, and a Park

Imagine a new demographic of park users and stewards that view the outdoors as a direct link to improving individual and community health. Now, visualize health providers referring patients who suffer from obesity, asthma, or mental health conditions, to visit nearby parks resulting in patients becoming healthier, happier, and more connected to the land, parks, and the outdoors.

Thanks to the connection between Dr. Robert Zarr (DC's Park Prescriptions Champion), the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), the NPS, and other health partners, this vision is quickly becoming a reality. The work taking place in DC can serve as a model for the NPS working with other land organizations and health providers across the country.

What began when Kevin Brandt, Superintendent of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, met Dr. Robert Zarr at a NEEF training, blossomed into the creation of an innovative DC area coalition of park, health, and education professionals. This group of non-traditional partners is now working with health care providers to "prescribe"

"It is working! . . . patients are following their Park Prescriptions, feeling healthier, and have lost weight."

- Dr. Zarr, MD, MPH
Pediatrician, Unit Health Care, Inc.

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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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

nature to patients with the long-term goal of decreasing obesity, asthma, and other health disorders while creating a next generation of park stewards. As a result of this collaboration, a park rating tool was created that allows Unity doctors to pull up parks near a patient's zip code and issue a local park prescription. Over 400 "Park Prescriptions" have been given out over the past year.

Current Projects

1. Oxon Cove Trail

Project Partners: District of Columbia, National Capital Parks East
NPS Contact: Chris Niewold
Location: Oxon Cove
Ward: DC - 8

Project Goal

Create a new bike and pedestrian trail and observation deck at Oxon Cove that will connect nearby community members to the natural and recreational resources of Oxon Cove Park and the Potomac River.

NPS Role

Assist with environmental assessment, project planning, and locating funds.

2. Sacred Grounds

Project Partners: National Wildlife Federation, Greater Washington DC Interfaith Power and Light
NPS Contact: Chris Niewold
Location: DC, MD
Wards: DC - 6, 7, 8

Project Goal

Create nature habitat at multi-denominational houses of worship in the Greater Washington DC area.

NPS Role

Work with the partner organizations to identify candidate locations, create strategic partnerships to expand the program, and assist with the development of a project steering committee.

3. Urban Ecosystem Restorations for DC Metro Region

Project Partner: Urban Ecosystem Restorations
NPS Contact: Wink Hastings
Location: Washington Metro Region

Project Goal

Establish a land trust that will serve as a model for land conservation and protection in highly urbanized regions, integrating ecosystem restoration, environmental services, and innovative approaches to land protection.

NPS Role

Help establish organizational structure, articulate conservation objectives and criteria, and build partnerships.

4. September 11th National Memorial Trail

Project Partner: September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
NPS Contact: Peggy Pings
Location: Seven state triangle including Shanksville, Pennsylvania (Flight 93 crash site), New York City (World Trade Center), Washington DC (Pentagon)
Wards: DC - 2, 3, 5, 6

Project Goal

A 1,100-mile hiking, biking, and driving trail physically connecting the three national memorials commemorating the tragic events that occurred in 2001.

NPS Role

Facilitate the determination of a trail route through Pennsylvania and assist in the development of state committees to ensure broad sustainability and active involvement.