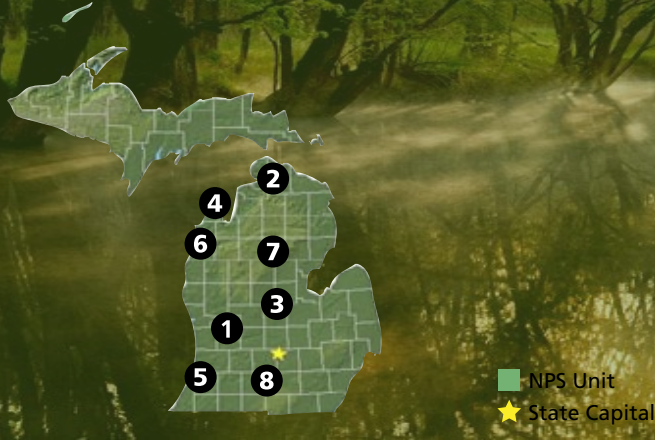




Michigan News



Michigan's beautiful Thornapple River.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

- 1. Building Better Resources for the North Country Trail Association Volunteers**
North Country Trail Association
- 2. Burt Lake Trail**
Burt Township Trail Committee
- 3. Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Rail-Trail Planning and Development**
Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- 4. Fishtown Comprehensive Interpretive Plan**
Fishtown Preservation Society
- 5. Lake Michigan Water Trail Organizational Development**
Illinois Paddling Council
- 6. Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Trailway Phase 2**
Northwest Michigan Council of Government
- 7. Michigan Statewide Equestrian Trails and Facilities Plan**
Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

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

Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trailway

All the pieces are falling into place for the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trailway! The Mid-West Michigan Trail Authority (a multi-jurisdictional authority) was formed to manage and maintain the 42-mile state-owned rail-trail. The Meijer Foundation established a \$3 million endowment that will provide sustainable funding for routine management and maintenance



Reviewing planning documents for the Trailway

of the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail, as well as an additional 80-plus miles of trail that will make up the Mid-West Michigan Trail Network. The 42-mile rail corridor from Ionia to Owosso, will be named in honor of Fred Meijer in perpetuity.

“This corridor, when it is developed and extended out, will be the fifth largest rail trail in the U.S.,” said Jim Radabaugh, the State Trails Coordinator with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. “The Meijer Foundation recognized that the success of these recreation trails depends on having an ability to manage them into the future. Creating an endowment addresses that.”

Current Projects

1. Building Better Resources for North Country Trail Association Volunteers

Project Partner: North Country Trail Association

RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

Location: Lowell

Congressional District(s): 1,2,4,6

Project Goal

By providing better resources and access to training, our volunteers will be empowered to do more. The end result will be a trail that is built and maintained to a higher standard. Better education on land management issues and appropriate uses of the trail as well as conservation issues pertaining to surrounding areas will arm our volunteers with the knowledge they need to work successfully on the trail as well as with land owners and land managers.

NPS Role

Help NCTA accomplish the first two steps in the strategic plan and action toward steps 3 and 4. Assess the current chapter capacity and identify needed resources, assistance, and training. Gather current resources (internal and external) to build the NCTA website chapter resources section and promote it. Develop new needed training materials (manuals, forms, presentations, online tutorials, and videos). Build a plan for on-the-ground trainings.

2. Burt Lake Trail

Project Partner: Burt Township Trail Committee

RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

Location: Burt Lake Township

Congressional District(s): 1

Project Goal

Develop an 18-mile non-motorized multi-use trail. The trail would provide a safe location for biking, hiking, walking, and jogging.

NPS Role

Beyond master plan development, RTCA assistance is requested to assist



Working on the North Country Trail.

specifically with organization of the planning group, identification of funding sources, applicant identification, and engineer procurement.

consensus on trail development standards and management. Identify an action plan and funding strategy for development and sustainability of a 42-mile rail-trail.

3. Clinton- Ionia- Shiawassee Rail-Trail Planning and Development

Project Partner: Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

Location: Clinton

Congressional District(s): 8

Project Goal

Create a unified three-county Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail Council. Achieve

NPS Role

The specific assistance being requested includes partnership building and project guidance to achieve: Better partnership unity between the three counties, a conceptual design framework necessary to resolve user conflicts, and implementation strategies relative to funding and sustainability.

4. Fishtown Comprehensive Interpretive Plan

Project Partner: Fishtown Preservation Society

RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

Location: Leland

Congressional District(s): 4

Project Goal

Develop a comprehensive interpretive plan and implement priority interpretive tools, materials, and methods.

NPS Role

Facilitate a comprehensive interpretive planning process for Fishtown which complements and enhances the programs at Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, Inland Seas, and Leelanau Public Schools



Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Rail Trail.

Current Projects

“We are pleased to partner with NPS - Barb has provided facilitation of the overall planning process; guiding the group toward consensus in the development and management of this important multi-use recreation trail. RTCA’s presence has significantly impacted the advancement of this project.”

- Jim Radabaugh, Michigan State Trails Coordinator, MDNR

5. Lake Michigan Watertrail Organizational Development

Project Partner: Illinois Paddling Council

RTCA Contact: Diane Banta

Location: IL, IN, MI, WI

Congressional District(s): 2

Project Goal

Build a partnership organization to work on the Lake Michigan Water Trail which will provide access to Lake Michigan in four states through numerous landings and access points while marketing the trail for increased tourism and economic development opportunities.

NPS Role

Convene quad state paddler organizations, local governments, and state governments to set vision, mission, and goals leading to the designation of the 200-mile Lake Michigan Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail.

6. Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Trailway Phase 2

Project Partner: Northwest Michigan Council of Government

RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

Location: Empire

Congressional District(s): 2,4

Project Goal

Develop a 25-mile non-motorized multi-use trailway along the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore,

connecting park facilities and communities to the park. It will be the premier multi-use trail in the state when completed.

NPS Role

To assist with the planning and development of an approximately 25-mile non-motorized multi-use trailway along the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. To assist in the planning of the first State Heritage Route Conference to be held in Traverse City.

7. Michigan Statewide Equestrian Trails and Facilities Plan

Project Partner: Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment

RTCA Contact(s): Barb Nelson-Jameson, Mary Hanson

Location: Lansing

Congressional District(s): Statewide

Project Goal

The DNR, with assistance from its partners, advisors, and stakeholders, will develop and produce a statewide plan for equestrian trails and facilities on all DNR lands. The plan will define appropriate trail and facility development objectives that are sustainable and protective of natural resources and enhance equestrian opportunities on DNR lands.

NPS Role

Assist with design and development of the planning and public engagement process. Provide assistance with the planning and facilitation of stakeholder meetings around the state and the compilation of data and input from meetings for consideration by the Planning Team.



Mult-use trails benefit more recreational users.

We're Here For You.

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



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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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

Cass River "Cleans Up"

The Cass River Greenway Committee has been in existence since January, 2007. Starting with a group of local volunteers, the committee has expanded to include professionals from the National Park Service, MDEQ Water Bureau, Shiawassee National Refuge, USDA Saginaw Bay RC&D, University of Michigan – Flint Environmental Research, Saginaw Bay Land Conservancy, and Saginaw County Conservation District, as well as Frankenmuth, Tuscola and Bridgeport city and township employees. This dynamic partnership created a vision which informs their actions and decisions. They are building toward improved water quality, enhanced public recreation on the Cass River and adjoining corridor, protected and enhanced wildlife habitat conservation, increased tourism, and enhanced stewardship of the Cass River by property owners and the public.

The Cass River Greenway Committee received 2009 grant funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Watershed Initiative Network to implement and construct Phase I (10 + miles) of the Cass River Water Trail from Frankenmuth to Vassar. Engineering and construction started on three water trail launch sites in summer 2010. Bike trails have been established using existing roadways and promotional maps are being distributed. The Committee conducted its first Cass River Clean-up in 2009 with over 60 volunteers on six miles of river. Because of its success and positive publicity, a 2010 summer clean-up was also held, with more planned in the future.

"Through the outstanding planning leadership of Barbara Nelson-Jameson, the committee has developed our long range vision and a short term action plan for the 22-mile Cass River Greenway Project. We feel we have made significant progress the past two years, in no small measure because of NPS RTCA assistance."

- Bob Zeilinger, Chairman Cass River Greenway Committee



Results of the Southeast Michigan Greenways Initiative & Detroit American Heritage River Initiative!