



# New York News



Champlain Canalway Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Carr's Creek Watershed  
Sydney Center Improvement Group
2. Champlain Canalway Trail  
Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc.
3. Harlem River Greenway and Restoration  
Harlem River Working Group
4. Jamaica Bay Greenway  
Brooklyn Greenway Initiative
5. Lindenwald Connector Trail  
Columbia Land Conservancy, Inc
6. Montezuma Heritage Park  
Town of Montezuma

### 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

### Lindenwald Connector Trail

The route of a former electric trolley line offers the potential to create a 5-mile multi-use trail connecting the communities of Kinderhook, Stuyvesant Falls, and Stockport. A branch trail also could link with the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site.

Kinderhook received a \$10,000 grant for a trail feasibility study, which will be completed by a State University of New York - Albany graduate planning studio under the guidance of the multi-town trails committee with RTCA assistance. The study will include public workshops as well as detailed analysis.

RTCA will also work with the Columbia Land Conservancy and local groups to convene a conference to foster exchange among local communities with similar trail interests.

*“RTCA’s experience has proven invaluable in shaping the synergy of municipalities, not-for-profits, and local organizations coming together with a common purpose.”*

- Marlene Bissell, Hudson Crossing Park

# Current Projects

## 1. Carr's Creek Watershed

Project Partner: Sydney Center Improvement Group  
RTCA Contact: Wink Hastings  
Location: Upper Susquehanna River basin in Delaware County  
Congressional District: NY-20

### Project Goal

Prepare and implement a watershed plan including a flood management action strategy for the Carr's Creek watershed.

## 2. Champlain Canalway Trail

Partners: Lakes to Locks Passage, Inc.  
RTCA Contact: Karl Beard  
Location: Saratoga, Washington, and Warren Counties  
Congressional District: NY-20

### Project Goal

Completion of the 60-mile Champlain Canalway Trail between Waterford and Whitehall, NY.

## 3. Harlem River Greenway and Restoration

Project Partner: Harlem River Working Group  
RTCA Contact: Jerry Willis  
Location: Harlem River, New York City  
Congressional District: NY-15, 16, 17

### Project Goal

Creation of a continuous greenway along both sides of Harlem River and implementation of river restoration



Champlain Canalway Trail

projects aimed at improving the ecological functions of the river.

## 4. Jamaica Bay Greenway

Project Partner: Brooklyn Greenway Initiative  
RTCA Contact: Jerry Willis  
Location: Shoreline of Jamaica Bay, including facilities managed by NPS and New York City  
Congressional District: NY-10, 12

### Project Goal

Complete a continuous waterfront access and trail around Jamaica Bay for non-motorized users such as runners, pedestrians and cyclists, building on the existing path network. Develop stakeholder interest and participation in developing a plan to fill in several major gaps.

## 5. Lindenwald Connector Trail

Project Partners: Columbia Land Conservancy, Inc  
RTCA Contact: Karl Beard  
Location: Town and Village of Kinderhook and Towns of Stuyvesant and Stockport  
Congressional District: NY-20

### Project Goal

Create a five-mile, multi-use trail linking the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site to the communities of Kinderhook, Stuyvesant and Stockport.

## 6. Montezuma Heritage Park

Project Partners: Town of Montezuma  
RTCA Contact: Karl Beard  
Location: Town of Montezuma in Cayuga County  
Congressional District: NY-24

### Project Goal

Establish a 140-acre park thematically linked to the Erie Canal, including towpath trails, canal structures, and interpretation of historic and natural resources within the park and nearby.



RTCA helped create a series of audio podcasts for six trails in Hyde Park.

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



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# Recent Successes cont.

## Hyde Park Healthy Trails

Hyde Park's Trails weave through four National Park sites, a state park, three town parks and a nonprofit nature preserve. RTCA helped the trails take on a new dimension by helping create a series of audio podcasts for six trails. Markers along the trails prompt the visitor to listen to recorded sounds and stories special to each trail, as told by more than 25 local people. The project was funded by a NPS "Connect Trails to Parks" grant, and the podcasts are hosted on the website of the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site.

A new trail easement enabled volunteers to begin building a new, one-mile section of trail along the Hudson River, on lands owned by Scenic Hudson Land Trust and the Anderson Center.

The national Recreation Trails Coalition awarded the Hyde Park Trails committee and RTCA an "outstanding achievement" award for youth engagement, for a recently-completed Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant which improved or rebuilt over 6 miles of trails.

## Carr's Creek Watershed Management

For the Sidney Center Improvement Group, the past year was all about "coming of age." This small non-profit organization grew in its ability to represent the community's desire for a healthy Carr's Creek watershed; its effective outreach to citizens, local leaders and organizations; and its resourcefulness to accomplish much with very little. The Improvement Group also secured the aid of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation technical assistance grant to evaluate stream flow characteristics in Carr's Creek and Willow Brook and recommend actions to reduce flood risk. A day-long tour conducted for the Chesapeake Bay Program Director involved visiting a wetland restoration site, observing presentations by Sidney High School students of recently completed water resource projects, and gathering with land trusts working in New York's Upper Susquehanna Basin.

*"We would not be out actively managing our watershed without our many partners. The dedication of local organizations—such as Delaware County Planning and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and national organizations including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Isaac Walton League of America, and National Park Service's RTCA program—has truly been an inspiration to us."*

— Joe Lally, President  
Sidney Center Improvement Group



Carr's Creek Watershed Management