

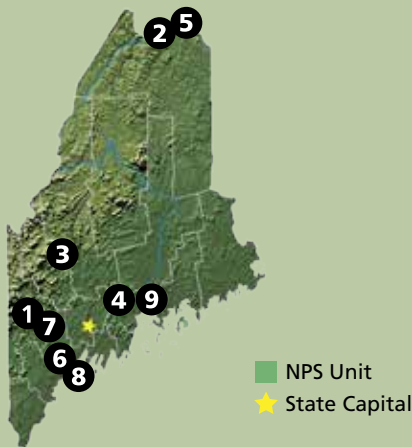


Maine News



Students from Machias Memorial High, a partner of Teens To Trails, go on an ice fishing outing. Photo: Andrea Ednie

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Bethel Pathway Extension
Mahoosuc Pathways
2. Fish River Greenway
Town of Fort Kent
3. High Peak Trails
High Peaks Alliance
4. Hills to Sea Trail-Frye Mountain to Belfast Bay
Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition
5. Madawaska Trails to Riverfront
Town of Madawaska
6. Royal River Water Trail
Royal River Conservation Trust
7. Virgil Parris Forest Trails
Western Foothills Land Trust
8. West Side Trail
Town of Yarmouth
9. Young's Point Road Trail
Brooksville Friends and Neighbors

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Waldo County Trails Coalition Opens New Trail Segment

In June 2011, a long-anticipated trail bridge opened in Unity, Maine, connecting the village with Unity College and with local trails. Inspired by this success, local organizations formed the Waldo County Trails Coalition (WCTC) to connect villages, schools, farms, conservation land, and other significant places and organizations with a thru-trail that will reach Frye Mountain, 12 miles away.

In 2012, WCTC volunteers talked with landowners and scouted properties to map a route between Unity and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. Community volunteers and Unity College students then built the trail and opened the first 6.8-mile section with a celebratory walk in June 2013.

As the project evolved, interest spread and other organizations joined. Now, the "Hills to Sea Trail" will reach the coast, highlighting the beautiful rural landscape and encouraging healthy outdoor activity.

The NPS helped the WCTC define its mission, prepare to contact landowners, and create a trail management plan.



Walkers cross the new bridge in Unity that inspired the creation of 6.8 more miles of trail. Photo: NPS

Current Projects

1. Bethel Pathway Extension

Project Partner: Mahoosuc Pathways
NPS Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Bethel
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Complete the Bethel Pathway linking Telstar Regional Middle and High Schools with Bethel Village, Angevine Park (a recreational area), and local parklands and trails.

NPS Role

Help move the trail towards completion with support for landowner agreements, permitting, fundraising, and strengthening the Bethel Conservation Corps.

2. Fish River Greenway

Project Partner: Town of Fort Kent
NPS Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Fort Kent
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Improve walking and bicycling in Fort Kent by finishing the Fish River Greenway Loop and allowing off-road walking along a traditional route.

NPS Role

Help with organizing the project, recruiting volunteers, and identifying funding sources.



Merrymeeting Trail coalition members scout a potential route for a rail-with-trail. Photo: NPS

3. High Peaks Trails

Project Partner: High Peaks Alliance
NPS Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Northern Franklin County
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Conserve land and maintain and enhance public access in the High Peaks.

NPS Role

Help improve organizational capacity, finish phase II of the Fly Rod Crosby Trail, and complete a community-based conservation plan for the High Peaks region.

4. Hills to Sea Trail – Frye Mountain to Belfast Bay

Project Partner: Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition
NPS Contact: Julie Isbill
Location: Belfast and Waldo County
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Create a 12 to 14-mile section of the Hills to Sea Trail connecting Belfast Bay to Frye Mountain.

NPS Role

Assist in organizing the committee and developing a workplan, trail planning, landowner contact, public outreach, and identifying funding sources.

5. Madawaska Trails to Riverfront

Project Partner: Town of Madawaska
NPS Contact: Burnham Martin
Location: Madawaska
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Create a new trail of about 7 miles linking the existing Four Seasons Trails system to historic sites and water access points along the St. John River.

NPS Role

Assist with organizing the project, contacting landowners, planning trail layout, and identifying funding sources.



Mahoosuc Pathways volunteers scout a potential trail route in Bethel. Photo: NPS

Current Projects

6. Royal River Water Trail

Project Partner: Royal River Conservation Trust
NPS Contact: Julie Isbill
Location: Yarmouth, North Yarmouth, New Gloucester, Pownal, Durham
Congressional District: ME - 1

Project Goal

Enhance the Royal River Water Trail by planning, creating, and installing "Royal Treasures" (art) along the waterway.

NPS Role

Assist with planning for the inclusion of art as part of the Royal River Water Trail. Help focus and advise on outreach for the water trail project.

7. Virgil Parris Forest Trails

Project Partner: Western Foothills Land Trust
NPS Contact: Julie Isbill
Location: Buckfield, Hebron
Congressional District: ME - 2

Project Goal

Create and begin to implement a management plan for trails and pond access on the 1,250-acre conserved property.

NPS Role

Work with motorized trail groups regarding a possible new multi-use trail across the property. Work with a volunteer landscape architect to create the South Pond public access site plan.

8. West Side Trail

Project Partner: Town of Yarmouth
NPS Contact: Julie Isbill
Location: Yarmouth
Congressional District: ME - 1

Project Goal

Continue to plan and build sections of the West Side Trail, a 12-mile mountain bike and snowshoe trail in a power line corridor.

NPS Role

Assist with community outreach for the next trail segments, fundraising, building a volunteer corps, creating a sign plan, and developing the organization.

9. Young's Point Road Trail

Project Partner: Brooksville Friends and Neighbors
NPS Contact: Julie Isbill
Location: Brooksville
Congressional District: ME - 2



Volunteers on the West Side Trail.
Photo: Andrew Favreau

Project Goal

Create a nature park with a fully accessible trail to serve the area's elderly and pre-schoolers.

NPS Role

Assist with designing an accessible trail, identifying funding sources, planning trail and play areas, and connecting with adjacent conservation land.



A landscape architect assists with the South Pond access plan. 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

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.

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

WCTC now leads regular guided walks and is refining, maintaining, and publicizing the trail while planning and building new segments.

Teens To Trails Comes of Age!

It is not always true anymore that kids will grow up playing outside. Yet, as Teens To Trails says, "Life Happens Outside!" Teens To Trails (T3) is a Maine organization devoted to getting teens outdoors to experience the challenges, wonders, and the resulting mental and physical health of time spent exploring the out-of-doors. T3's goal is to create and support high school outing clubs in every school in Maine.



Teen enjoys summiting a peak.

Photo: Brunswick High School Outing Club

To that end, T3 has employed strategies like the Spring Thing! (an outdoor skills conference), Acadia Rendezvous (multiple outing clubs camping and playing together for a weekend in Acadia National Park), and Grants to Clubs (\$500 grants for equipment and transportation). Working

with high school outing clubs is a way of reaching most teens in the state, regardless of geography or income. Outing clubs are open to all and often provide an introduction to the outdoors for teens who otherwise would not go there.

When T3 invited NPS involvement, their track record was stellar but it was time to evaluate their sustainability. By reaching out to friends and advisors, T3 embarked on



The Teens To Trails outing club rendezvous.

Photo: Carol Leone

their own transformation by hiring their first staff and launching a Founding Members campaign, formulating a new board, and establishing an office.

T3 also initiated new projects such as College Outdoor Mentors (pairing colleges with high schools for outdoor mentoring), T3 Partners (outdoor-related businesses and facilities available to clubs on the T3 website), an Outdoor Film Festival, and new on-the-ground partnerships that are getting more and more teens out experiencing the outstanding beauty and adventure of Maine's woods and waters.

"A partnership with the NPS helped us make new connections and open doors by providing instant legitimacy to our programs. Julie Isbill's experience and wise counsel helped us take forward steps with an eye to our future."

- Carole Leone, Founder/Director, Teens To Trails