

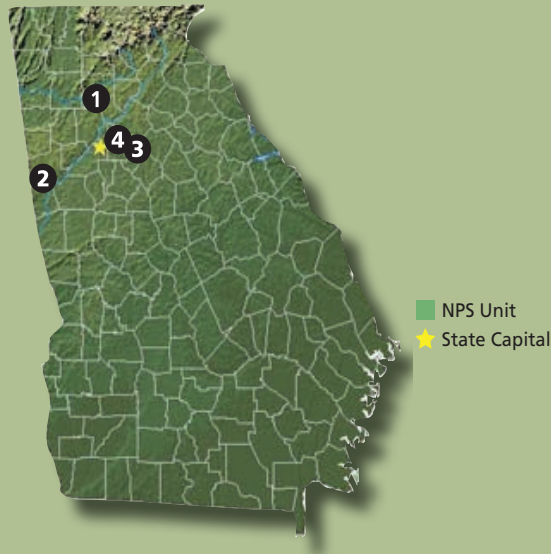


Georgia News



Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Etowah River Initiative
Forsyth County
2. Middle Chattahoochee Blueway
Carroll County Parks Department
3. Panola Mountain State Park
GA State Parks, Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area,
Atlanta Regional Commission
4. Porterdale Yellow River Park
Newton County Trail Path Foundation

Recent Successes

RTCA provided technical and planning assistance to Walker County from 2005-2007. During this time, RTCA worked with A-Carroll GIS to create a Walker County Greenways & Greenspaces Plan that identified critical habitat and viewsheds and created outdoor recreation opportunities.

Walker County has since succeeded in implementing the plan by partnering with land trusts and the state. Walker County purchased an McLemore Cove, acre property with the help of the Georgia Land Conservation Program and Open Space Institute, Inc. Walker County partnered with the Lookout Mountain Conservancy to purchase a conservation easement totaling 740 acres from Camp Adahi, adjacent to the Zahnd State



Natural land bridge at Zahnd State Natural Area. Photo: *Discover Life*, Alan Cressler

Current Projects

1. Etowah River Initiative

Project Partner: Forsyth County
RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis
Location: Lumpkin, Dawson, Forsyth and Cherokee Counties
Congressional District: GA - 2

Project Goal

Create the Etowah River Canoe Trail Advisory Committee that will develop a 3-year strategic plan for the canoe trail. A set of marketing materials specific to the canoe trail will also be part of this project and it will include logos, kiosk design, maps, and interpretive information.

NPS Role

Assist with the formation of the Advisory Committee and strategic plan and provide technical assistance for the marketing materials.



Recent Middle Chattahoochee Management Meeting at McIntosh Reserve. Photo: NPS

2. Middle Chattahoochee River Water Trail

Location: Chattahoochee River in metropolitan Atlanta. Section of river from Peachtree Creek (Fulton County) to Chattahoochee Bend State Park (Coweta County)
Congressional Districts: GA - 3, 5, 13
Project Partner: Carroll County Parks Department
RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

Project Goal

Create a water trail on the Chattahoochee River for canoes and kayaks from the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to Chattahoochee Bend State Park, approximately 53 miles. The water trail will include Sweetwater Creek State Park and possibly additional sites, such as Moores Bridge Park and McIntosh Reserve.

NPS Role

Prepare the inventory of existing and proposed launch sites, provide technical assistance in design standards and mapping and facilitate meetings with partners and local communities.

Project Goal

Create a trail map and database for the park and Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (NHA). The database and map will identify existing trails and proposed key segments necessary to connect the park and NHA to the trail network throughout the eastern quadrant of metropolitan Atlanta.

NPS Role

Coordinate the partners to obtain field data, compile the database, create the map, and distribute map and GIS data to all partners.



Yellow River Park Community Vision Workshop. Photo: NPS

3. Panola Mountain State Park

Project Partners: GA State Parks, Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, Atlanta Region Commission
RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis
Location: Atlanta
Congressional Districts: GA - 4, 5

4. Porterdale Yellow River Park

Project Partner: Newton County Trail Path Foundation
RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis
Location: Porterdale and Newton Counties
Congressional District: GA - 4

We're Here For You.

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

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2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 2,154 Miles of Trail Developed
- 1,074 Miles of River Conserved
- 70,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
- 94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

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



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Current Projects cont.

Project Goal

Prepare a conceptual plan for the Yellow River Park and combine the park planning process with water trail planning efforts in downtown Porterdale. These plans will help the various partners in Porterdale focus on the best use for Yellow River Park to provide economic opportunities, river access, and community recreation.

RTCA Role

Facilitate a community vision workshop, prepare the conceptual plan for the Yellow River Park, identify water trail access and help prepare a strategic implementation process to guide partners.

Recent Successes cont.

Natural Area. With these two purchases, over 19,000 acres of conserved land are now continuously connected providing public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, and bicycling.

In addition to land protection, Walker County worked with the Lula Lake Land Trust, Georgia State Parks, the Lyndhurst Foundation, and the Southern Off Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) to build 5.8 new miles of mountain bike and hiking trail known as the Cloudland Connector, between the existing Lula Lake Land Trust trail system and Cloudland Canyon State Park.



Bobby Davenport, left, and Noel Durant, right, speak to Jim Huff, center, as he takes a break from clearing a trail along phase 3 of the Lula Lake Land Trust's Cloudland Connector Trail, which will link Ascalon Road to Cloudland Canyon State Park. Photo: *Times Free Press*, Dan Henry

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.