



# Louisiana News



Kayakers paddle down Bayou St. John.

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Bayou Teche Trail**  
Center for Cultural and Ecotourism
- 2. Lower Ninth Ward Waterfront Trail**  
City of Monroe
- 3. Trail to a Healthy Community**  
Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association

## ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA 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.

## Current Projects

### 1. Bayou Teche Paddling Trail

Location: Port Barre to Berwick, LA. St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Iberia Parishes  
Congressional District: 3,7  
Project Partner: Center for Cultural and Ecotourism  
NPS Contact: Stacye Palmer-McBride

#### Project Goal

RTCA will help partners establish a paddle trail in the Bayou Tech watershed (approximately 44,000 acres in size). The trail would extend from the mouth of Bayou Teche at Port Barre to its terminus in Berwick, Louisiana, a 130 mile waterway that crosses four parishes. The creation of the trail will enhance outdoor recreation possibilities and economic development opportunities. The trail will also provide education and regarding the traditional uses of the bayou, such as transportation and food source.

#### RTCA Role

For fiscal year 2012 RTCA will continue to provide assistance the partnerships, engaging active public participation, continue to develop a resource and concept plan and help provide mapping of the paddling area.

## We're Here For You.

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

**Stacye Palmer-McBride**  
504.589.3882 ext. 140  
Stacye\_palmer@nps.gov

## 2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,991 Miles of Trail Developed

1,925 Miles of River Conserved

33,230 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at  
[www.nps.gov/rctca](http://www.nps.gov/rctca)



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# Current Projects cont.

## 2. Lower Ninth Ward Waterfront Trail

Location: Monroe, Louisiana; Ouachita Parish

Congressional District: 3

Project Partner: City of Monroe, Planning and Urban Development

NPS Contact: Stacye Palmer-McBride

### Project Goal

The Lower Ninth Ward Waterfront Trail project will develop green space and recreation trails that will also have access to local waterways. The greenway trail will provide recreational opportunities such as walking, jogging and biking. The blueway component of the project will create multiple access points for fishing and public gatherings along the water.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in developing a strategic plan for the project as well as assistance in the identification of funding resources for the project.



RTCA staff Stacye Palmer-McBride discusses aspects of the Bayou Tech Paddling trail project with citizens



Participants prepare to take part in the 'Tour the Teche' paddling event. Photo courtesy of Kristan Kordecki

## 3. Trail to a Healthy Community

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana; Orleans Parish

Congressional Districts: 2

Project Partner: Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association

NPS Contact: Stacye Palmer-McBride

### Project Goal

The project in Orleans Parish hopes to establish a greenway and blueway trail along the Maxent Canal that will enhance outdoor recreation, open greenspace, and natural and cultural education aspects for the community. Additionally, the partner anticipates that the trails will create safe, alternative transportation for pedestrians to access schools, shopping centers, and other businesses.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will work with fostering partnerships within the community, developing a conceptual greenway plan, marketing, and community engagement.