



Virginia News



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital



Canoers on the West Neck Creek

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Groundwork Richmond**
Partnership for Smarter Growth and City of Richmond
- 2. Mathews Heritage Park Land Management Plan**
Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority
- 3. Suffolk Water Trails**
Nansemond River Preservation Alliance
- 4. September 11th National Memorial Trail**
September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
- 5. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail**
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Hampton Roads Planning District
- 6. Spotsylvania Greenway Initiative**
Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative and Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
- 7. Tobacco Heritage Trail**
Roanoke River Rails to Trails and Southside Planning District Commission

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

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

Southeast Coastal Paddling Trail

The Southeast Coastal Paddling Trail (SCPT) is an exciting new initiative to link existing access points, visitor services, and other attractions from Florida to Virginia. Inspired by the Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail, the extensive project area spans four states: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. Although numerous public access sites and water trails currently exist in each state, there is currently no interconnected water trail system. The SCPT will achieve this goal, promoting recreation, environmental education, stewardship, and tourism for adjacent communities. Virginia plays a critical role in this project, with the Chesapeake Bay serving as the trail's northern terminus. In 2010 and 2011, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) worked with RTCA and local communities to explore potential route options. Virginia partners continue to work with the Southeast states of NC, SC, and GA to secure funding for development of an interstate project website.

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“The Southeast Coastal Paddling Trail is an exciting interstate project that has received invaluable support and leadership from the RTCA program.”

When completed the paddle trail will provide a route from Florida to Virginia, linking multiple states along the Atlantic coastline.”

- Janit Llewellyn, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Current Projects

1. Groundwork Richmond

Project Partners: Partnership for Smarter Growth and City of Richmond
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski
Location: Richmond, Virginia
Congressional Districts: VA-3, 4, 7

Project Goal

Develop plans for adaptive reuse of Richmond brownfield sites that support environmental restoration, neighborhood revitalization, youth engagement, and urban park development goals.

RTCA Role

Serve as NPS liaison and technical advisor for development of the Groundwork Trust Feasibility Study.

2. Mathews Heritage Park - Land Management Plan

Project Partner: Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski
Location: Billup's Creek, Moon, Virginia
Congressional District: VA-1

Project Goal

A Land Management Plan for a newly acquired 9-acre waterfront parcel that addresses community needs, legal requirements, and long-term recreation, education, and water access goals.

RTCA Role

Guide partners in water access and park planning, facilitate a planning process to gain consensus on a vision, goals, and develop a management approach for the site.

3. Suffolk Water Trails

Project Partner: Nansemond River Preservation Alliance
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski
Location: Suffolk, Virginia
Congressional District: VA-4



Site visit by Groundwork Trust evaluation team, February 2010

Project Goal

Increased public awareness of the Nansemond River's historical and environmental significance, and increased access to the river and tributary waterways.

RTCA Role

Technical assistance with water trail planning including: vision and goal-setting, public engagement, resource assessment, and creation of a water trail map and guide.

4. September 11th National Memorial Trail

Project Partner: September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings
Location: Seven state triangle including Shanksville, PA (Flight 93 crash site), New York City (World Trade Center), Washington DC (Pentagon).
Congressional Districts: VA-8, 11

Project Goal

A 1,100-mile hiking, biking and driving trail physically connecting the three national memorials commemorating the tragic events that occurred in 2001.

RTCA Role

Facilitate determination of trail route through Virginia and assist in the development of an interim Strategic Plan to improve upon organizational capacity and ensure quality trail management.

5. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail

Project Partners: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski
Location: Virginia coast from North Carolina to the Chesapeake Bay
Congressional Districts: VA-2, 4

Project Goal

Development of a water trail along the Atlantic Coast from the Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail to the Chesapeake Bay.

RTCA Role

Assist with resource assessment/data collection to identify a route and access points for the Virginia segment and coordinate with local, state, federal, and non-profit partners, and other NPS Regions and Programs.

6. Spotsylvania Greenway Initiative

Project Partners: Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative and Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park
RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski
Location: Spotsylvania County and City of Fredericksburg
Congressional Districts: VA-1, 7

Project Goal

Development of a 100-mile system of trails and greenways in Spotsylvania County that connect natural and cultural sites, provide recreation and

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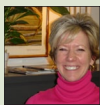
Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,991	Miles of Trail Developed
1,25	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/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

James River Heritage Trail

The James River Heritage Trail (JRHT) is a proposed braided network of land and water trails extending over 300 miles from the headwaters of the James to the Chesapeake Bay. Winding its way through Virginia's heartland, the geographically diverse river corridor offers a world-class recreational experience. The JRHT also provides an opportunity to learn about the area's rich history -- from the origins of colonial settlement in Jamestown, to the Cumberland Gap where Virginians crossed the Cumberland Plateau barrier to settle Kentucky. For the nature-lover, visitors to the trail will find important birding areas, eagle populations, and miles of wetland habitat and shoreline to explore.



The James River Heritage Trail alongside Reedy Creek.

In 2010 and 2011, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), worked in collaboration with RTCA and local partners to document existing conditions, examine barriers, and develop solutions to address trail development challenges. After two years of data collection, analysis, community work sessions and stakeholder meetings, the Draft James River Heritage Trail Conceptual Plan was completed in Fall 2011, and is available on the project website: http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational_planning/trailjrjrh.shtml

Current Projects cont.



Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

wellness opportunities, and inspire respect and responsible stewardship of green space resources.

RTCA Role

Provide technical assistance, facilitation, and trail planning advice to gain consensus on trail usage and connections, and to ensure appropriate and compatible connections to the four NPS battlefield parks.

7. Tobacco Heritage Trail

Project Partners: Roanoke River Rails to Trails and Southside Planning District Commission

RTCA Contact: Ursula Lemanski
Location: Brunswick, Lunenburg, Halifax, Mecklenburg, and Charlotte counties, Virginia
Congressional Districts: VA-4, 5

Project Goal

Enrich the communities and countryside of Southern Virginia through the creation, maintenance, and marketing of a multi-use trail system that celebrates the region's natural assets and agricultural heritage.

RTCA Role

Assist with outreach and develop a partnership strategy to engage the community, youth and health partners, and friends groups to assist with on-going trail maintenance.