



Nevada News



Red Hill will provide close-to-home recreation for residents of Sun Valley and Reno.
Photo: Peg Henderson, NPS RTCA

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013

- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Beaumont Park**
City of Reno
- 2. Black Canyon Water Trail**
Outside Las Vegas Foundation
- 3. Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trails**
Town of Laughlin
- 4. Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights**
UNLV Public Lands Institute
- 5. Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP)**
SNAP Recreation Team

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Trails and Protected Open Space Envisioned at Red Hill

Red Hill is a landmark natural formation in Sun Valley, Nevada that overlooks the Truckee Meadows and provides spectacular views of Reno and its vicinity. Located on 438 acres, unique geologic

“The RTCA program has empowered a community-led conservation and recreation initiative...”

- Robert M. Larkin Chairman, Washoe County Commission

features along with a variety of desert plants and wildlife add to its attraction as a popular area for outdoor recreation. While the land was designated as open space during its acquisition by the American Land Conservancy, the property was beginning to show signs of misuse (illegal

dumping, off road vehicles, unauthorized trails, target shooting etc.) that threatened its unique cultural and natural resources.

Recognizing a need protect Red Hill, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space joined hands with Sun Valley residents,

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.

Current Projects

1. Beaumont Park

Project Partner: City of Reno

NPS Contact: Sally Sheridan

Location: Northwest Reno on the slope of Peavine Mountain

Congressional District: NV - 2

Project Goal

Beaumont Park, a 206-acre property in northwest Reno that was formerly an 18-hole public golf course, was closed in 2009, with the threat of potential re-development. In order to maintain the open space values of the park, neighbors came together to secure a \$1.2 million bond to purchase and maintain the property. The property is now protected for open space and park use, yet there is a need to develop a community vision and conceptual plan for Beaumont Park to identify priorities for outdoor recreation, non-motorized trails (including connections to Peavine Mountain and the regional trails system), and restoration areas.

NPS Role

Facilitate the development of a shared vision and conceptual plan for Beaumont Park through community engagement and a design charrette. Build partnerships between the City of Reno, Washoe County, Friends of Beaumont Park, Truckee Meadows Trails Association, Nevada



Kayakers enjoy scenic views along the Black Canyon Water Trail.
Photo: Helen Howard, Desert River Kayak

Land Conservancy, area schools and the surrounding northwest Reno community for long-term implementation and stewardship.

2. Black Canyon Water Trail

Project Partner: Outside Las Vegas Foundation

NPS Contact: Deb Reardon

Location: Extends from Hoover Dam in Boulder City to the Nevada/Arizona State Line

Congressional District: NV - 3, AZ - 2

Project Goal

The first phase of the project will include the development of a water trail map and related interpretive information, to be used to develop a hard copy water trail guide and/or brochure, website, and potentially a mobile application.

The second phase of the project will include the development of a partnership for the greater Colorado River Water Trail in Nevada and the completion of related water trail planning. Opportunities to work collaboratively with partners working to improve the Colorado Water Trail in Arizona will also be explored.

NPS Role

Facilitate agreement on content for the Black Canyon Water Trail guide and map in collaboration with project partners. Facilitate the development of a partnership for the greater Colorado River Water Trail in Nevada.



A closed golf course in Reno is envisioned to become Beaumont Park. Photo: Deb Reardon, NPS RTCA

Current Projects

3. Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trails

Project Partner: Town of Laughlin
NPS Contact: Deb Reardon
Location: Laughlin
Congressional District: NV - 3

Project Goal

The Town of Laughlin convened community members in 2002 to develop a regional trail plan. With facilitation and partnership building support from RTCA, a collaborative team developed the plan, which included goals for trails connecting Laughlin to Bullhead City and conservation areas.

Since the initial planning, the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail received over \$24M in funding from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, Clark County and federal grants for the first phase, which includes nine miles of trails and amenities, and the Laughlin Heritage Greenway Park. The project was also recognized in the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Report.

NPS Role

RTCA will facilitate two workshops of the Laughlin Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trails Partnership in order to reconfirm the group's vision and goals, clarify roles and develop a work plan



The first phase of the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trails system, featured in the America's Great Outdoors report, included 9 miles of trails, a signature bridge, and a new park. Photo: Laughlin Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trails Partnership

that will address future improvements, educational programming and maintenance, and communications strategies.

NPS Role

RTCA facilitates quarterly meetings of the Alliance, a forum for the coordination of outreach and marketing efforts to promote the Bill of Rights.

4. Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Project Partner: UNLV Public Lands Institute
NPS Contact: Deb Reardon
Location: Statewide
Congressional District: NV - 1, 2, 3

Project Goal

The Nevada Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Alliance is composed of more than 25 organizations and agencies who have responsibilities or interests in getting kids outdoors, connected to nature, and physically active. The group's mission is "to encourage Nevada's children to participate in outdoor recreational activities, engage in lifelong learning adventures, and become stewards of the environment."

5. Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP)

Project Partner: SNAP Recreation Team
NPS Contact: Deb Reardon
Location: Clark County
Congressional District: NV - 1, 2, 3

Project Goal

RTCA staff in Nevada is partially supported through a partnership with the SNAP Recreation Team, which consists of federal agency recreation staff for public lands surrounding the Las Vegas valley. The Team works together to complete recreation surveys, trail planning, and outreach products.

NPS Role

RTCA serves as a facilitator for Team meetings, tracks project progress, and prepares required administrative documents.

"RTCA's commitment to and success in fostering community leadership in conserving rivers, preserving open space, and building trails and greenways is to be commended."

- Dr. Margaret N. Rees, Ph.D., Vice Provost, UNLV Division Education Outreach.

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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Recent Successes cont.

agency staff and community partners to develop a shared vision and plan for Red Hill.

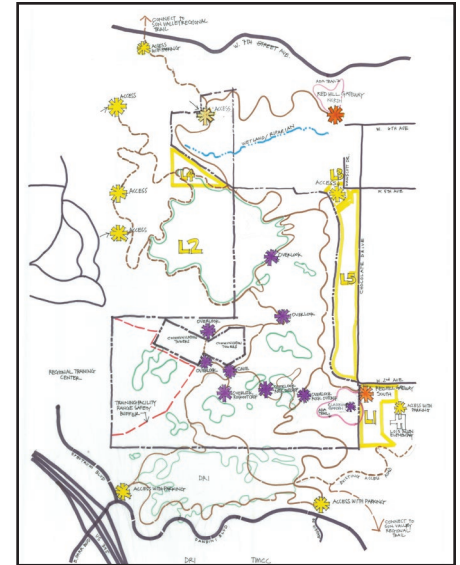
The resulting Red Hill Master Plan, adopted by the Washoe County Commission in August 2012, envisions a non-motorized 14-mile trail system with trailheads, the conservation of sensitive habitat and restoration of disturbed areas, the development of recreational amenities, including an outdoor classroom and native interpretive garden, community art, and potential land acquisitions for increased wildlife and natural resource protection and regional trail connectivity. The Master Plan also includes an Action Plan that will guide long-term implementation.

The Plan has inspired immediate action, including a community clean-up event where over 100 cubic yards of trash was removed.

Additionally, Washoe County worked in collaboration with the Nevada Division of Minerals to secure four abandoned mines. A “bat gate” was installed at an adit (entrance to an underground mine) with evidence of bat activity, which will serve as a future trail destination and educational feature.

The Master Plan was developed through extensive community engagement, facilitated by RTCA, which included Stakeholder Committee meetings, community meetings, an online survey, and interviews with key stakeholders. Additionally, over 60 sixth-grade students from Lois Allen Elementary School participated in youth workshops where students shared their vision for Red Hill, including priority amenities, activities and ideas for trail connections. The Truckee Meadows Community College Design with Nature class also used Red Hill for a class project.

Following initial outreach, a charrette brought together over 120 participants including landscape architects and students, recreation field experts, natural resources and land use management, and community members, for an intensive two-day workshop in October 2011. Through an existing partnership between RTCA and the American Society of Landscape Architects, four talented landscape architects donated their time, expertise, and design services to develop the conceptual plans that will guide the future of Red Hill.



Conceptual plan for Red Hill identifies trails, conservation areas and amenities.



The Red Hill Design Workshop began with a site visit and presentations by botanists, landscape architects, trail designers, and staff. Photo: Peg Henderson, NPS RTCA