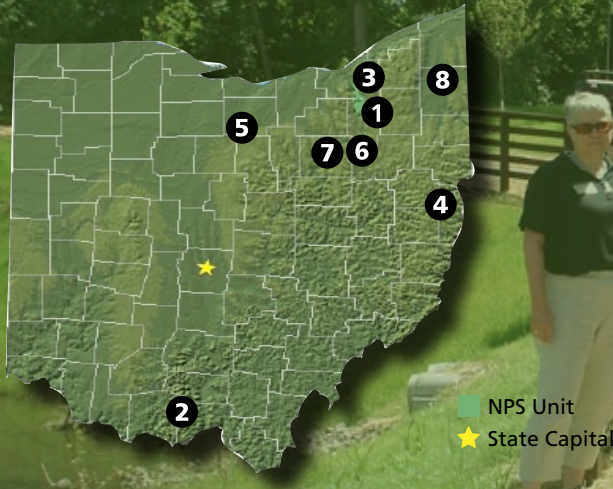




Ohio News



Families enjoy opening day of Haley's Run.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

Current Projects

1. Adams Run Greenway
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
2. Cincinnati Mill Creek Greenway Trail Program
Mill Creek Restoration Project
3. Cleveland Metroparks Centennial Trail Plan
Cleveland Metroparks
4. Jefferson County Trail and Greenway Project
Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
5. Shelby Black Fork Historic Bike & Recreation Trail
City of Shelby, OH
6. Tuscarawas River Water Trail
Stark County Park District
7. Wadsworth Multi-Purpose Trail Project
City of Wadsworth
8. Western Reserve Heritage Area Feasibility Study
U. S. Congress, Congressman Tim Ryan in consultation with the State of Ohio, and local counties

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

Haley's Run – A Polluted Ditch becomes a Community Asset!

Haley's Ditch was a neglected, channelized waterway polluted with PCB's when the Lockheed Martin Corporation became responsible for the EPA-mandated clean up of the property. At a minimum, the trees and the top few feet of soil would need to be removed, potentially leaving a devastating scar on the land and negative impact on the neighborhood. Instead, Project Manager, Dave Gunnarson, assembled a team of community partners, agencies and contractors to implement a full blown stream and habitat restoration and to install a walking trail that extends beyond the boundaries of the original clean up area. Completed in summer of 2010, the new Haley's Run Park is now home to a multitude of wildlife and a source of neighborhood pride! It has contributed to a renewed vision and acts as a catalyst for many nearby trail connections and

"This project created wetlands that will enhance the health of the Cuyahoga River Watershed and provide beautiful space and recreational opportunities for the community and partnership connections in the region."

Dave Gunnarson, Project Manager, Lockheed Martin Corporation

Current Projects

1. Adams Run Greenway

Project Partner: Western Reserve Land Conservancy
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Akron
Congressional District(s): OH-17

Project Goal

Protect at least 40 acres of land in this urban greenspace, restore water quality and riparian buffers to improve impacts on the watershed, and develop four miles of trails to connect the community with other recreational opportunities. Form partnerships between corporations, cities, and neighborhoods that improve the quality of life for all.

NPS Role

Facilitate meetings with stakeholders, bringing together various partners with their individual projects to accomplish a shared goal of protecting greenspace, water resources, and building recreational opportunities. Conduct neighborhood meetings to provide information and seek public input.

2. Cincinnati Mill Creek Greenway Trail Program

Project Partner: Mill Creek Restoration Project



Art along the trail in Cincinnati



Wadsworth future trail site

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Cincinnati
Congressional District(s): OH-1

Project Goal

Assistance will be provided for a Groundwork USA application. In addition, 15 miles of trails will be built, several acres of land will be conserved, and partnerships will be formed and enhanced for improved sustainability.

NPS Role

Assist in identifying funding sources, assessing land acquisition opportunities, developing partnerships for trail management and technical issues, and building organizational capacity. Advising on involvement of youth and

other diverse populations. Promoting and gaining recognition of the trail, energizing efforts, and adding credibility. Assisting with the Groundwork USA application process.

3. Cleveland Metroparks Centennial Trail Plan

Project Partner: Cleveland Metroparks
RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: Cuyahoga and Medina Counties
Congressional District(s): OH-10, 11, 13

Project Goal

An enhanced trail system that offers opportunities for improved conservation, environmental education about natural area stewardship and utilization ethics.

NPS Role

Assistance is being requested to help with several areas: 1. Organizational structure and process to integrate staff, partner, and public participation. 2. Technical assistance with operational issues of multi-use systems (use compatibility/conflicts, capacity, and need) 3. Evaluation for historic and new use considerations (bridal, mountain bike, etc.) 4. Facilitation of public participation and input gathering 5. Assistance with marketing of the benefits of trail systems and a vision for a world-class regional system in Northeast Ohio.

Current Projects

4. Jefferson County Trail and Greenway Project

Project Partner: Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Jefferson County Congressional District(s): OH-6

Project Goal

Publish and promote the plan/vision created last year to empower partners and the public to identify and prioritize possible trails, trail connections, and important greenspace areas and assist in implementation that will enhance the quality of life and health of Jefferson County residents.

NPS Role

Assist Jefferson County partners with the presentation of the vision for trails and greenways for the county. Will include facilitation of public meetings, development of a county organization to oversee trails, development of conceptual trail connectors, defining implementation strategies and making further connections regionally.

5. Shelby Black Fork Historic Bike and Recreation Trail

Project Partner: City of Shelby, OH
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Shelby
Congressional District(s): OH-4

Project Goal

Build community support and engage input for a trail of 3.8 miles with

riparian buffers along the Black Fork River. Educational opportunities will be incorporated into some parts of the trail. At least one park in the center of town will be developed along the trail. Schools, the town center, and reservoirs at each end will be connected.

NPS Role

RTCA will help to identify resources, assist in navigating the planning process, help to achieve public support and engage stakeholders (including youth and health), provide input to the Master Plan, and assist in organizational development.

6. Tuscarawas River Water Trail

Project Partner: Stark County Park District
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Stark County
Congressional District(s): OH-16

Project Goal

Develop partnerships and engage the public to develop 25 miles of water trail with access points and limited facilities, develop associated interpretive educational and informational materials, and improve water quality through the removal of 2 low head dams.

NPS Role

Identify potential stakeholders, determine constituency for a water trail, identify impediments to development and potential solutions, identify members for a steering committee and possible funding sources, provide examples from other projects, and facilitate public meetings.

7. Wadsworth Multi-Purpose Trail Project

Project Partner: City of Wadsworth
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Wadsworth
Congressional District(s): OH 16

Project Goal

Provide assistance to develop a

“friends of trail” group and engage community support for 3.8 miles of trail through Wadsworth connecting and enhancing some existing parks and school facilities and looking at connections regionally.

NPS Role

Assist in the development of a “Friends of Trails” group and help with events and planning efforts, including public meetings. Provide stakeholder development and resource assistance to connect parks, schools, and other important city locations through implementation of multi-modal transportation plan. Work with neighboring communities for regional efforts.

8. Western Reserve Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Project Partner: Congressman Tim Ryan in consultation with the State of Ohio and local counties
RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson
11 full and 3 partial counties in northern Ohio that include what was historically know as the Connecticut Western Reserve of Ohio
Congressional District(s): OH-5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17

Project Goal

Complete a study that reporting on the suitability and feasibility of designating the Western Reserve Heritage Area as a National Heritage Corridor.

NPS Role

The Secretary, acting through the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, Midwest Region, and in consultation with the State of Ohio, the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geauga, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland, and other appropriate organizations, will carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area in these counties in Ohio.



We're Here For You.

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



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2010 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,251 Miles of Trail Developed

1,694 Miles of River Conserved

25,370 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

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



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

cooperation between the City of Akron, Metroparks, Serving Summit County, The Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and the National Park Service RTCA program. Future projects tie into large scale development plans and quality of life improvements for the region.

Jefferson County Trail and Greenway Plan Inspires Progress

Numerous public meetings and hard work by a steering committee of community partners has produced a vision for Trails and Greenways in Jefferson County. RTCA, working in partnership with Crossroads Resource Conservation and Development Council; the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce; the Brooke, Hancock, Jefferson Metropolitan Planning Commission; and the Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, produced a plan for potential trail connections and implementation throughout the county and beyond. The knowledge shared and the enthusiasm generated has already been the catalyst for two trails in the conceptual phase and other projects being considered. There has also been renewed interest in the under appreciated waterfront along the Ohio River.

“RTCA is making our vision for the project a reality”

Sue Hershey, President, Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce



Jefferson County Trail and Greenway Planning in progress!