



New York News



PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. **Bronx Harlem Urban Waters Federal Partnership**
Harlem River Working Group, Bronx River Alliance
2. **East Bronx Coastal Connections**
Bronx Council on Environmental Quality
3. **Finger Lakes & Erie Canalway Water Trails**
Finger Lakes Land Trust
4. **Harlem River Greenway**
Harlem River Working Group
5. **Hyde Park- Dutchess County Healthy Trails**
Town of Hyde Park
6. **Jamaica Bay Greenway**
Regional Plan Association
7. **Kingston Rail Trail Connections**
Kingston Land Trust
8. **Troy Collar City Ramble**
Transport Troy

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Jamaica Bay Greenway Coalition hosts their first "Bike & Hike" event from Canarsie Park to Pennsylvania Ave. Park in South Brooklyn.
Photo: Regional Plan Association

Recent Successes

Kingston "Greenline" Trail System: The light at the end of the tunnel

Thanks to strong support from the city and local businesses, plus weeks of work by a host of volunteers, the Kingston Land Trust (KLT) can now point to the old railroad tunnel beneath Delaware Avenue as part of a potential linear park instead of a dirty and dangerous public property.

Now freed from tons of garbage, the vision of a linear park is bolstered by a new trail feasibility study. The 1.5-mile railroad corridor links Kingston's midtown to the historic Rondout Creek waterfront, with its cluster of restaurants, shops, and museums. Along the way, the corridor passes by residential neighborhoods, churches, and an elementary school.



Volunteers assembled for an Earth Day "Clean Sweep" on the proposed Kingston Point Rail Trail corridor. Photo: Meg Clark

Study consultants easily tapped into the passion and knowledge embodied in the KLT trail committee and with additional assistance from the NPS, performed a field analysis and technical review of the trail corridor.

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Current Projects

1. Bronx Harlem Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Project Partners: Harlem River Working Group, Bronx River Alliance

NPS Contact: Jerry Willis

Location: Bronx, Manhattan

Congressional Districts: NY - 13, 14, 15

Project Goal

Reconnect urban areas, particularly those that are underserved or economically distressed, with their waterways; improve collaboration among the federal agencies working to improve those waters.

NPS Role

The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program serves as the federal pilot lead coordinating federal and local activities along the Bronx and Harlem River watersheds.

2. East Bronx Coastal Connections

Project Partner: Bronx Council on Environmental Quality

NPS Contact: Jerry Willis

Location: East Bronx

Congressional Districts: NY - 14, 15

Project Goal

Create greater access to superior land and water based outdoor recreational opportunities that provide improved habitat and storm resiliency.

NPS Role

Help to create coalitions of public sector and citizen organizations that can be forged together to develop and implement common goals.



Assessing a possible water trail launch site on Canandaigua Lake. Photo: NPS



South Brooklyn residents present their priorities for the Jamaica Bay Greenway. Photo: Regional Plan Association

3. Finger Lakes and Erie Canal Regional Water Trails

Project Partner: Finger Lakes Land Trust

NPS Contact: Karl Beard

Location: Finger Lakes

Congressional Districts: NY - 23, 24, 27

Project Goal

Create water trail opportunities on the Finger Lakes and linking waterways.

NPS Role

Support locally-driven water trail and water access projects, such as those underway on Cayuga and Canandaigua Lakes, and on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. Convene water trail proponents in the region to help develop a unified vision for the local water trails, including design standards for access sites and long-term stewardship.

4. Harlem River Greenway

Project Partner: Harlem River Working Group

NPS Contact: Jerry Willis

Location: Bronx, Manhattan

Congressional Districts: NY - 13, 15

Project Goal

Create a continuous greenway along both sides of the Harlem River. The implementation of restoration projects aim to improve the ecological functions of the river and new public access points for recreational boaters.

NPS Role

Assist with community outreach, leveraging funds, organizational development, and capacity building.



Paddling through massive canal locks in Seneca Falls. As part of a regional system of water trails in the Finger Lakes, the NPS is helping Women's Rights National Historic Site develop an interpretive water trail program on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. Photo: NPS

5. Hyde Park - Dutchess County Healthy Trails

Project Partner: Town of Hyde Park

NPS Contact: Karl Beard

Location: Hyde Park

Congressional District: NY - 19

Project Goal

Create an expanded network of trail linkages and health programs related to parks and trails in Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie, and the Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Sites.

NPS Role

Help with outreach to new communities and health organizations to encourage the creation of new trails and linkages between neighborhoods, parks, and trails, and to extend programs to promote physical activity for health.

Current Projects

6. Jamaica Bay Greenway

Project Partners: Regional Plan Association, Gateway National Recreation Area
NPS Contact: Le'alani Schaumburg
Location: South Brooklyn, Queens
Congressional Districts: NY - 5, 8

Project Goal

Develop a safe, cohesive, accessible, and user-friendly route that attracts visitors and residents to the public land and water resources at Jamaica Bay and connects to the broader New York City bicycle and pedestrian networks.

NPS Role

Assist with coordinating the next phase of public involvement that will inform the most promising improvements to the Greenway. Continue to develop strong community and interagency partnerships.



South Brooklyn and Queens youth ride the Jamaica Bay Greenway and Floyd Bennett Field at Gateway National Recreation Area. Photo: Millennium Development

“With NPS help we have been able to reach many new communities and several have joined the coalition as active partners or supporters.”

- Kyle Kozar, Associate Planner,
Regional Plan Association

7. Kingston Rail Trail Connections

Project Partner: Kingston Land Trust
NPS Contact: Karl Beard
Location: Kingston
Congressional District: NY - 19

Project Goal

Create an urban “Greenline” trail system comprised of rail trails, regional trail linkages, and complete streets in the community of Kingston, New York.

NPS Role

Help partners expand public engagement through community trail planning walks and workshops, and a regional trail conference. Help develop and evaluate trail designs, potential “complete streets” linkages, and trail implementation strategies, including the eventual operation and maintenance of the trail system.

8. Troy Collar City Ramble

Project Partner: Transport Troy
NPS Contact: Karl Beard
Location: Troy
Congressional District: NY - 20

Project Goal

Create a city-wide system of trails and alternative transportation connecting neighborhoods, parks, and the Hudson River waterfront.

NPS Role

Work with community groups and the city government to help create a vision, and the first pieces of a unified system of parks, trails, bicycle-pedestrian-friendly streets, and alternative transportation linkages.



Students from Marist College volunteered for a day of trail maintenance on Hyde Park Trails. Photo: Kathleen Davis

We're Here For You!

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



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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

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



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Recent Successes cont.

To help publicize the trail study and cultivate KLT's evolving concept of a city-wide "Greenline" system of trails and complete streets, the NPS helped organize a community trails conference, together with a series of walking workshops to help gather input on potential linkages to other nearby rail-trails.

The tunnel section is not yet open to the public, and work still remains to be done. But a series of guided public walks through the segment, made possible by volunteers and reinforced by trail design drawings and KLT's Greenline vision, have inspired residents to pursue a goal that was previously unthinkable .

"NPS expertise has been an essential ingredient as we've navigated thorny issues related to gaining site control, engaging stakeholders, and strategizing the best long-range approaches to see our vision become a reality. We can't overstate the importance of this assistance - without it, our work would never have gotten off the ground."

- Tim Weidemann, Board Member, Kingston Land Trust



Community volunteers removed tons of debris from the tunnel along the proposed Kingston Point Rail Trail. Photo: Gregg Swanzey

ABOUT US

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