



# Rhode Island News



Volunteers, with RTCA help, build a trailhead sign in Veterans Memorial Park, Barrington, RI. Photo: Philip Hervey

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Rhode Island Land & Water Trail Promotion:  
Build the Buzz!  
Rhode Island Land & Water Partnership**

Find out more 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

### Veterans Memorial Park Trail Revitalization

Several years ago, Barrington Town Planner Philip Hervey began looking for ways to revitalize Veterans Memorial Park, to make it not only a place for families once again, but also a place for fitness, appreciation of local history, and a resource for the adjacent YMCA summer camp. In 1946, the Town of Barrington purchased 100 acres of a former brickyard to honor veterans and provide open space in the rapidly growing town near Providence. Where clay had been removed during the growth of brick-making, now stood a pond. Surrounding the pond were acres of mature woodlands, soon to be criss-crossed with built-in picnic grills, trails, and two boat launches. Veterans Memorial Park was a beehive of activity from the 1950's through the 1970's. In the years following, while the park remained popular with anglers and walkers from the neighborhood, the picnic facilities fell into disrepair and the trails became overgrown paths. The park became less relevant to the community.

In 2010, the town requested that the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) help create a way-finding system, design trail improvements, and mobilize more volunteers as a friends group of the Park. In response, John Monroe of the RTCA program helped the committee organize their efforts. In 2012, volunteers installed trailhead and interpretive signs. Trail maps were made available online and in print. Finally, a town-wide trail committee was launched in September 2012. These accomplishments built on a series of initial successes on the project.

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## 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](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Successes cont.

During the first year of RTCA assistance with the Veterans Memorial Park project, volunteers mapped every formal and man-made trail, established color-coded loops, and posted aluminum trail markers. A professional graphic designer joined the committee and produced a signage program to integrate new trailhead kiosks, a trail map, and the way-finding markers. Volunteers led public programs to enjoy vernal pools and bird-watching. On National Trails Day 2011, a dozen volunteers cleared a new 300-yard trail and relocated a trail segment that had wandered onto private property, closing the old trail with the woody debris.

## Current Projects

### 1. Rhode Island Land and Water Trail Promotion: Build the Buzz!

Project Partner: Rhode Island Land & Water Partnership

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Location: Land and water trails state-wide in RI

Congressional District: VT - 1, 2

#### Project Goal

With land and water trails now widely developed across the state, our focus is on having companies, schools and communities link programming to local trails. The project goal is to promote land and water trails as everyday assets for individual and community health.

#### NPS Role

Assist with a year-long campaign to build knowledge and excitement around Rhode Island's land and water trails.



Tools during a trail work day in Veterans Memorial Park. Photo: NPS



Measuring up a trail work day in Veterans Memorial Park. Photo: NPS