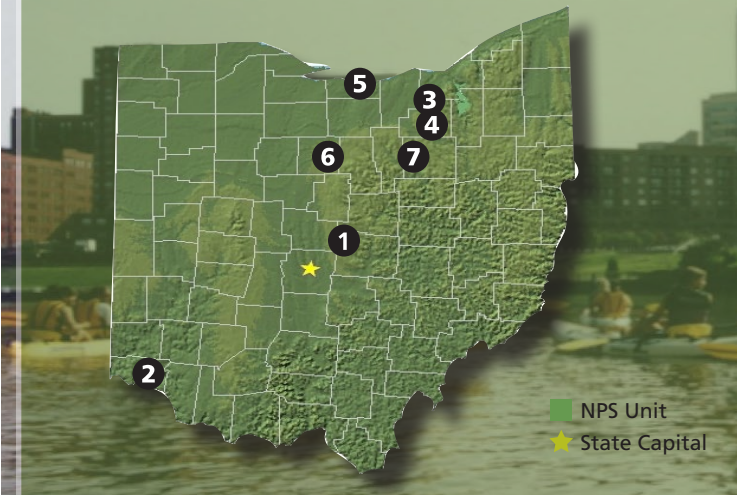




Ohio News



Kayaking on Cleveland Cuyahoga River.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012

Current Projects and Partners

1. Buckeye Trail Association Capacity Building
Buckeye Trail Association
2. Cincinnati Mill Creek Greenway and Groundwork
Mill Creek Restoration Project
3. Cleveland Metroparks Centennial Trail Plan
Cleveland Metroparks
4. Cuyahoga River Water Trail
Friends of the Crooked River
5. Lake Erie Water-Based Recreation
Ohio Sea Grant
6. Shelby Black Fork Historic Bike & Recreation Trail
City of Shelby
7. Wadsworth Multi-Purpose Trail Project
City of Wadsworth

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

Cincinnati Selected as Pilot Groundwork USA Trust Community

Mill Creek Restoration Project, a Cincinnati based non-profit, was one of three organizations selected nationally as a Groundwork USA Trust after an extensive application process. A steering committee of invested individuals and community leaders will now undertake a feasibility study and business plan creation to determine if the transition of the current organization to a Groundwork Trust will be beneficial to the surrounding community and the future of the Mill Creek Restoration Project's sustainability. If the decision is made to proceed, Cincinnati will join 18 other Groundwork Trusts in the national network focused on revitalizing their communities through projects and programs that improve their environment, economy and quality of life. EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization program and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program have had a successful 10-year partnership with Groundwork USA.

“There is much to do and MCRP and its partners are highly motivated to collaborate with EPA and NPS on this exciting Groundwork Trust opportunity.”

Robin Corathers, Executive Director
Mill Creek Restoration Project



Current Projects

1. Buckeye Trail Association Capacity Building

Project Partner: Buckeye Trail Association

RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: 1444 miles around Ohio

Congressional Districts: Ohio - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17

Project Goal

Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the trail-wide Buckeye Trail Association Volunteer Program, develop a local/regional BTA Chapter system, build the organization's fundraising and trail promotion capacity, and define approaches to permanently protect a Buckeye Trail Corridor through working partnerships.

NPS Role

RTCA will assist the Buckeye Trail Association to define organizational strategies and approaches to improve their existing structure, develop new and innovative programs that address their needs, and reach out for partnerships. Together, partners will work to build Buckeye Trail Association's capacity to manage its volunteers more effectively, promote the use of existing off-road portions of the Buckeye Trail, and protect lands for the Buckeye Trail to improve natural resources and enhance outdoor recreation throughout the state for generations to come.



Buckeye Trail Logo



2. Cincinnati Mill Creek Greenway and Groundwork

Project Partner: Mill Creek Restoration Project

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Cincinnati, Mill Creek Area

Congressional District: Ohio - 1

Project Goal

Partnering with the community to finish 15 miles of trails and improved greenspace along the degraded Mill Creek. Will work with Groundwork USA to complete a feasibility study and strategic plan to move Millcreek Restoration Project toward a sustainable Groundwork USA community. Multiple objectives envisioned for the Mill Creek Corridor include improved

connections, acres of habitat conserved, and healthy recreation opportunities for the community.

NPS Role

Assist in identifying funding sources, develop partnerships for trail management and technical issues, and build organizational capacity. Advise on youth involvement and other diverse populations. Promote and gain recognition of the trail, energize efforts, and add credibility through public outreach efforts. Assist in the Groundwork USA Feasibility Study process.

3. Cleveland Metroparks Centennial Trail Plan

Project Partner: Cleveland Metroparks

RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: Cuyahoga and Medina Counties

Congressional Districts: Ohio - 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

Assist with organizational structure and process to integrate staff, partner, and public participation, as well as provide technical assistance with opera-



Mill Creek Greenway Trail

Current Projects cont.

tional issues of multi-use systems (user compatibility/conflicts, capacity and need). Evaluate for historic and new use considerations (bridal, mountain bike, etc.), facilitate public participation and input gathering and with marketing of the benefits and vision for a world-class regional trail system in Northeast Ohio.

4. Cuyahoga River Water Trail

Project Partner: Friends of the Crooked River

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Cuyahoga River stretches, over 100 miles in Northeast Ohio

Congressional Districts: Ohio - 10, 11, 13, 14, 17

Project Goal

Establish over 100 miles of water trail on the Cuyahoga River. Taking what was once known only for being so polluted that it caught on fire, and promoting it for improved water quality and recreational opportunities.

NPS Role

RTCA will assist in stakeholder engagement, identifying funding and assistance resources, developing partnerships, developing a strategic plan, and facilitating community engagement.



Paddling on the Cuyahoga River Water Trail

5. Lake Erie Water-Based Recreation

Project Partner: Ohio Sea Grant

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Water Trail potential along the tributaries and coast of Lake Erie

Congressional Districts: Ohio - 9, 10, 11, 13, 14

Project Goal

Coordinate a network of partners who are currently offering paddling opportunities on Lake Erie to assess combined resources and explore opportunities for collaboration.

NPS Role

Exploring the feasibility of enhancing non-motorized boating on the shores of Lake Erie and its tributaries. Bringing together organizations, agencies and municipalities to look at opportunities, issues, and access points.

6. Shelby Black Fork Historic Bike and Recreation Trail

Project Partner: City of Shelby

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Shelby, Ohio

Congressional Districts: Ohio - 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.

7. Wadsworth Multi-Purpose Trail Project

Project Partner: City of Wadsworth

RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland

Location: Wadsworth, Ohio

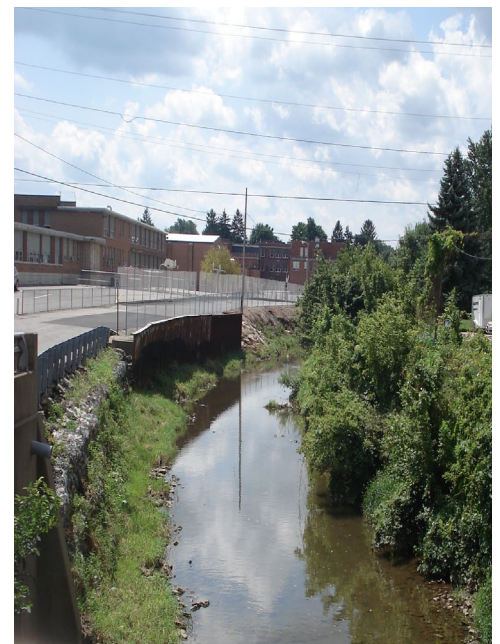
Congressional Districts: Ohio - 16

Project Goal

Connecting locations in Wadsworth, enhancing some existing parks and school facilities and looking at connections regionally. Improved knowledge of and use of existing parks and trails through collaboration with Friends of Wadsworth Trails group.

NPS Role

Assist in the further development of the Friends of Wadsworth Trails Group and encourage collaboration with the City to help with some events and planning efforts, including public meetings. Develop stakeholder support, and provide resource assistance to connect parks, schools, and other important city locations through implementation of multi-modal transportation plan. Also work with neighboring communities for regional efforts.



Black Fork River - Shelby, Ohio

We're Here For You.

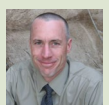
Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,991 Miles of Trail Developed

1,925 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.

Jefferson County “Re-purposing” Trails

The Jefferson County Trail & Greenway plan was unveiled in May 2011 and has generated enthusiasm and interest in trails for Jefferson County. The Task Force that was formed when the plan was unveiled has been busy providing support on several new trail projects. In cooperation with the City of Steubenville, trails are being revitalized in Beatty Park after suffering from years of neglect. Another trail is taking shape at the County Fairgrounds as a rehabilitation walking trail in partnership with a local physical therapy office as a sponsor. Other trail projects at the Industrial Park and making connections from neighborhoods to recreation fields near the local airport are also being considered. Support for trails is growing throughout the county!

Holmesbrook Trail Opening Creates Connections

The opening of a less than one mile section of trail in a community park in Wadsworth, Ohio was a reason for celebration! The loop trail was completed by the efforts of Boy Scout Jacob Roden and Girl Scout Melissa Petit as part of their Eagle Scout and Gold Award projects. It was also the result of a partnership between the City of Wadsworth and the recently formed Friends of Wadsworth Trails group to implement the City's Multi-modal Transportation Plan. This trail opening was an important effort in engaging the community and creating further connections with trails throughout the city.

“I appreciate your dedication to this collaborative effort... there are now hundreds of people who are aware of this new trail and will be enjoying it in the future. It is making our vision for the project a reality”

Mayor Robin Laubaugh, City of Wadsworth, Holmesbrook Trail Opening



Holmesbrook Trail Opening!