



# Georgia News



Biking along the Arabia Mountain Trail, Dekalb County, Georgia

## Recent Successes Hawkinsville Better Hometown



River Parks Advisory Committee wins 1st place in the 2009 Keep Georgia Beautiful Award for the Community Improvement category.

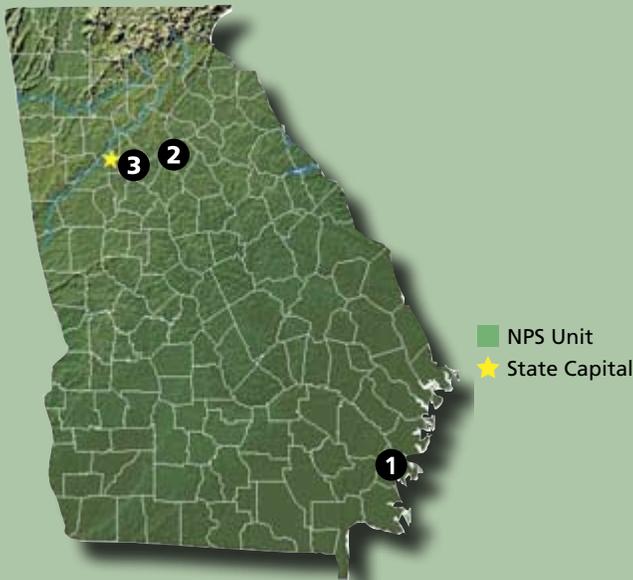
## Current Projects

### 1. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail

Location: The Georgia coast from St. Marys to Savannah. This project is part of a multi-state project from Georgia to Virginia. Congressional District(s): 1  
Project Partner: Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia  
RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

#### Project Goal

Identify a "main corridor" for a blueway along the coast of GA (and SC, NC and VA) with existing canoe and kayak access sites and camping/overnight accommodations for day or multi-day paddling trips. A database and website will be created that combines all the information into one centralized location. The Florida Circumnavigation Saltwater Paddling Trail and the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail will be the connecting points on either end of the SE Coast project



## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Southeast Coast Saltwater Paddling trail  
Coastal Regional Commission of Georgia
2. Firefly Rail Trail  
Northeast Georgia Regional Commission
3. Georgia Watertrails Clearinghouse  
Georgia River Network

Find out more about each project on page 2.

## We're Here For You.

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

**Charlotte Gillis**  
404.507.5692  
charlotte\_gillis@nps.gov

## 2009 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 3,411 Miles of Trail Developed
- 2,664 Miles of River Conserved
- 87,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
- 97% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

### 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.

Find more information online at  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

## Current Projects cont.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will assist in the planning of the trail, coordination of partners, and the development of the data collection system and websites for the trail.

### 2. Firefly Rail Trail

Location: A historic 39-mile railroad corridor in NE Georgia from Union Point to Athens. Includes 3 counties (Athens-Clarke, Oglethorpe, Greene) and many towns and small communities

Congressional District(s): 10  
Project Partner: Northeast Georgia Regional Commission  
RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

### Project Goal

The project will provide safe, healthy and environmentally friendly recreation opportunities, and connect communities and public open spaces, by converting a 39 mile historic rail corridor into a multi-use path.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will partner with NE Georgia Regional Commission to work with various counties, cities, agencies, and groups to develop an organizational framework and conceptual plan for the trail.

### 3. Georgia Water Trails Clearinghouse

Location: Includes all the rivers and major lakes in the state of Georgia  
Congressional District(s): Statewide  
Project Partner: Georgia River Network  
RTCA Contact: Charlotte Gillis

### Project Goal

Develop a website that lists all existing paddle trails in the state and that can be updated and expanded to include new trails and additional secondary information.

### RTCA Role

RTCA will partner with the Georgia River Network (GRN) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources will provide technical information and funding to GRN.

---

*“RTCA helped us create a project that meets GRN’s mission of engaging Georgians in the enjoyment, appreciation and protection of our state’s rivers and lakes.”*

-Executive Director, Georgia River Network; April Ingle



One of the original railroad tunnels now incorporated into the Silver Comet Rail Trail