



National Parks Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Local leaders are bringing the parks **home.**



Conservation and Recreation Assistance
for Your Community

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program works with organizations and communities, including local leaders like you, to improve access to parks, recreation, and conserved natural resources right in your backyard. Working together, we make it easier to get outdoors and get active.

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Local leaders are this country's greatest natural resource.

Every year, our partners...

CONSERVE
53,000+

Acres of **Natural Areas**

PROTECT
1,000+

Miles of **Rivers**

CREATE
1,700+

Miles of **Trails**

RTCA's work in communities across the country

Communities rely on the drive, energy, and creativity of their local leaders to thrive. If you're someone who's good at getting your friends and neighbors excited about improving your community, we'd love to hear from you.



We're the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. We team up with local leaders like you, as well as organizations and communities, to improve access to parks, recreation areas, and conserved natural resources right in your backyard. Working together, we make it easier to get outdoors and get active.

Local leaders are more than just our partners. You're our resident experts who know what your community needs and how to get your neighbors involved. Together, we've helped clean up waterways, build parks, and develop trails that connect neighborhoods and revive downtowns, all to grow healthier communities for our kids and families.

LAWRENCE, MA

Turning **Vacant Lots** Into **Community Parks**

Imagine two and a half acres of abandoned land in a densely populated city; now, imagine you and your neighbors turning that eyesore into a beloved community park. When neighborhood residents, public agencies, local businesses, and foundations collaboratively designed and built Nina Scarito



Park in Lawrence, they achieved just that—and the National Park Service (NPS) helped. Before the project began, NPS recognized the residents' great interest in improving their community, and they helped establish Groundwork Lawrence as a new non-profit organization. Soon after, Groundwork Lawrence led the planning, fundraising, and construction of the project, and they coordinated hundreds of people and myriad private and public entities to turn their ideas and decisions into reality. Lawrence's achievement provides just one example of similar successes—NPS and the GroundworkUSA network have helped 20 other communities across the country create their own Groundwork Trusts to solve problems and change their neighborhoods.

LOS ANGELES, CA

Connecting **Youth** With Their **Community**

You might think a trailhead in the middle of a major city sounds impossible—but over 60 high school students in Los Angeles saw the possibility, and they wanted to make it happen. To guide this idea, NPS helped the students document their vision for over 20 themed walking and bicycling routes to link various parts of LA. Partnering with the city's Planning Department and a local high school, the students planned a vibrant trail network to promote healthy recreation by providing non-motorized



access to community destinations. Using the LA State Historic Park as a "Community Trailhead," the trails would link LA's natural, cultural, and recreational assets, and it would showcase the city's history and growth. Based on the students' plan, the California Endowment will provide funding to create an informational kiosk and starting point for these trails at the LA State Historic Park site.

AKRON, OH

Bringing **Nature** Back to the **City**

In the past, Haley's Ditch was a neglected and toxically polluted stream that ran through an industrial/residential area in Akron, Ohio. But when the Lockheed Martin Corporation acquired



the stream with orders from the Environmental Protection Agency to clean it up, this inspired a collaborative effort with the community to transform Haley's Ditch. With NPS, Lockheed, local residents, and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy working together, they didn't just clean up the stream, but also connected it to a nearby green space called Adam's Run. The group restored the stream and its habitat, and they also built a walking trail where local residents and workers can enjoy their daily dose of healthy recreation. Now, the neighborhood takes great pride in the new Haley's Run Park, and it provides a home to wildflowers, wildlife, and natural beauty. Thanks to this team's great work, Haley's Run will continue to positively influence surrounding development and the evolution of a vibrant regional trail network.

How the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program works with you:

RTCA supports local leaders and organizations through projects that protect your community's natural resources and get people outdoors. You bring us your idea—anything from building a walking trail along a rediscovered creek to planning preservation of a natural area—and we help turn it into reality.

We don't offer direct grants, but we assist with planning, finding resources, building partnerships, engaging neighbors, and implementing ideas to help you make it happen.

Contact Us

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Photography provided by:
National Park Service,
Whitney Starbuck Boykin,
Woonasquatucket River
Watershed Council,
Groundwork Lawrence,
Groundwork Hudson Valley

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