



# Oregon News



■ NPS Unit    ★ State Capital



Boy scouts welcome Willamette River paddlers at Keizer Rapids Park. NPS Photo

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Cheadle Lake Recreation Area  
City of Lebanon
2. Coos Bay Walkway  
International Port of Coos Bay
3. Forest Park Mountain Bike Trails  
Portland Parks & Recreation Department
4. Fossil Heritage Trail  
City of Fossil
5. Johnson Creek Conservation  
Johnson Creek Watershed Association
6. Post Canyon Trail Plan  
US Forest Service
7. Wyeth Bench Trails  
US Forest Service

Find out more about each project 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 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.

## Recent Successes

### Trails Highly Valued in Gold Hill

Gold Hill's investment in trails has become a boon to the town's pride and economy. Tourism is up; bicycle sales and maintenance are boosting local business; and walkers, bicyclists, and paddlers are using the trail along the Rogue River to access the water and enjoy their surroundings. The small town's vision of being connected to the region by trails will soon be realized: funding has

*"Vision: A network of foot and bike paths along the Rogue River and throughout Gold Hill, where neighbors and visitors experience and enjoy our historic and friendly community."*

- Gold Hill Trail Committee

been found to continue the connection downstream to the Gold River/Rock Point Bridge and planning is underway to link the community with the Bear Creek Greenway.

### Crown Zellerbach Trail Breaks Ground

Just three years after RTCA helped Columbia County complete its concept plan, the first 12-mile segment of the Crown Zellerbach Trail is set to open next summer. Oregon State Parks awarded the county a \$56,000 grant to develop a plan for miti-

gating the effects of the trail on adjacent landowners, and the county Roads Department is matching the grant with in-kind

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# Current Projects cont.

## 1. Cheadle Lake Recreation Area

Lead Partner: City of Lebanon

RTCA is partnering with the City of Lebanon to develop a master plan for a recently abandoned lumber mill and its 100-acre log storage pond, the largest in the U.S. RTCA will assist with community outreach, development of a project timeline and action plan, and the creation of a master plan including land-based trails, a water trail, camping, fishing, boat launches, event center and day-use facility.

## 2. Coos Bay Walkway

Lead Partner: International Port of Coos Bay

Project partners want to develop a walkway along the Coos Bay coastline that will be an asset to the community and a draw for the thousands of Hwy 101 travelers passing through town. Multiple landowners and an industrial landscape pose unique development challenges. RTCA will provide assistance in planning the six-mile community walkway.

## 3. Forest Park Mountain Bike Trails

Lead Partner: Portland Parks & Recreation Department

Portland wants to explore the potential for expanding mountain bike opportunities in Forest Park, the city's crown jewel of parks. RTCA is providing facilitation for collaboratively generating a proposal for biking opportunities that will enhance city riding while not impacting park resources.

## 4. Fossil Heritage Trail

Lead Partner: Wheeler County

The John Day Basin in north-central Oregon is renowned for spectacular geological formations and deposits of prehistoric fossils dating back 50 mil-



Students from local schools plant native species and stabilize the banks of Cheadle Lake, the largest log storage pond in the U.S. Photo: City of Lebanon

# Current Projects cont.



The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area provides some of the most beautiful bike country in the U.S. Photo: Hood River County Forestry Department

lion years; the region has been designated a World Heritage Area. Together, Wheeler County, the City of Fossil, and the Fossil School District have asked RTCA to help them develop a plan for a local heritage trail to showcase the region's rich natural and cultural history. The partners envision a 2-3 mile urban trail network in Fossil that will connect geological and historical sites, paleobotanical collections, public art and key community destinations. The project sponsors anticipate active participation of K-12 students.

## 5. Johnson Creek Conservation

Lead Partner: Johnson Creek Watershed Association

RTCA is working with Johnson Creek Watershed Association, the City of Portland, Portland Metro, Trust for Public Land, Audubon Society and local municipalities to develop a land acquisition plan that outlines principles for conservation and areas of the watershed that should be targeted for protection.

## 6. Post Canyon Trails System

Lead Partner: Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, USFS

The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area applied to RTCA for assistance in developing a trail plan for the popular

but unmanaged Post Canyon Trails. RTCA is helping to develop an action plan for the planning effort, conduct a trail inventory, and facilitate decision-making. Other partners in the project include Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, Hood River County, International Mountain Bicycling Association, and the Backcountry Horsemen of America.

## 7. Wyeth Bench Trails

Lead Partner: US Forest Service

The City of Cascade Locks and the International Mountain Bicycling Association have a vision to develop a non-motorized trail system on Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area lands near town. RTCA will help project partners develop a plan that balances recreation with the natural environment and encourages nature-based tourism.



Top: Johnson Creek Watershed Association volunteers plant trees to prevent run-off and regularly monitor the creek's health. Photo: Johnson Creek Watershed Association. Bottom: The International Port of Coos Bay hopes to expand the existing walkway along the bay. Photo: Coos Bay

## We're Here For You.

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

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## 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

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



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## Recent Successes cont.

services like fence-building and landscaping. Other improvements include a wayfinding sign along Highway 30, new pedestrian bridges and trail culverts, and bollard barriers to keep automobiles off the trail.



The first section of the Crown Zellerbach Trail in Scappoose is set to open in summer 2010.  
Photo: Columbia County

## Willamette Water Trail Hits High Marks

In 2003 RTCA helped the Mid-Willamette Connections Workgroup conduct planning sessions and public outreach to support a paddling trail for the Willamette River. Volunteers inventoried access sites, developed a management plan, and produced a series of popular guidebooks. More than 75 partners came together to shape the water trail, securing over \$350,000 in public/private funds. The ribbon-cutting events were attended by more than 500 people and drew top-flight speakers, including Governor Kulongoski, Congressman Wu, Congresswoman Hooley and Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlet.



Paddlers prepare to launch during the kick-off event for the final segment of the Willamette River Water Trail. Photo: NPS