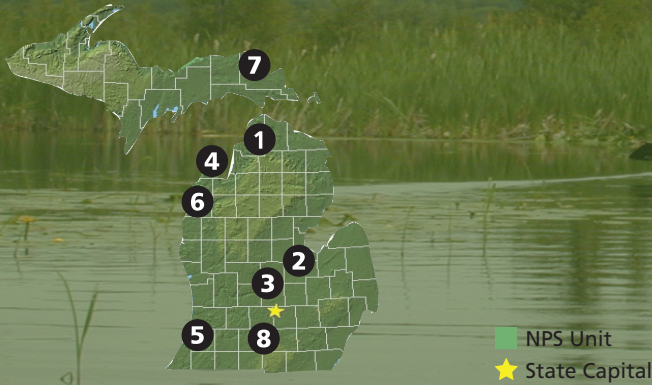




Michigan News



Enjoying the beauty of Michigan's waterways.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

1. Burt Lake Trail
Burt Township Trail Committee
2. Cass River Greenway
Cass River Greenway Committee
3. Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Rail-Trail
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
4. Fishtown Comprehensive Interpretive Plan
Fishtown Preservation Society
5. Galien River Marsh Water Trail
Chikaming Open Lands
6. Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Trailway
Northwest Michigan Council of Governments and Sleeping Bear Dunes Lakeshore
7. Superior Shore Trail
Bay Mills Community Health
8. Underground Rail Road Bike Route, Midwest Spur
Adventure Cycling Association

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

Early RTCA Efforts Lay the Groundwork for Greenways...Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative

From its beginnings in 1999, the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative (DLGI) has sought to improve quality of life by connecting residents and visitors of the 21 "Downriver" communities with the natural and cultural resources through a series of greenways and water trails. Since then, more than \$10 million dollars have been invested, leading to a greenway trail system of more than 40 miles that connects communities to nearly 5000 acres of surrounding natural areas and cultural assets. The system spans from Detroit down to Monroe and from I-275 to the Detroit River.

"It was the Detroit American Heritage River Initiative and the Southeast Michigan Greenways Initiative facilitated and supported by NPS - RTCA that triggered the creation of Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and they have continued to be a strong presence and technical resource for DLGI over the last ten years."

-- Anita Twardesky, co-chairwoman , DLGI

Current Projects

1. Burt Lake Trail

Project Partner: Burt Township Trail Committee
RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson
Location: Burt Lake Township, Cheybo-
gan County
Congressional District(s): 1

Project Goal:

Develop an 18-mile non-motorized multi-use trail. The trail would provide a safe location for biking, hiking, walking and jogging.

RTCA Role:

Clarify the priority purposes for the trail with the Trail Committee and the Communities involved. Develop a strategy to guide the process for planning and constructing the trail. Maintain an open and transparent process that strengthens relationships between the communities where the trail will be located.

2. Cass River Greenway

Project Partner: Cass River Greenway Committee
RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson
Location: Frankenmuth
Congressional District(s): 5

Project Goal:

Restore and conserve a 60-mile Cass River corridor for wildlife habitat and recreation.

RTCA Role:

To help the Cass River Greenway Committee define the scale and scope of Cass River project and develop conservation & recreation goals, identify actions and an action plan.



Iron Ore Heritage Trail

3. Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Rail-Trail

Project Partner: Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson
Location: Clinton, Ionia, Shiawassee Counties
Congressional District(s): 8

Project Goal:

Achieve consensus on a railway master plan and development strategy for a 42 mile rail trail running through three counties in mid-Michigan.

RTCA Role:

The specific assistance being requested includes partnership building and project guidance to achieve: better partnership unity between the three counties, conceptual design framework necessary to resolves user conflicts and implementation strategies relative to funding and sustainability.

4. Fishtown Comprehensive Interpretive Plan

Project Partner: Fishtown Preservation Society
RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson
Location: Leland
Congressional District(s): 4

Project Goal:

Develop a comprehensive interpretive plan and implement priority interpretive tools, materials, and methods.

RTCA Role:

Facilitate a comprehensive interpretive planning process for Fishtown which complements and enhances the programs at Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, Inland Seas, and Leelanau Public Schools

5. Galien River Marsh Water Trail

Project Partner: Chikaming Open Lands
RTCA Contact: Angie Tornes
Location: Extreme southwestern Michigan on Lake Michigan shore.
Congressional District(s): 6

Project Goal:

Develop a 2-mile water trail through the 300-acre Galien Great Lakes Marsh in New Buffalo, MI, with potential linkage on Lake Michigan to new water trail in northwest Indiana. Increased visibility, use, and community stewardship of the marsh.



Trail Ambassadors taking a break

Current Projects

“RTCA brings diverse groups together to work on projects that encompass many aspects important to all groups ...history, culture and quality of life amenities are reflected in planning and the final project...”

Keith Holt, Project Partner

Underground Railroad Bike Route, Midwest Spur.

RTCA Role:

Assist in developing broad partnership to steer water trail planning and implementation. Assist with public outreach, water trail planning, map/brochure development, guidance for signage, identifying funding sources.

6. Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Trailway

Project Partners: Northwest Michigan Council of Governments and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson
Location: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Leelanau County
Congressional District(s): 2, 4

Project Goal:

Develop a 25-mile non-motorized multi-use trailway along the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, connecting park facilities and communities to the park. It will be the premier multi-use trail in the state when completed.

RTCA Role:

To assist with the planning and development of an approximately 25 mile long non-motorized multi use trailway along the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

7. Superior Shore Trail

Project Partner: Bay Mills Community Health

RTCA Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson
Location: Michigan's Upper Peninsula, along the Lake Superior shore, from Brimley State Park to the Iroquois Lighthouse, including the Brimley and Bay Mills Indian Communities
Congressional District(s):

Project Goal:

Develop a nine-mile multi use trail from Brimley State Park to Iroquois Lighthouse through the Native American communities of Brimley and Bay Mills. The multi-use trail will provide a facility to help improve the health and well being of those residing in the area, reducing obesity and to help lower the rate of diabetes in young people.

RTCA Role:

Planning assistance including developing work plan and public involvement strategy, facilitating public meetings to build support and map out best route, stakeholder meetings to determine trail management and maintenance strategy.

8. Underground Rail Road Bike Route, Midwest Spur

Project Partner: Adventure Cycling Association

RTCA Contact: Diane Banta
Location: St. Louis to Detroit, Michigan through Illinois.
Congressional District(s): 6, 7, 13, 14, 15

Project Goal:

Developing a bike route that follows the journey of C. Quarles, an escaping slave, through Illinois and Michigan into Canada. The trail will cover approximately 400 miles.

RTCA Role:

Work with multi-state group to find appropriate bike route through Illinois, both on road and off.



Kayaking the Detroit River

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/rtpca



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Recent Successes cont.

Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail – Connecting Parks and Communities. . . .Phase One Construction

The Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail is a 27 mile non-motorized trailway that will provide a continuous safe, accessible, and scenic pathway along M-22 and M-109 within Leelanau County and through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. It will connect the park's primary visitor sites and facilities, including the popular Dune Climb, Visitor Center, D.H. Day Campground, Glen Haven Village, the Port Oneida Rural Historic District, and Lake Michigan beaches. It also provides a non-motorized trail connection between popular park sites and the villages of Empire and Glen Arbor.

“The Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail will provide a new and exciting recreational opportunity for our visitors, and will encourage the use of bicycles, rather than cars, for them to travel between attractions in the Lakeshore. We are thankful for the assistance that RTCA has provided to all of the partners in planning this trail.”

-- Dusty Shultz, Superintendent

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

The Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail is a partnership project coordinated by the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments and supported by the Michigan Department of Transportation, TART Trails Inc., Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, local businesses, municipalities and RTCA. Funding for design, engineering and construction of the trail comes from a variety of sources, including the Federal Scenic Byways Program, Michigan Department of Transportation, foundations, and a private sector fundraising campaign. Construction for the first section is slated for 2011, which is located in the Lakeshore's most visited area, giving park visitors the opportunity to get out of their cars and either walk, ride their bike, or stroll in a wheelchair along a safe and scenic trail to experience and enjoy several of the Lakeshore's key features and destinations. The Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail will be Michigan's premier trailway experience!



Sleeping Bear Dunes