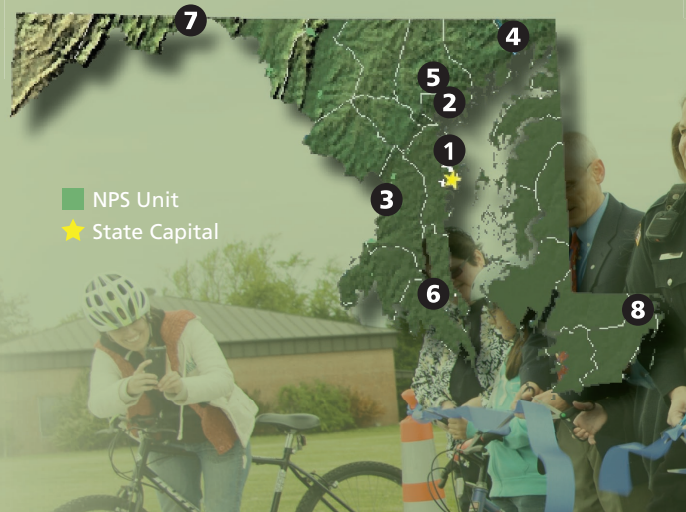




Maryland News



Berlin, Maryland Mayor Williams (right) and local officials celebrate Safe Routes to School project as part of Lower Shore Land Trust Trail Mix 2012.
Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Bacon Ridge Natural Area Master Plan
Anne Arundel County Dept of Recreation and Parks
2. Bear Creek Land and Water Trail
Gray Manor & Northshire Community Association
3. Forest Heights Elementary School - Park Connection
Forest Heights Elementary School and Oxon Cove National Park
4. Lower Susquehanna Trails Strategic Action Plan
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway
5. NeighborSpace of Baltimore County Strategic Conservation
NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc.
6. Patuxent Tidewater Conservation Plan
Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust
7. September 11th National Memorial Trail
September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance
8. Walkable Bikeable Berlin
Lower Shore Land Trust, Town of Berlin, Grow Berlin Green, and Assateague Island National Seashore

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Southern Maryland Land Conservation Initiative

Capping several years of intensive conservation planning, Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust convened a 5-county, multi-partner collaborative conservation workshop; successfully braiding disparate preservation goals into a unified conservation network for the southern region of Maryland. This groundbreaking workshop also identified gaps among the various plans and illuminated opportunities for future collaborative partnerships. Supported by grants from Regional Plan Association/America 2050, Maryland Environmental Trust, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Abell Foundation, the Land Trust initiated its conservation efforts by prioritizing lands most important for protection throughout the region. This enabled the Land Trust to clearly articulate its conservation priorities at both local and regional scales, thus creating a strategic foundation for collaboration with wide-ranging interests. As the workshop closed, a new model for landscape-scale conservation emerged with the support of many partners new and re-invigorated. This conservation initiative will also strengthen efforts to restore and protect one of the nation's natural treasures...the Chesapeake Bay.

Current Projects



Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust executive director, Susan Charkes (right), discusses priority biodiversity areas with a participant at the collaborative conservation workshop. Photo: NPS

1. Bacon Ridge Natural Area Master Plan

Project Partners: Anne Arundel County
Dept of Recreation and Parks
RTCA Contact: Wink Hastings
Location: Crownsville, Maryland
Congressional District: MD - 4

Project Goal

A resource management plan guiding public recreational use while protecting the area's important natural resources.

NPS Role

Guide a collaborative planning process among diverse partners to develop a resource management plan balancing public recreation use and natural resource protection.

2. Bear Creek Land and Water Trail

Project Partner: Gray Manor & Northshire Community Association
RTCA Contact: Wink Hastings
Location: Dundalk, Baltimore Counties
Congressional Districts: MD - 2, 3, 7

Project Goal

Develop a 1.5-mile trail along Bear Creek connecting schools, neighborhoods and parks while interpreting historic events associated

with the Battle of Baltimore and the Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

NPS Role

Facilitate preparation and implementation of a conceptual trails plan involving community groups and organizers of the Maryland and Baltimore County Bicentennial Commission.

3. Forest Heights Elementary School - Park Connection

Project Partners: Forest Heights Elementary School and Oxon Cove National Park
RTCA Contact: Beth Porter
Location: Prince George's County
Congressional District: MD - 5

Project Goal

Build an ongoing partnership between Forest Heights Elementary School and Oxon Cove National Park that will result in an appreciation the natural, historical, and recreational resources within the park and its surrounding environments.

NPS Role

Assist with the partnership between Oxon Cove National Park and Forest Heights Elementary that will build

physical and programmatic connections between the park and neighborhood.

4. Lower Susquehanna Trails Strategic Action Plan

Project Partner: Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway
RTCA Contact: Wink Hastings
Location: Harford and Cecil Counties
Congressional Districts: MD - 1

Project Goal

Develop an action plan and financing strategy for a trails network through the Heritage Greenway; coordinate trail development with the Star-Spangled Banner, Captain John Smith Chesapeake, and Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trails.

NPS Role

Facilitate the trail action planning process, leverage technical and financial assistance, and guide community building efforts.

5. NeighborSpace of Baltimore County Strategic Conservation

Project Partner: NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc.
RTCA Contact: Wink Hastings
Location: Designated urban growth area within Baltimore County
Congressional Districts: MD - 2, 3, 7

Project Goal

Develop a strategic conservation plan to target high value lands for public open space within the urban growth area of Baltimore County.

NPS Role

Guide a collaborative process to prepare a conservation plan; strengthen partnerships; leverage funds for implementation actions; and meet applicable Land Trust Alliance requirements for accreditation.

We're Here For You.

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



Wink Hastings

410.260.2481

WHastings@chesapeakebay.net



Peggy Pings

304.293.7528

peggy_pings@nps.gov



Beth Porter

202.690.5169

beth_porter@nps.gov

2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154	Miles of Trail Developed
1,074	Miles of River Conserved
70,385	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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Current Projects cont.

6. Patuxent Tidewater Conservation Plan

Project Partner: Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust

RTCA Contact: Wink Hastings

Location: Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties

Congressional District: MD - 3, 5

Project Goal

Regional landscape conservation plan for Southern Maryland guiding land conservation efforts of the Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust and encouraging collaborative initiatives with local public and private partners.

NPS Role

Guide the process to delineate lands for natural resource value protection, facilitate preparation of a strategic conservation action plan, and leverage financial and technical support.



Staff of Scenic Rivers Land Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Chesapeake Bay Program evaluate potential trail locations. Photo: NPS

and public involvement to scope routes in Maryland.

7. September 11th National Memorial Trail

Project Partner: September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance

RTCA Contact: Peggy Pings

Location: Seven state triangle including Shanksville, PA (Flight 93 crash site), New York City (World Trade Center), and Washington, D.C. (Pentagon)

Congressional Districts: MD - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Project Goal

A 1,100-mile hiking, biking, and driving trail physically connecting the three national memorials commemorating the tragic events that occurred in 2001.

NPS Role

Assist with implementing strategies for board development, public awareness,

8. Walkable Bikeable Berlin

Project Partners: Lower Shore Land Trust

RTCA Contact: Wink Hastings

Location: Town of Berlin to Assateague Island National Seashore

Congressional District: MD - 1

Project Goal

A regional trail plan to guide trail development connecting Berlin, MD and Assateague Island National Seashore, linking community institutions, natural resource lands, and public parks

NPS Role

Facilitate development of collaborative partnerships, community-based support, and organizational capacity.

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.