

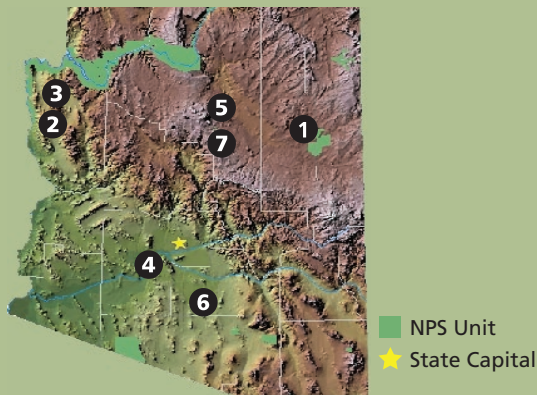


Arizona News



View from the Colorado River Nature Center. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Hidden Cove Park
City of Holbrook
2. Colorado River Nature Center
City of Bullhead City
3. Colorado River Water Trail
Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail Association
4. Tres Rios Trail System
City of Avondale
5. County Yard Rio de Flag Restoration Project
Coconino County
6. Pinal County Open Space Initiative
Pinal Partnership Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Public Lands Committee
7. Red Rock Trails: A Vision to Connect and Protect
US Forest Service Red Rock District

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Colorado River Nature Center

The Colorado River Nature Center (CRNC) is located on the banks of the Colorado River, and is co-managed by the City of Bullhead City, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, and the Bureau of Land Management. As one of the last remaining areas of open space in Bullhead City, CRNC provides critical riparian habitat for local plants and wildlife. It has increased in popularity over the decades as a place to hike, observe wildlife, and hold social gatherings. The managing agencies, as well as the community, have recognized that an organized recreation system is necessary to enhance visitor experience and to preserve these valuable resources.

“RTCA – your assistance for the last two years has been invaluable.”

- Brenda Richardson, Senior Analyst, Bullhead City

In 2011, RTCA support was requested to facilitate the development of recreational opportunities at CRNC. Since then, RTCA has assisted in convening the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail Association, the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and local community groups. The stakeholders have designed a trails system plan complete with interpretive kiosks, directional signs, picnic tables, and benches. Planning also consisted of marking and recording the routes of a 7-mile trails system, including 1-mile ADA accessible loop. In addition, RTCA assisted the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail Association in designing a sound fundraising plan that will simultaneously raise funds and involve the greater Bullhead City community.

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Current Projects

1. Hidden Cove Park

Project Partner: City of Holbrook
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield
Location: Holbrook
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal

Implement a seven-mile trails system plan, which includes interpretive signs, field guides, and seating areas.

NPS Role

Assist the City in implementing seven miles of trails, restoring riparian habitat, developing interpretive waysides, and preparing a park operations and management plan.



A group of local youth who volunteered at Hidden Cove Park. Photo: NPS

2. Colorado River Nature Center

Project Partner: City of Bullhead City
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield
Location: Bullhead City
Congressional District: 4

Project Goal

Encourage the community at large to enjoy Nature Center by making the trails plan a reality. Provide visitors with navigable trails, interpretive signs, and field guides that will strengthen an understanding and stewardship of local plants and wildlife.

NPS Role

Support the City in implementing a one-mile ADA-accessible interpretive trail, developing interpretive waysides, and assist in increasing membership and capacity of the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail Association.

Project Goal

To designate 83 miles of the Colorado River in the National Water Trails System. The partners along this stretch of river will identify and map the geological and recreational features along the river, install directional and interpretive signage, and promote the water trail with a website and brochure.

NPS Role

Identify and convene the stakeholders involved in designating the Colorado River Water Trail. Facilitate the trail designation and creation of promotional materials.

3. Colorado River Water Trail

Project Partner: Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail Association
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield
Location: Bullhead City
Congressional District: 4

4. Tres Rios Trails System

Project Partner: City of Avondale
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield
Location: Avondale
Congressional District: 3

Project Goal

To provide a physical connection from the Monument Hill Trailhead to the Tres Rios Regional Trail. This connection will feature loop trail options, a permanent dock, parking, kiosks, walks, trails, sitting areas, interpretive stations, and other visitor facilities that will inform users about natural and cultural resources.



Participants line up for the 2011 Colorado River Regatta, With RTCA assistance, this stretch of river will hopefully become a designated National Water Trail. Photo: NPS
For more information on water trails, visit nps.gov/watertrails.

Current Projects

NPS Role

Support the partners in developing an overall vision that incorporates the goals of the Monument Hill/Tres Rios Festival Planning Area. Help to create an Action Plan for reaching this vision (including utilizing potential funding sources) and attaining early on-the-ground success.

5. County Yard Rio de Flag Restoration Project

Project Partner: Coconino County
NPS Contact: Joe Winfield
Location: Flagstaff
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal

Make restoration projects a priority in Coconino County, and raise awareness of the recreational opportunities available.

NPS Role

Help to identify potential opportunities for restoration on County & City land, inform a broad range of citizens about restoration opportunities on public lands, identify funding (and other implementation strategies) for restoration projects on public lands, and develop strategies for keeping restoration projects a priority among the competing demands of County and City staff.



Contributors to Colorado River Nature Center on the observation deck. Photo: NPS

6. Pinal County Open Space Initiative

Project Partner: Pinal Partnership Parks, Open Space, and Public Lands Committee
NPS Contact: Cate Bradley
Location: Pinal County
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal

Develop a communications plan regarding land use conservation planning and riparian protection policies to increase awareness among county decision-makers and the general public. Work with partners to incorporate drainage ways, riparian areas, and sensitive habitat overlay data on to the transportation and utilities infrastructure map.

NPS Role

Help build relationships with county government and Pinal Partnership Board of Directors; facilitate discussions about stewardship of proposed open spaces and a Community Stewardship Organization concept.

7. Red Rock Trails: A Vision to Connect and Protect

Project Partner: Red Rock, City of Sedona, International Mountain Biking Association
NPS Contact: Cate Bradley
Location: Sedona
Congressional District: 1

Project Goal

Update the USFS Red Rock District Trails plan from 1998 to reflect user trends and demand for trails, to gather information from both adult and youth trail users, and prioritize proposed trails for the District's NEPA process.

NPS Role

Help to convene key community partners, including faculty and students from the Sedona Unified School District high school and elementary school trails clubs; facilitate the community meeting processes to update the District Trails Plan.

“Our Pinal Open Space Committee challenge was cultivating communication between community individuals and organizations and local, state, and federal agencies. The RTCA program has helped by facilitating participants’ discussions and visions for planning future parks, trails, and opens space in Pinal County.”

- Gina D’Abella, Executive Director, Environmental Concerns Organization, Inc., Maricopa, AZ

We're Here For You.

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



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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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Recent Successes cont.

RTCA will continue to provide assistance to CRNC in 2013, with the goal of implementing the trails system plan and increasing the organizational capacity of the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Trail Association. It is hoped that, with the involvement of local groups, Federal agencies, and recreational communities, CRNC will become one of the premier recreation facilities along the Colorado River.

“RTCA has successfully guided us through the public planning process and helped stakeholders formulate a vision and establish goals for the trail master plan.”

- Brenda Richardson, Senior Analyst, City of Bullhead City



Holbrook community members measuring materials for ramadas at Hidden Cove Park. Photo: NPS

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.