

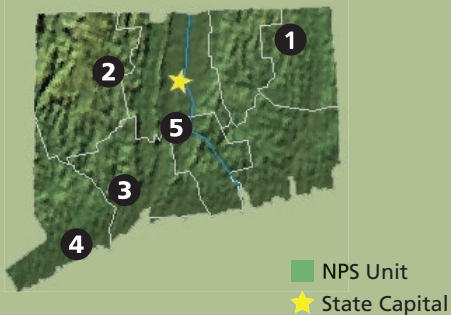


Connecticut News



Hikers enjoying the Torrington Trails Network on National Trails Day.
Photo: Huguette Poulin

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Last Green Valley Water Trails
The Last Green Valley, Inc.
2. Naugatuck River Greenway
Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
3. New England National Scenic Trail
Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Appalachian Mountain Club
4. Norwalk River Valley Trail
Friends of Norwalk River Valley Trail, Inc.
5. Torrington Trails Network
Torrington Trails Network

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 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

Cyclists Celebrate Naugatuck River Greenway

In September 2012, on a beautiful fall day, a peloton of 40 cyclists gathered for the Explore the Naugatuck! cycling event, a 56-mile ride along the Naugatuck Valley, from Torrington to Derby. The peloton stopped for press events in 11 cities.



David Schulz paints the Naugatuck. Photo: NPS

People in the Naugatuck Valley functioned as a team as they managed the event to showcase the achievements of the Naugatuck River Greenway. RTCA helped to organize and support the ride, including presenting a greenway vision poster to each elected official on behalf of Secretary Salazar and the National Park Service. A companion event, Waterbury On Wheels, was also a great success. Organized by the YMCA, the City of Waterbury, and many partners, the event raised \$17,000.

Speakers at press events included Representative Rosa DeLauro, several state elected officials, and the director of a regional planning council. The speakers described why the river and greenway matter to them. For some, it is the recreational benefits; for others, it is the opportunity to bring a more positive identity and visitors to the valley; and for others, it is an opportunity to tell stories of the people and the industrial history of the Naugatuck River Valley.

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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Current Projects

1. Last Green Valley Water Trails

Project Partner: Last Green Valley, Inc.
NPS Contact: John Monroe
Location: Quinebaug-Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor
Congressional Districts: CT - 2, MA - 2

Project Goal

Create a network of water trails in the upper Thames Basin.

NPS Role

Implement a Challenge Cost-Share Project to produce promotional videos about regional water trails.

2. Naugatuck River Greenway

Project Partner: Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
NPS Contact: John Monroe
Location: Torrington to Derby
Congressional Districts: CT - 1, 3, 5

Project Goal

An alliance of city committees, working to create, extend, and promote use and completion of the greenway.

NPS Role

Assist with inter-municipal connections and partnerships to expand regional awareness and momentum.

3. New England National Scenic Trail

Project Partner: Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Appalachian Mountain Club
NPS Contact: Charles Tracy
Location: 39 communities in CT, MA
Congressional Districts: CT - 1, 2, 3, 5

Project Goal

Create connector trails with communities, construct trail shelters, provide outreach to college students.

NPS Role

Assist the Trail Stewardship Council in trail corridor conservation, natural and cultural resource interpretation, public outreach, and trail management.

4. Norwalk River Valley Trail

Project Partner: Friends of Norwalk River Valley Trail, Inc.
NPS Contact: John Monroe
Location: Norwalk River Valley in southwestern CT
Congressional Districts: CT - 4, 5

Project Goal

A 27-mile multi-use trail from Long Island Sound, along the Norwalk River Valley, to the rolling hills of Danbury. The trail will be a scenic route for cyclists, hikers, and walkers connecting to rail stations, schools, offices, and the Weir Farm National Historic Site.

NPS Role

Help prioritize and strategize a plan for implementation, initial ribbon-cuttings, public engagement, and connections to sources of funding.

5. Torrington Trails Network

Project Partner: Torrington Trails Network
NPS Contact: John Monroe
Location: Torrington, CT
Congressional Districts: CT - 1, 5

Project Goal

A 0.6 mile multi-use trail in an abandoned rail corridor providing an alternative walking route for residents and a gateway to other trails.

NPS Role

Help negotiate a transfer of rail corridor to the city for trail use; address drainage issues on the Buttrick Trail; develop trails on the John Brown property; and work with the Water Pollution Control Facility to allow multi-use trails on cleared sewer lines.



Proud volunteers after working on Steele Brook Greenway. Photo: Chuck Berger