



Indiana News



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★ State Capital



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PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

1. Lake Michigan Water Trail Organizational Development
Illinois Paddling Council
2. Little Calumet Water Trail
Project Partner: Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA)
3. Northwest Indiana Blueways and Stewardship Group
Northwest Indiana Paddling 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 Success

Northwest Indiana Paddling Association and Town of Porter Team-Up to Open the First Stretch of the Little Calumet River

This past summer, RTCA staff helped the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA) gather GPS data that members used to determine the scope of work needed to open a mile-long stretch of the Little Calumet River in Porter, Indiana to paddlers. RTCA staff facilitated partnerships and conducted trainings for logjam removal efforts, in coordination with the Blueways Stewardship Group, the Wildlife Habitat Council, and Town of Porter officials. Over fourteen miles of the river in Northwest Indiana still require planning for safe access, so in the upcoming year, NWIPA and RTCA staff will be working on organizing stakeholders in the river corridor as a network working group, with the end goal of forming a partnership for funding, projects, and future plans.

“The RTCA partnership helped us accomplish projects we could never have imagined would happen in less than two years while giving NWIPA a tremendous edge as a professional organization.”

- Dan Plath, President, Northwest Indiana Paddling Council

We're Here For You.

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



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2010 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,251 Miles of Trail Developed

1,694 Miles of River Conserved

25,370 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. Lake Michigan Water Trail Organizational Development

Project Partner: Illinois Paddling Council

RTCA Contact: Diane Banta

Location: IL, IN, MI, WI

Congressional District(s): IN-1,2

Project Goal

Build a partnership organization to work on the Lake Michigan Water Trail which will provide access to Lake Michigan in four states through numerous landings and access points while marketing the trail for increased tourism and economic development opportunities.

NPS Role

Convene four-state paddler organizations, local governments, and state governments to set vision, mission, and goals leading to the designation of the 200 mile Lake Michigan Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail.

2. Little Calumet Water Trail

Project Partner: Northwest Indiana Paddling Association (NWIPA)

RTCA Contact: Jeff Obirek

Location: Northwestern Indiana

Congressional District(s): IN-1, 2

Project Goal

Connect the water trail beginning at the Portage Lakefront & Riverwalk location, at the mouth of the Little Calumet River, to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Heron Rookery located in rural Porter County, totaling approximately 16 miles.

NPS Role

Assist in building partnerships, assess current resources and compile collaborative plans for developing the water trail. Technical assistance in training and developing a volunteer workforce to clear portions of the water trail.

3. Northwest Indiana Blueways and Stewardship Group

Project Partner: Northwest Indiana Paddling Association

RTCA Contact: Jeff Obirek

Location: Northwestern Indiana

Congressional District(s): IN-1, 2

Project Goal

NWIPA's Blueways and Stewardship group will grow as a committee within the association, and can represent and organize projects enhancing the health and usability of more than 100 miles of waterways in the NW Indiana region.

NPS Role

RTCA will assist the Blueways and Stewardship group in organizing their focus and mission within NWIPA. Monthly meetings were developed and several successful fundraisers were organized in 2010. Project work in 2011 seeks to expand upon these goals, assist with the acquisition of facilities for the group, and organize volunteer work days and safety consultations.



Paddling the Little Calumet Water Trail