

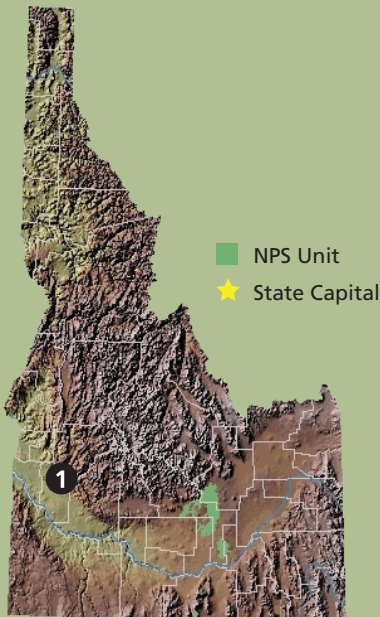


Idaho News



A Riverstone International School student presents trail design concepts to Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands' Board of Directors. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Boise Ridge to Rivers Trails Ridge to Rivers Partnership

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

From Classroom to Boardroom in Three Months

In March 2012, RTCA helped launch a community design project where 75 students from three schools met with local resource experts to develop ideas for the Barber Pool Conservation Area Interpretive Trail. Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands provided the context for the project: a small parcel of land between the Boise Greenbelt and the Boise River. Timberline High School, East Junior High, and Riverstone International School contributed a trio of dynamic teachers and classes of inquisitive students. Local land managers, resource experts, adjacent land owners, and design professionals from the Idaho-Montana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects rounded out the project.



Youth design an educational trail through a section of the Barber Pool Conservation Area. Photo: NPS

Together, everyone fast-tracked through site visits, blog assignments, and mini-design workshops to reach the ultimate

goal: a two-day design charrette during Idaho's "Unplug and Be Outside" week. Twenty students gave up their free time to participate on trail design teams, serve as co-captains alongside professional landscape architects and resource experts, and present final results to a community audience at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival Amphitheater and Reserve.

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



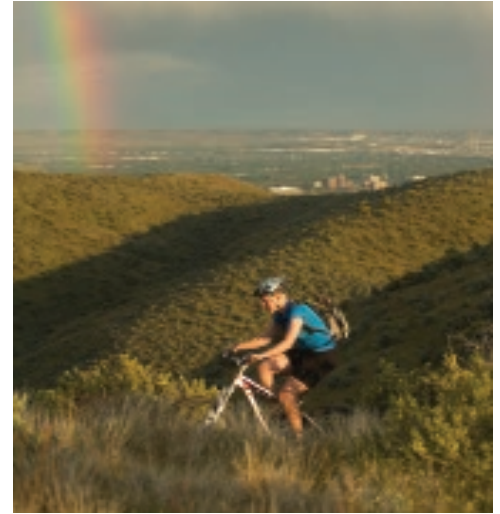
EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Projects

1. Boise Ridge to Rivers Trails

Project Partner: Ridge to Rivers Partnership
Congressional District: ID - 2

Boise's Ridge to Rivers Trails have a reputation for being one of the best metropolitan trail systems in the country. Providing over 140 miles of multi-use trails for the city's 250,000 residents, Ridge to Rivers is one of Boise's crown jewels, and a major inspiration for outdoor recreationists. RTCA is working with the Ridge to Rivers Partnership to develop a Management Plan for existing and new trails that will include strategies for protecting the unique environment around them.



Roaming the Boise Foothills.
Photo: Ridge to Rivers Partnership

Recent Successes cont.

In June, project partners were surprised to learn there would be an opportunity to present their team designs to the Foundation's Board of Directors. Two students volunteered for the chance to reach out to the Conservation Area managers, eloquently describing the reasoning behind their designs. For most students this interactive community project was an exciting, unusual assignment about a nearby special place. For others, it was a chance to make a difference - not only for a trail they could now envision - but in a potential new career that might influence the world around them.



Students, teachers, land managers, and local resource experts gather at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival's storytelling circle to exchange information about Barbar Pool Conservation Area.
Photo: NPS