



Families enjoy getting out on the trail.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2010

1. Adams Run Greenway
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
2. Blanchard River Trails and Greenways
Hancock Park District
3. East Cleveland Healthy Lands
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
4. Jefferson County Trail and Greenway Project
Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
5. Western Reserve Heritage Area Feasibility Study
U. S. Congress, Congressman Tim Ryan

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

Natural Solutions to Flooding

RTCA Ohio staff worked with Hancock Park District to produce a Natural Solutions to Flooding Issues fact sheet. This important educational tool was the result of a continuing effort with many partners in the Blanchard River Watershed and will compliment US Army Corps of Engineers planning for flood mitigation efforts following the devastating floods of 2007. The fact sheets listed natural solution options and benefits of best management practices which can decrease the cost of flood-loss reduction projects and enhance the river resource and community character.

A companion piece was created for the Blanchard River Greenway Trail Connector which will serve as a demonstration project for the natural solutions identified in the fact sheets. This important trail connection from Findlay to

“What is most valuable are the partnerships we formed with local groups that will continue to strengthen the cooperation, solutions and future resources that can help this area!”

Tim Brugeman, Director
Hancock Park District

Current Projects

1. Adams Run Greenway

Project Partner: Western Reserve Land Conservancy
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Akron
Congressional District(s): 17

Project Goal:

Protect at least 40 acres of land in this urban greenspace, restore water quality and riparian buffers to improve impacts on the watershed, and develop four miles of trails in place to connect the community with other recreational opportunities. Form partnerships between corporations, cities and neighborhoods that improve the quality of life for all.

RTCA Role:

Facilitate meetings with stakeholders, bringing together various partners with their individual projects to accomplish a shared goal of protecting greenspace, water resources and building recreational opportunities. Conduct neighborhood meetings to provide information and seek public input.



Jefferson County Trails and Greenways Vision

2. Blanchard River Trails and Greenways

Project Partner: Hancock Park District
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Findlay
Congressional District(s): 4

Project Goal:

Develop a community concept plan to connect the Blanchard River Greenway in downtown Findlay with the Riverbend Recreation Area 5 miles away. Develop a list of recreation and greenspace opportunities that can be utilized in the Army Corps of Engineers recommendations for flood control measures.

RTCA Role:

Connect city of Findlay to existing recreation area with 5 miles of multi-use trails. Assist the park district with green solutions to flood control measures suggested by the Army Corps of Engineers, including trails, greenways and other recreational opportunities.

3. East Cleveland Healthy Lands

Project Partner: Cuyahoga County Board of Health
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: East Cleveland
Congressional District(s): 11

Project Goal:

Preserve and increase greenspace for recreational opportunities, improved quality of life and health benefits through community gardens, improved parklands, walkability improvements and watershed appreciation and education. Build a connection to Cuyahoga Valley National Park for field trips and further educational opportunities.

RTCA Role:

Improve opportunities for conservation and recreation, build partnerships and assist in the facilitation of community participation. Create a connection for Cuyahoga Valley National Park to provide an NPS experience for youth of this underserved area. Assist in watershed awareness and protection.



Current Projects

4. Jefferson County Trail and Greenway Project

Project Partner: Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce
RTCA Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Jefferson County
Congressional District(s): 6

Project Goal:

Create a plan/vision that will empower partners and the public to identify and prioritize possible trails, trail connections, and important greenspace areas that will enhance the quality of life and health of Jefferson County residents.

RTCA Role:

Assist Jefferson County partners with the development of a vision and concept plan for trails and greenways for the county. This will include creating an organized planning process, public outreach, facilitation of public meetings, development of conceptual trail connectors and defining implementation strategies.

“The goal of NPS involvement is to bring tangible change to communities across the country.”

Charlie Stockman, Program Manager
NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

5. Western Reserve Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Project Partner: U. S. Congress, Congressman Tim Ryan
RTCA Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: 11 full and 3 partial counties in northern Ohio that include what was historically know as the Connecticut Western Reserve of Ohio
Congressional District(s): 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17

Project Goal:

Complete a study that reporting on the suitability and feasibility of designating the Western Reserve Heritage Area as a National Heritage Corridor.

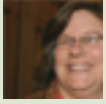
RTCA Role:

The Secretary, acting through the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, Midwest Region, and in consultation with the State of Ohio, the counties of Trumbull, Mahoning, Ashtabula, Portage, Geagua, Lake, Cuyahoga, Summit, Medina, Huron, Lorain, Erie, Ottawa, and Ashland, and other appropriate organizations, shall carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area in these counties in Ohio.



We're Here For You.

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



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2009 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,411 Miles of Trail Developed

2,664 Miles of River Conserved

87,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

97% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Successes cont.

the Riverbend Recreation area was put on hold due to the flooding, but will now use the impacted floodplain areas for trail use compatible with natural benefits. RTCA assisted in the identification of trail alignment options, alternate routes and incorporation of natural solutions.

Together, these pieces and the work of the many partners in the Blanchard River Watershed will bring solutions for long term sustainability that could change the face of the river corridor and the community with an opportunity to make it naturally better for future generations

“We are completing the final grant report for our local Community Foundation who funded portions of the project that RTCA assisted with here in Hancock County and the Blanchard River Watershed. The original NPS estimated time for in-kind services was exceeded by your actual work and the extra time and trips you provided to the project, what neat results we have to show for everyone’s work!”

Tim Brugeman, Director
Hancock Park District



Exploring Cuyahoga Valley National Park