

MASSACHUSETTS

RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Northeast Region



Projects and Partners 2009

- ① **Berkshire Bike Path**
Berkshire Bike Path Council
- ② **Great Barrington Trails & Greenways**
Alliance for A Healthy Great Barrington and Great Barrington Land Conservancy
- ③ **Merrimack River Science Center**
Tsongas Industrial History Center
- ④ **Seekonk Area Trails**
YMCA

About Us

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program provides staff time and technical assistance for 1-2 years to projects that need an extra hand to take the next leap forward to success. We work with citizen groups and non-profits, helping them realize their visions of how to improve their communities, whether it's through a rail-trail, an urban park, or a restored river. The National Park Service helps make it happen.

www.nps.gov/rtca





2008 Project Highlights

Great Barrington Trails & Greenways

Promoting Health, History and Nature

Great Barrington Trails & Greenways is a new partnership that supports a “town-wide trails vision” promoting public health through opportunities to explore its rich historic and natural areas. Christine Ward, Lake Mansfield Alliance, believes the real spark for action is the group’s inclusivity, “Our approach to community trails is to involve the whole community; we really have something for everyone.” In addition to their recently completed vision map, the project partners have organized volunteer trail work days, led a series of monthly guided hikes, and are developing the “Central Loop,” a three-mile loop linking Lake Mansfield with the River Walk downtown.

Berkshire Bike Path

Connecting Communities

The Berkshire Bike Path Council is advancing the development of a north-south bikeway route of approximately 75 miles— using railway corridors and off-road bike paths combined with on-road bike lanes— extending from Vermont to Connecticut through Berkshire County communities. This primary bikeway route will support secondary connections with schools, businesses, community centers,

We want to help!

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?



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transportation links, recreational opportunities and other points of interest. With assistance from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and National Park Service, the Council is working town by town to establish a common vision for a regional bikeway and a realistic strategy for its design and construction.





2008 Success

Northeast Region

Miles of new trails (land)	75
Miles of new trails (water)	333
Miles of trail restored/improved	150
Acres conserved and protected	9,864
Acres of communities assisted	200
Organizations established/ enhanced	75
Money leveraged for our projects	22 million