

PENNSYLVANIA

RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Northeast Region



Projects and Partners 2009

- ① **Delaware River Water Trail**
Delaware River Greenway Partnership
- ② **Common Waters**
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
- ③ **Erie to Pittsburgh Trail**
Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance
- ④ **Gettysburg Inner Loop**
Healthy Adams Bicycle/Pedestrian, Inc.
- ⑤ **Hopewell Big Woods Interpretive Trails**
Natural Lands Trust
- ⑥ **Main Line Trail**
Allegheny Ridge Corporation
- ⑦ **Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network**
Appalachian Mountain Club
- ⑧ **Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership**
Pennsylvania Environmental Council

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

Hopewell Big Woods Trail

Moving Forward

RTCA is working with the Natural Lands Trust and the Hopewell Big Woods Partnership; a consortium of more than 40 businesses; landowners; conservation organizations; recreation clubs; federal, state and local government agencies; and township representatives to develop and implement a vision for a Hopewell Big Woods trails system. Key partners include Hopewell Furnace NHS, French Creek State Park, and the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area.

The Schuylkill River Trail, Horse-Shoe Trail, and French Creek Trail are major east-west "spines" through the region that will be connected from north to south by developing trails in northern Chester County and southern Berks County. The first ribbon was cut in July 2008 at a special ceremony attended by about 80 people. The Thun Trail now runs 19 miles from Reading Area Community College to Pottstown's Riverfront Park. When completed, the Schuylkill River Trail will run 130 miles along the river, from Philadelphia to Pottsville. The trail section in Birdsboro provides a gateway into the Hopewell Big Woods and its outstanding recreational, natural and historic resources, including Hopewell Furnace NHS and French Creek State Park.

We want to help!

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?



David A. Lange
Program Leader
 (215) 597 - 6477
 david_a_lange@nps.gov

Activate Pittsburgh Outdoors

Expanding Access, Increasing Safety

Part of the new Activate America network, the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh requested RTCA assistance to expand its wellness and physical activity programming onto nearby trails. RTCA worked with wellness directors the Western Area Y, Downtown Y and the new US Steel Tower Y to improve safe access to trails, including the city's popular Montour Rail-Trail. A survey indicated members' interest in joining a walking, running or biking club, so the Y established a weekly summer program for each group. Recently, national walking expert Mark Fenton visited to help assess walkability and safe access to the trail system along Pittsburgh's rivers.



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