

RHODE ISLAND

RIVERS, TRAILS & CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Northeast Region



Projects and Partners 2009

- ① **Tillinghast Pond Trail System**
The Nature Conservancy - Rhode Island Chapter

About Us

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program provides staff time and technical assistance for one to two 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

Rhode Island Blueways

Becomes State's Source for Access, Information and Advocacy

Rhode Island is known as **The Ocean State** due to its **400 miles of ocean shoreline**. Less recognized are the state's rivers, ponds and tidal waterways. NPS helped develop Rhode Island Blueways, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and conserving a state-wide network of paddling trails, especially by novice paddlers. After two years of setting up a mapping system (www.ExploreRI.org) and broadening the Alliance to include river advocates, outfitters and the hospitality sector, Blueways launched in 2008 with a series of paddles across the state. Blueways has mobilized dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals, and is becoming recognized as the focal point for information and a catalyst for new programs.

John Monroe has facilitated the RI water trail project through a very exciting year of growth and accomplishment. After years of talking and dreaming, in 2008 everything began to come together. Our vision of a water trail network linking fresh to salt water, promoting conservation and stewardship suddenly seems very real.

Meg Kerr
*Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
 and RI Blueways Alliance*



Rhode Island Blueways paddlers are ready to go!

We want to help!

Could your project benefit from RTCA staff assistance?



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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