

**National Park Service, Northeast Region
Challenge Cost Share Program
Projects Funded in Fiscal Year 2009**

China Trade Trail, Forbes House Museum National Historic Landmark, Milton, Massachusetts, and Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Salem, Massachusetts (\$21,000)

The Forbes House Museum has an impressive China Trade collection dating from the late 19th century during the time that Captain Robert Bennet Forbes (1804-1889) spearheaded US trade with China. This project will establish linkages between the Forbes House Museum and the Salem Maritime National Historic Site to tell the stories of the US China Trade. The trail will link with other partner sites, each of which contain China Trade collections. Sites -- which include: Historic New England's Phillips House in Salem, Beauport Sleeper-McCann House in Gloucester, Gore Place in Waltham, Heard House in Ipswich, City of Boston (Boston Waterfront), and Boston China Town Neighborhood Center -- will benefit from this collaborative effort by providing visitors with an in-depth presentation of their collections. The project will include a website, brochure with trail map, and a China Trade "focus tour."

**African American Discoveries in the Old Deerfield Village
Deerfield, Massachusetts (\$27,725)**

The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, steward of the Old Deerfield Village National Historic Landmark (NHL) District will work in partnership with the National Park Service to expand the interpretation of the historic district to include the African American presence. That interpretation will be promoted via a public living history program, downloadable podcast tour of the sites, scholarly symposium, online curriculum for k-12 grade students, and teacher professional development around the new curriculum. This project will also expand on content from a 2008 walking tour map, making it accessible via computer technology, and publicizing the work to scholars, teachers, and the public.

**Expanding the Groundworks USA Youth Partnership with National Parks
Northeast Region (\$24,700)**

The Rivers & Trails Program recently launched the Youth Partnership with Groundwork USA (GW USA), which involves youth, 14-18 years old, in community service, civic activities, teamwork, and environmental education through its Green Team Program. The Youth Partnership broadens horizons through experiences with national parks -- education, volunteer activities, skill building, career development, and fun. In 2007, 75 youth from 6 communities -- Bridgeport CT, Concord NH, Elizabeth NJ, Lawrence MA, Somerville MA and Yonkers NY -- discovered 8 National Parks. In 2009, GW USA will recruit more youth, partner with more parks, and expand the program to 10 communities.

**Schuylkill River Trail -- Youth Engagement through Treks for Kids
Pennsylvania (\$10,000)**

The Schuylkill River Trail and related connecting trails is the key corridor within the Schuylkill River National Heritage Corridor linking several National Park Service units, including Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Valley Forge National Historic Park, and Independence National Historic Park, and other county and local parks. This project will work with a community based organization -- Trips for Kids -- to provide meaningful recreational, stewardship, and interpretive experiences to urban youth. Participants will be recruited through community-based organizations and provided with necessary equipment for single day and multi day excursions. Trained instructors and chaperones, working with National Park Service staff, will provide lessons on environmental, interpretive, and career messages.

**Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) - Building Healthy Communities
Northeast Region (\$20,000)**

The RTCA program will work with the Rails to Trails Conservancy to select community trails projects which support civic engagement projects related to planning and outreach for trails. Funding will be divided among 5-10 projects which commit to establishing planning teams, completing trail plans and designs, working with communities on publications and interpretative panels, obtaining permits and organizing events. The type of assistance will include helping a trail group organize a major event, developing concept plans for a trail route, coordinating the production of a vision map or first public map of the resource, or crafting a brochure for a trail.

**Integrate Municipalities into the UP River Alliance
Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York (\$10,000)**

The UP River Alliance is an ongoing civic engagement activity in the upper Delaware River Basin. The study area includes the 4500-square-mile region UP River basin area, including Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River; Monroe, Northampton, Pike and Wayne counties in Pennsylvania; Delaware, Sullivan, and Orange counties in New York; and Sussex and Warren counties in New Jersey. There is consensus among the present core group about bringing the 115 municipalities to the dialogue in order to exchange information about each organization, listen to concerns about land use management, and share products that are currently under development. Some examples under consideration are maps of existing and proposed developments, critical soils areas, important wildlife habitats, and database directories.

**Interpretation of the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark
Peterboro, New York (\$18,765)**

This project provides outdoor signage and electronic interpretation of the Gerrit Smith Estate, a site on the Heritage New York Statewide Underground Railroad Trail as well as the National Park Service Network to Freedom because of its importance as an Underground Railroad site. At this time there is no signage to explain the importance of the role that Gerrit Smith played nor to explain the role of the site in other social reforms. This project will introduce and explain the antislavery activities and will correct myths about the Underground Railroad. Images will be used to assist in descriptions of structures and persons. The project will also include appropriate docent training for accurate expansion of programs.

**Expanding Diversity at the Woonsocket Visitors Center
Woonsocket, Rhode Island (\$20,500)**

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission will assist the Rhode Island Historical Society in the installation of a new permanent exhibit, "Going to Work: 20th Century Settlers in the Blackstone Valley" at the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket. The exhibit will present the history and stories of 20th century ethnic settlers to the Blackstone Valley, and their involvement in building permanent communities around their labor experiences and family lives. The intent of the exhibit is to explicate the modern ethnic history of the Blackstone Valley, something which has not yet been done at the Museum.

**Schuylkill River Trail – Engaging Community Leaders and Diverse Communities
Pennsylvania (\$10,000)**

The Schuylkill River Trail and related connecting trails is the key corridor within the Schuylkill River National Heritage Corridor linking several National Park Service units, including Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Valley Forge National Historical Park, and Independence National Historical Park. This proposal will fund a civic engagement process including 1) a partnership roundtable to identify key trail stewardship, informational, interpretive, and resource management activities and partnership opportunities; 2) conducting three interpretation workshops for trail and project partners, and 3) assisting with establishing a volunteer trail stewardship program.

Expand Island Pass to Engage Youth

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Areas, Boston, Massachusetts (\$25,000)

Access to Boston Harbor Islands National Recreational Area is by boat transportation only. This project will expand the Island Pass program for the 2009 summer season to provide increased access opportunities to Greater Boston's underserved communities, serving participants of all ages. The Island Pass program provides free ferry access for participating groups and engages urban youth and their families in the area. By providing free and diverse programming with a wide range of topics and interests visitors will feel connected to the islands and therefore become future users and stewards of the park. The Island Pass program began in 2007 and provided more than 600 Boston school-aged children and families with a free trip and a guided Junior Ranger program. In 2008, an expanded program included participation from the Central Boston YMCA summer camp groups.

Delaware Valley Fishing

Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, Pennsylvania (\$10,000)

Water and fish are an important part of the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area and its three units of the National Park System, Valley Forge National Historical Park, Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, and Independence National Historical Park. Fish are an important vehicle, metaphor or indicator of climate change, ecosystems health, history, and water quality. Fishing offers a tremendous opportunity to connect youth with the water and offers a sustainable, healthy and fun recreational experience. This project will offer kids, primarily, "at risk" youngsters and urban youth, the opportunity to experience a park or place through fishing. They will learn entomology, history, and actively participate in fly tying and fishing. While visiting a park and not fishing, students may spend their time exploring, hiking, and learning about the site. A pilot project will be established the Philadelphia area.

Discover Revolutionary New Jersey! Exhibit, Guide and Cell Tour, Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Areas and Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey (\$20,990)

This project will fund the research, design and production of a Crossroads of the American Revolution traveling exhibit and guidebook that will interpret and strengthen the network of New Jersey's Revolutionary War sites. The exhibit will be displayed initially at Morristown National Historical Park and then travel to other significant Revolutionary War sites in the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area. The panel exhibit will include three-dimensional aspects such as reproduction artifacts that the public can touch. It also will incorporate prompts to use technologies such as cellphone or podcast downloads to access more varied and detailed interpretation and information.

Family Cemeteries Pilot Training Program

Shenandoah National Park, Virginia (\$13,000)

Stewardship of historic cemeteries is among the most complex and difficult cultural resources challenges. The project will sponsor a three-day conference to bring together National Park Service stewards of cemetery resources to discuss issues, challenges, and ideas on the care of cemetery landscapes. Target audience will be National Park Service stewards of family, community, church cemeteries, and 14 Civil War era National Cemeteries. During the meeting, the group will assess the issues and needs of cemetery resources under federal stewardship and determine next steps. Participants will contribute to an anthology of articles, essays, sample cemetery management documents, and survey systems that may serve as a text for a subsequent conference or workshop series designed to reach a broader audience.

Develop Multilingual Guide to Olmsted's Emerald Necklace

Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Boston, Massachusetts (\$15,225)

In partnership with the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site will produce an Interpretive Guide to the Boston Park System - also known as the "Emerald Necklace." The Guide will educate the public about the history and significance of the Boston Park System and its many natural and cultural features. The Boston Park System is considered by many to be one of Frederick Law Olmsted's most important landscape design projects in the United States. The Guide will include: 1) interpretive text, 2) a variety of contemporary and historical images including photographs and plans, and 3) a detailed map. The initial print run of the Guide will be in English with a subsequent run in Spanish. An on-line interactive experience, based on the Guide, will also be produced.

Interpretative Development for Thacher Island National Historic Landmark

Rockport, Massachusetts (\$17,500)

This project will develop an interpretive exhibit to demonstrate the life and times of the lighthouse keepers in the newly restored Principal Keepers c1874 dwelling. Exhibits will include photos, artifacts, and displays of furniture and equipment. The main focus will be on the 19th c keepers (the US Lighthouse Service period) but will also capture through oral histories the memories of keepers during the later U.S. Coast Guard era from 1939 until 1980. Volunteer keepers living in this house will provide tours and interpretive explanations about the history of the Cape Ann Light Station. Along with exhibits will be displays of key events that have occurred on the island, beginning with the shipwreck of Anthony Thacher in 1635 up to the more recent events occurring during the "Perfect Storm" of 1991. Exhibit information will be added to an existing web site and a web-cam will be installed in the North Tower.

Hancock Shaker Village NHL Renewable Energy Interpretation Program

Hancock, Massachusetts (\$18,800)

Taking into consideration the public's growing desire to learn more about how renewable energy sources can be used in homes and businesses, this project will expand the public's knowledge and understanding of renewable energy by planning interpretive features and programs showing the link between the development of these technologies throughout Shaker History to current technology choices. The project will be accomplished through the installation of interactive demonstration stations, planning the content to be used by live interpreters on the site, and planning a web based renewable energy resource guide and paper based guide. The interpretive program will position Hancock Shaker Village as an education center for renewable energy at an historic site, merging the history story the site has to tell with practical application of knowledge from the past fused to innovation in the present

TRAILS

Building Trails with Community Partners

Northeast Region (\$9,900)

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program will work with the Rails to Trails Conservancy to select the best qualifying community-based trail projects to purchase materials supplies/equipment and to support trail construction. Funding will be divided among up to five community sponsored projects which commit to building or reconstructing rail trails or National Recreation Trails. The match for each project will be the volunteer in-kind contribution, donated supplies, materials, and equipment from the cooperators. Deliverables include trail signage, trails surfacing, trailhead and other trail improvements. Volunteer organizations and local communities will conduct the trail improvement projects.