



National Park Service, Northeast Region

Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program Connecticut



What's Happening Right Now...



Projects and Partners 2008

1. Thompson Trail Campaign
Town of Thompson
2. Naugatuck River Greenway
Town of Thomaston



Mianus River Park Trail Volunteer Group

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 citizens' groups and non-profits, helping them realize their vision of how to improve their communities, whether it's through a rail-trail, urban park, or a restored river. The National Park Service helps make it happen.

Recent Success

Portland Brownstone Quarries: Transformation for Recreation

Portland residents are creating new recreation possibilities in and around their historic brownstone quarries by the Connecticut River. Working with RTCA, volunteers of the Brownstone Quorum, Inc. created a vision through public workshops, mobilized volunteers, and launched an event now known as the Brownstone Festival, which attracts thousands annually. In 2007, a local scuba diving company transformed part of the main quarry into a water park made of sustainable materials. In 2008, the quorum will clear invasive plants from the remaining 35 acres, develop a campground and install a historic brownstone "arch" under a pavilion.



A volunteer plants seedlings in a bio-mat



Mianus River Park volunteers move a log

Mianus River Park Trail and Riverfront Restoration Improves and Unites

The Mianus River Park Trail and Riverfront Restoration project grew out of user conflict, soil erosion and destruction of vegetation in a 220-acre woodland park in Stamford. RTCA worked with the City of Stamford, the adjacent Town of Greenwich and the Friends of Mianus River Park to establish monthly volunteer trail work days, create a riverfront vegetation restoration zone and improve or relocate degraded trail segments. The project also received \$50,000 from the Recreational Trails Fund for riparian restoration and a signage system.

Shoreline Greenway Trail to Connect Five Coastal Towns



Shoreline Greenway Trail, Inc. worked with RTCA to build the four-town alliance needed to launch the 25-mile Shoreline Greenway Trail. During the past three years they have secured a \$2.65 million federal appropriation and helped raise more than \$100,000 locally. In fall 2007, the state legislature passed a bond package which includes \$665,000 for the trail. Two trail sections in Branford are open to the public and seven segments are under construction.



Shoreline Greenway Trail, Inc. looks at trail maps

2007 Success Northeast Region



Miles of new trail (land): 25

Miles of new trail (water): 10

Miles of river restored or improved: 40

Acres conserved and protected: 500

Number of communities assisted: 125

Number of organizations established or enhanced: 150

Dollars leveraged for our projects: \$75 million

We want to help you.

Could Your Project Benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?



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