



National Park Service, Northeast Region

Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program Rhode Island

What's Happening Right Now...



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.

Rhode Island Blueways

A statewide network of paddling trails
Rhode Island Blueways Alliance



Rhode Island Blueways paddlers are ready to go!

Recent Success

Woonasquatucket River Source-to-Sea Trip Informs and Excites

Descending into Providence from the northwest, the Woonasquatucket River gives paddlers an opportunity to escape urban commotion without really leaving the city. The Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council completed a three-day reconnaissance Source-to-Sea trip with RTCA to assess river conditions and identify potential canoe access points. They used information from the trip to determine four potential boat launches and create a slide show of the main stem of the river. The success of this Source-to-Sea trip has inspired consideration for future canoe trips focused on other issues facing the river.



Woonasquatucket Source-to-Sea trip



Paddlers after a Rhode Island Blueways trip

Rhode Island Blueways Promote a Statewide Paddling Network

RTCA is working with the Rhode Island Blueways Alliance, an informal partnership of public and private players, to unite paddlers, public officials, outfitters and hospitality businesses. The new Alliance combined more than 15 partner groups and many volunteers to create Rhode Island Blueways, a statewide water trail network promoting the safe enjoyment of Rhode Island's rivers, ponds and Narragansett Bay. RTCA helped organize two

showcase paddling events, served as a presenter at meetings, and assisted with the development of ExploreRI.org, a map-based

"RTCA brought so much to the Blueways project -- the ability to bring national experience with water trails to our RI project was exceptionally useful."
- Meg Kerr, Watershed and Community Projects Coordinator, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program

Web site with paddling information. New partnerships with tourism councils are creating hospitality packages for visitors and residents, particularly for novice paddlers. In 2008, the Alliance will officially launch the network with trailhead sign unveilings, six weeks of paddling events, and widespread publicity.

We want to help you.

Could Your Project Benefit from
RTCA Staff Assistance?



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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



www.nps.gov/rtca