



# Ohio News



Adam's Run. NPS Photo

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Adams Run Greenway**  
Western Reserve Land Conservancy
- 2. Connecting the Blanchard River Greenway and Trails**  
Hancock Park District
- 3. East Cleveland Healthy Lands**  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
- 4. Fort Wayne/Allen County Trails and Greenways**  
City of Fort Wayne, Greenways
- 5. Little Miami National and State Scenic River Management Plan**  
Ohio DNR, Scenic River Services

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### Ohio Youth Explore the Outdoors

RTCA, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and partners organizations including Audubon Ohio, Wayne National Forest, Leave No Child Inside-Central Ohio and Greater Cincinnati, members of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association, Ohio Metro and County Parks, and the State Departments of Health and Education joined forces to create a statewide initiative challenging Ohio's young people to "Explore the Outdoors" during the summer of 2008. The challenge focused on bringing elementary-age children into nature to improve their physical and emotional health as well as encourage them to be better environmental stewards in the future.

The program challenged youth and their families to complete at least eight of the ten outdoor recreation activities offered in the "Explore the Outdoors" guide published as part of the program. The 34-page, full-color guide was developed by ODNC with assistance from RTCA and sponsors including the American Heart Association and Coleman. The guide and the activities were displayed at welcome centers and kiosks at Cuyahoga Valley National Park, ODNR parks, and partner facilities across Ohio. An interactive website [exploretheoutdoorsohio.com](http://exploretheoutdoorsohio.com) was created to track progress and provide ideas to participating families. Events were held across the state to encourage the activities and participation in the campaign.

The campaign was endorsed by Governor Ted Strickland as a statewide initiative. Over 800,000 Explore the Outdoors Activity Guides were distributed to kids in grades K-5 during May. There are plans to continue and improve "Explore the Outdoors" in 2009.

## We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?  
Contact us to find out.

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### THE RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Find more information online at  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects

## 1. Adams Run Greenway

Location: Akron  
Congressional District: 17  
Project Partner: Western Reserve Land Conservancy  
NPS Contact: Andrea Irland

### Project Goal:

We hope to have acres of land in this urban greenspace protected, water quality and riparian buffers restored to improve impacts on the watershed, and miles of trails in place to connect the community with other recreational opportunities. We would like to see partnerships formed between corporations, cities and neighborhoods that improve the quality of life for all.

## 2. Connecting the Blanchard River Greenway and Trails

Location: Findlay  
Congressional District: 4  
Project Partner: Hancock Park District  
NPS Contact: Andrea Irland and Rory Robinson

### Project Goal:

Develop a community concept plan to connect the Blanchard River Greenway in downtown Findlay with the Riverbend Recreation Area 5 miles away. Highlights will be open space protection, interpretive signage, connections to a greater trail network, trail access points and solutions for flood mitigation.

## 3. East Cleveland Healthy Lands

Location: East Cleveland  
Congressional District: 11  
Project Partner: Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
NPS Contact: Andrea Irland

### Project Goal:

Preserve and increase greenspace for recreational opportunities, improved quality of life and health benefits through community gardens, improved



Explore the Outdoors activity guide cover

parklands, walkability improvements and watershed appreciation and education.

## 4. Fort Wayne/Allen County Trails and Greenways

Location: City of Fort Wayne and Allen County  
Congressional Districts: IN - 3, MI - 15, OH - 5  
Project Partner: City of Fort Wayne, Greenways  
NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

### Project Goal:

A network of over 100 miles of trails and greenways, and an 11-county trails and greenways vision map that identifies possible future connections throughout northeast Indiana and the surrounding states.

## 5. Little Miami National and State Scenic River Management Plan

Location: Counties of Greene, Clark, Warren, Hamilton and Clermont  
Congressional Districts: 1,2,3,7  
Project Partner: Ohio DNR, Scenic River Services  
NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

### Project Goal:

A management plan developed by public and private stakeholders leading to strong public support and coordinated action.