



December 2006

2000 Acres of Contiguous Forest Preserved

The Towns of Ashby and Townsend, MA (November 2006) - The acquisition of 75+ acres with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance will increase recreation and open space opportunities at Willard Brook State Forest, a Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) managed area. The property, known locally as Camp Kirby, was previously a Girl Scout camp and then purchased by a developer. Recognizing that development of a 10- lot subdivision would have disrupted 2,000 acres of contiguous forestland, the DCR acted quickly to acquire the property. Camp Kirby is located within the Squannassit Area of Critical Environmental Concern and is also located in a wellhead protection zone for two public water supplies. Acquisition of this property will also provide recreational options for residents and visitors. For more information, please contact Mary Vavra, LWCF, at Mary_vavra@nps.gov or 215- 597- 9175.



First Lady Celebrates 1.9 Miles of New Trail



Andover, NH (October 1, 2006) –The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail of Merrimack County (Friends) completed another 1.9 miles of trail. The New Hampshire First Lady, Dr. Susan Lynch, a pediatrician working to raise awareness about childhood obesity, presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony (in spite of the rain). The day included children and adult’s “Fun Runs,” art inspired by the rail trail, a bike auction, and a display about the history of the Northern Railroad. Since 2005, the Friends have completed 3.6 miles of the planned 34- miles.

The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is working with the Friends to help boost awareness and appreciation for this new community amenity. For more information, please contact Lelia Mellen, RTCA, at Lelia_Mellen@nps.gov or 802- 457- 3368 x14.

Continued next page

County Celebrates Acquisition of Critical Trail Corridor

Ramsey County, MN (November 2006) - Ramsey County received 112 acres, a critical segment of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail corridor, from the NPS Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program. Recently, the Metropolitan Council approved a \$450,000 grant to construct the trail and the County has awarded a contract for design and construction. Once completed, the trail will extend 7.2 miles from Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Park Reserve in Anoka County to Long Lake Regional Park in Ramsey County. The site was formerly a portion of the Twin City Army Ammunition Plant. This transfer was negotiated by NPS FLP staff. For more information, please contact Elyse LaForest, FLP Program Manager, Boston, MA at elyse_laforest@nps.gov or 617- 223- 5190.

\$4 Million Turns a Dream into Reality



Paso Robles, CA (September 2006) - Progress on the “Follow the River: Follow the Dream” project on the Salinas River continues with the construction of a 1.5 mile interpretive trail. The State of California awarded \$4 million to go toward the purchase of 250 acres in the Salinas River Corridor. The project includes flood control measures, scenic protection, river bank restoration, and water quality improvement. The NPS Rivers,

Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the project by organizing and facilitating the “Follow the River: Follow the Dream” design workshop in 2005. This high energy workshop led to a vision for the corridor’s future, established a diverse working group, and ensured City Council support. The trail was funded by the California State Resources Agency and constructed by partnership between the City of Paso Robles, the Upper Salinas/Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, California Conservation Corps and the Planning and Conservation League Foundation. For more information, please contact Barbara Rice, NPS Pacific West Region office at Barbara_rice@nps.gov or 510- 817- 1449.

46 Acres Acquired for Habitat and Hiking

Sutton, MA (November 2006) - A 46- acre in- holding at the entrance to the Sutton State Forest and Purgatory Chasm State Reservation had long been a priority acquisition by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). So when the opportunity presented itself, it was acquired with \$520,000 in Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance. The property provides habitat for rare species, contains hiking trails that link with the State Forest,



includes a quarter mile of frontage on Purgatory Brook, and is viewed as being highly sensitive for archaeological resources. For more information, please contact Mary Vavra, LWCF, at Mary_vavra@nps.gov or 215- 597- 9175.

Volunteers Succeed in Building First Five Miles

Chattanooga, TN (September 29, 2006) - The Southern Off Road Bicycle Association (SORBA) and its partners celebrated the grand opening of the first 5 miles of the Raccoon Mountain Trail System, an effort involving hundreds of volunteer hours, on land managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The all- volunteer effort continues with another 10 miles of trail currently under construction. The group has benefited from a broad- based partnership that includes Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the City of Chattanooga, Outdoor Chattanooga, the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, and numerous volunteers.

The ribbon- cutting event was attended by over 50 trail enthusiasts, including Bill Reynolds, Associate Regional Director for the NPS. Following the ceremony, participants toured the trail on foot and by bike. With the help of a Bikes Belong grant secured by Outdoor Chattanooga, the group plans to construct a 100- foot suspension bridge spanning a beautiful gorge. For more information, please contact Jeff Duncan, RTCA, at jeff_duncan@nps.gov or 423- 266- 1150.



Project partners (L- R) Jeff Duncan (NPS RTCA), Sabrina Kuykendal (TVA), Janet Herrin (TVA), Phil Pugliese (Outdoor Chattanooga), and Greg Laudeman (SORBA). Photo courtesy Bob Richards, Tennessee Trails Coordinator.

Alaskan Interpretive Trail Nurtures Watershed Stewards



Anchorage, AK (October 3, 2006) - NPS Regional Director Marcia Blaszak celebrated the unveiling of the first in a series of watershed interpretive signs. When the series is complete, visitors to this popular greenway trail will be able to better understand the link between their urban/suburban land use practices and watershed health. The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program helped partners prepare a comprehensive interpretive plan focusing on natural resource

stewardship for this seven mile trail and find funding support. The partnership also includes NPS interpretive staff, the Anchorage Waterways Council, Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Alaska Dept. of State Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information, please contact Cassie Thomas, RTCA Project Manager, at cassie_thomas@nps.gov or 907-644-3590.

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