



## RTCA in Alaska

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Alaska offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Alaska will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Anchorage Youth Connections** – The project goal is to expand the Anchorage Schools on Trails Program's ability to design and implement conservation projects, bringing nature to local students and project neighbors through outdoor place-based and service learning activities. (Location: Anchorage, Alaska)
- **Delta Junction Community Trails** – The project goal is to provide a place for year-round outdoor recreational activities and trail opportunities for people of all abilities, income, and trail interests in the Delta area. (Location: Delta Junction, Alaska)
- **Homer Poopdeck Platt Park** – The project goal is to develop the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust's Poopdeck Platt Park into a place of community pride recognized as a living example of how conservation connects people and the land. (Location: Homer, Alaska)
- **Homer Woodard Creek Watershed** – The project goal is to collaboratively re-establish Woodard Creek as a prized community asset that will enhance conservation efforts, promote recreational outlets, protect against flooding, and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. (Location: Homer, Alaska)
- **Mat-Su Historic Herning Trail** – The project goal is to restore the historic Herning Trail as a first major thoroughfare in a community-supported inter-connected system of trails celebrating the area's history and providing outdoor recreation and economic opportunities. (Location: Big Lake, Alaska)
- **Statewide Adopt-a-Trail Program** – The project goal is to recruit, train, and retain volunteers to help maintain trails on public lands by linking businesses and organizations with land managers. (Location: Southcentral Alaska)
- **Valdez Community Trails** – The project goal is to collaboratively plan, develop and maintain a community-wide trail system to increase recreation opportunities, encourage healthy lifestyles, support tourism, and enhance public safety. (Location: Valdez, Alaska)



Kachemak Heritage Land Trust staff and board members participate in a design charrette for the Poopdeck Platt Park in Homer, Alaska.

## Recent Success Story

**Delta Junction Community Trails** – In 2013, a small group of Delta Junction residents led by Mindy Eggleston and Judy Hicks began a journey to create a community trails system to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, improve community wellness, enhance tourism, and protect access to public lands. They formed the Delta Junction Trails Association and, with support from the National Park Service and numerous other partners, engaged community members in a multi-year planning effort to create the Delta Junction Community Trail Plan, which describes desired conditions for 16 trails. The first project outlined in the plan has already begun. DJTA, with help from project manager, Geoff Orth, and professional trail builder, Jon Underwood, used a \$40,000 Recreation Trails Program grant and over 550 hours of volunteer labor to construct the 3 kilometer Liewer Community Trail to provide year-round, in-town recreation opportunities and have raised additional funds to begin installing lights along the trail. DJTA has also hosted several community events to promote healthy living.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Alaska contact:

Paul Clark  
[paul1\\_clark@nps.gov](mailto:paul1_clark@nps.gov)  
(907) 644-3586 (o)  
(907) 350-4197 (c)



FIND YOUR  
**PARK**