



Alaska News



Kayaking along the Kachemak Bay Water Trail. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Delta Junction Community Trails**
Delta Junction Trails Association
- 2. Fairbanks Peirce Park Living Lab**
Fairbanks North Star Borough, Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School
- 3. Homer Poopdeck Platt Park**
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust
- 4. Homer Woodard Creek Community Partnership**
Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Woodard Creek Coalition
- 5. Anchorage Youth Connections**
Anchorage Park Foundation

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

The Kachemak Bay Water Trail—Adventure beyond the End of the Road!

The day of June 6, 2014, was one of celebration with two official ribbon cutting ceremonies inaugurating the Kachemak Bay Water Trail. Crowds gathered at the two primary launch sites in Homer and Seldovia to hear dignitaries and local leaders praise the trail and highlight its benefits to communities and visitors. At each launch site, a beautiful brass plaque was unveiled commemorating the trail as a Department of the Interior's America's Great Outdoors project.

The Kachemak Bay Water Trail is a 125-mile water trail that inspires exploration and wise stewardship of the natural treasure that is Kachemak Bay. The trail, which runs along Kachemak Bay from Homer to Seldovia, was the initial vision of Dave Brann, a local trails advocate. Dave took his idea to the community and soon formed a committee of 10 enthusiastic volunteers to help him make his vision a reality. He also received three years of technical assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to provide overall guidance and hands-on help.

continued on last page

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide 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.

Current Projects

1. Delta Junction Community Trails

Project Partner: Delta Junction Trails Association
NPS Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice
Location: Delta Junction

Project Goal

Develop a community-wide trail system and trail organization to encourage healthy lifestyles, tourism, and enhanced public safety while protecting public access to trails, land, and water. Continue to build support for the trail system in partnership with the City of Delta Junction, Delta Greely School District, Alaska State Parks, Deltana Fair Board, the Salcha/Big Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, and the many motorized and non-motorized trail users who would benefit from more and improved trails.

NPS Role

Help project partners develop their organization, analyze issues and opportunities, engage partners and stakeholders, inventory and evaluate potential community trails, identify resources including funding and additional expertise, conduct public outreach, and develop a community trail plan.

2. Fairbanks Peirce Park Living Lab

Project Partners: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Effie Kokrine Early College Charter School
NPS Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice
Location: Fairbanks

Project Goal

Create the Peirce Park Living Lab, a place where community, stewardship, and science education meet. Continue to engage multiple partners in the process of designing and using the park as a living lab, including the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Gates of the Arctic and Yukon Charley National Parks and Preserves Headquarters, the

“The NPS has paved the right pathways for this grand endeavor and surely are powerful support system for us.”

- Mindy Eggleston, Delta Junction Trails Association

NPS Arctic Inventory and Monitoring Program, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, One Tree Alaska, University Park Elementary, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tanana Valley Watershed Association, and artists Craig Cheledinas and Mercedes Culliton.

NPS Role

Help partners conduct community outreach, develop an action plan, and conduct site analyses. Solicit and coordinate assistance from the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (Bettisworth North Architects and Planners) to prepare a conceptual site plan. Help implement the site plan by locating additional professional expertise on trail design and construction and cost estimating and identifying funding sources.

3. Homer Poopdeck Platt Park

Project Partner: Kachemak Heritage Land Trust
NPS Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice
Location: Homer

Project Goal

Develop the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust’s Poopdeck Platt Park into a place of community pride recognized by all as a living example of how conservation connects people and the land.

NPS Role

Assist partners in creating a vision for Poopdeck Platt Park and planning and implementing a strategy to reach that vision. Solicit and coordinate assistance from the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (Dowl HKM, Corvus Design and Nancy J. Casey Inc.) to develop a conceptual site plan for the park.

4. Homer Woodard Creek Community Partnership

Project Partners: Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, Woodard Creek Coalition
NPS Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice
Location: Homer



Discussing future water trail options in Delta Junction. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

Project Goal

Re-establish Woodard Creek as a prized community asset that will enhance conservation efforts, promote recreational outlets, protect against flooding hazards, and enhance the quality of life for residents and tourists alike. Establish the Woodard Creek Coalition to achieve this vision with coalition members including representatives from the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Homer, Homer Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Cook Inletkeeper, Pratt Museum, Homer Council on the Arts, Bunnell Street Art Gallery, Friends of Woodard Creek Karen Hornaday Park, and Kachemak Bay Conservation Service.



Woodard Creek at Bishops Beach. Photo: NPS

NPS Role

Work with Woodard Creek Coalition to create and implement an overall planning process, including developing an effective organizational and operational structure, prioritizing project goals, identifying and analyzing obstacles and possible resolutions, engaging the community and key stakeholders, and identifying funding and additional expertise where needed.

5. Anchorage Youth Connections

Project Partner: Anchorage Park Foundation

NPS Contacts: Lisa Holzapfel, Heather Rice

Location: Anchorage

Project Goal

Work with Nunaka Valley Elementary School teachers and students to achieve their vision of improving nearby Russian Jack Springs Park to better support place-based learning activities. Engage multiple partners, including the Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Park Foundation, Nunaka Valley Elementary School, American Society of Landscape Architects (Bettisworth North Architects and Planners, Corvus Design), and other interested organizations and individuals throughout the community.

NPS Role

Help partners develop an overall planning process and detailed action plan to accomplish project vision,

goals, and objectives, expand their network of partners and stakeholders, engage community members and other interested parties through strategic outreach efforts, locate and provide technical trail or habitat restoration expertise, and identify potential funding sources for the project.

“We have enjoyed working with the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program over the last two years. The team is amazingly knowledgeable, and there is one [thing] that is certain...we would not be as far, as we are today, into our trail projects without NPS assistance and their devotion to the work they do there.”

- Amber Al-Haddad, Parks and Recreation Director, City and Borough of Wrangell



Entrance to Kachemak Heritage Land Trust Poopdeck Platt Park. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You.

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



Heather Rice
907.644.3587
heather_rice@nps.gov



Lisa Holzapfel
907.644.3586
lisa_holzapfel@nps.gov

2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and
Parkland Protected

Find more information online
at
www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

Multiple partners came together to create the water trail, including the cities of Homer and Seldovia; the Homer and Seldovia Chambers of Commerce; Alaska State Parks; the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (with specific support from Bettisworth North Architects and Planners); and the Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park. A \$25,000 NPS Challenge Cost Share Grant funded development of the water trail website and a \$2,000 Homer Foundation Grant and private and in-kind donations ensured continued progress.

Of the value of partnerships, Dave said: “Ideas are just ideas until people, organizations and agencies come together in a partnership to make something great happen. The power of a partnership is demonstrated in the realization of the Kachemak Bay Water Trail.”

For more information about the Kachemak Bay Water Trail—and to plan your own visit—go to www.kachemakbaywatertrail.com.

“Thanks so much for all your support and for driving this process in such an open and friendly way. . .the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is an incredible resource and if it weren’t for them I know this group would not be as far along as we are.”

- Donna Aderhold, Kachemak Bay Water Trail Association



Pat Pourchot, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior for Alaska Affairs (left) and Dave Brann (right) celebrate the Kachemak Bay Water Trail as an America's Great Outdoors project with NPS' Heather Rice (left) and Lisa Holzapfel (right). Photo: NPS