



Connecticut News

The Pulaski Way Footbridge in Naugatuck. Photo: NPS/John Monroe

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Naugatuck River Greenway**
Towns of Watertown and Thomaston, NRG Steering Committee
- 2. Torrington Trails Network**
City of Torrington and Torrington Trails Network
- 3. Water Trail Stewardship in Connecticut and Rhode Island**
The Last Green Valley, Inc. and Rhode Island Blueways

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

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.

Recent Successes

Two Additional Ribbon Cuttings for Naugatuck River Greenway

The Tingle Fish Bypass Channel in Seymour opened in October, 2014, creating passage for anadromous fish and a riverfront park two blocks from the lively Main Street. Using results from a downtown charrette in 2012, Economic Development Director Fred Messoré is developing riverfront connections as part of Main Street revitalization.

Early in fiscal 2014, Borough of Naugatuck Mayor Robert Mezzo opened a key segment of the Naugatuck River Greenway from Linden Park to the restored Pulaski Way footbridge. Engineers neatly fit the trail between elevated Route 8 and the riverbank, creating a spacious and pleasant experience. (See photo on page 4.)



Naugatuck River Greenway steering committee members tour the construction site of the Tingle Fish Bypass Channel in July, 2014.

Photo: NPS/John Monroe

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Current Projects

1. Naugatuck River Greenway

Project Partner: Towns of Watertown and Thomaston, NRG Steering Committee

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Location: 11 towns and cities in western Connecticut

Congressional Districts: CT - 3, CT - 5

Project Goal

Develop a 44-mile greenway with trail from Torrington to Derby.

NPS Role

Implement two Recreational Trails Fund-supported projects: one to create uniform signage and wayfinding and the other to design and construct new trail in Thomaston and Watertown.

2. Torrington Trails Network

Project Partner: City of Torrington and Torrington Trails Network (a program of the Northwestern Connecticut YMCA)

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Location: Torrington

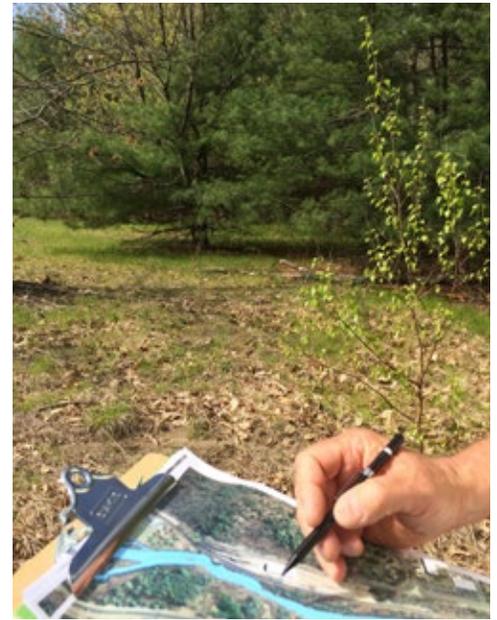
Congressional District: CT - 5

Project Goal

Create an interconnected sidewalk and trail system for the city and a gateway to the Naugatuck River Greenway.

NPS Role

Assist the city of Torrington to organize and run a day-long planning charrette.



Annotating the Naugatuck River map.
Photo: NPS



Fish Bypass under construction, Naugatuck River, Seymour. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

3. Water Trail Stewardship in Connecticut and Rhode Island

Project Partners: The Last Green Valley, Inc. and Rhode Island Blueways

NPS Contact: John Monroe

Locations: Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor and Rhode Island

Congressional Districts: CT- 2, MA - 2, RI - 1, RI - 2

Project Goal

Make available state-of-the-art design and permitting information to assist water trail stewardship programs to control erosion and manage invasive vegetation at small and medium-size launch sites.

NPS Role

Identify sources of engineering assistance, summarize state and local permitting requirements, and identify funding sources; work with partners to select two launch sites as demonstration projects; train local volunteers to make recommended improvements. Share results with NPS colleagues for possible application nationwide.



A Naugatuck River Vista. Photo: NPS



Under Construction Banner for the Norwalk River Valley Trail. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You.

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



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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



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Recent Successes cont.



Naugatuck River Greenway steering committee members tour the new trail connecting Linden Park to the Pulaski Way footbridge. Photo: NPS/John Monroe

Norwalk River Valley Trails Constructs First Mile

Thanks to a Recreational Trails Fund grant, the Norwalk River Valley Trail cut ribbon on the first two half-mile segments in Wilton designed and built by Josh Ryan of Timber & Stone. Weir Farm National Historic Site is active on the steering committee and National Park Service staff facilitated early public engagement meetings in each community.



A happy crowd celebrates the opening of a second Norwalk River Valley Trail segment in Wilton. Photo: Geoff Keating