

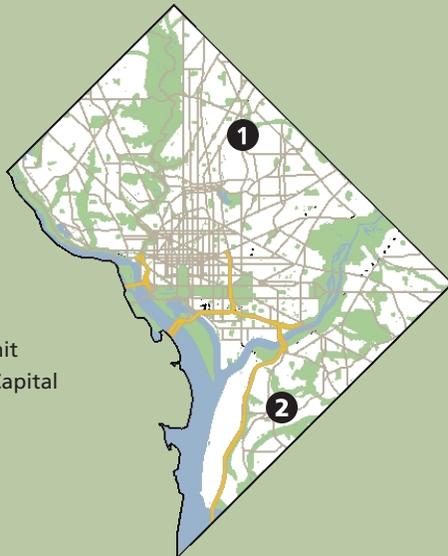


Washington, DC News



Meridian Hill Park contains a unique cascade and formal landscape.
Photo: NPS/Renee LaGue

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Sacred Grounds**
National Wildlife Foundation and Greater Washington DC Interfaith Power and Light
- 2. Oxon Cove Park Bike Trail**
National Capital Parks, East (NACE)

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

DC Park RX

For the past three years, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program has been supporting the Healthy Parks Healthy People US Initiative and more specifically, DC Park Rx (DC Park Prescriptions) with Dr. Robert Zarr of Unity Health Care, the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), DC Department of Health, area national parks, and other local partners. The goals of the Park Rx program are to help doctors “prescribe nature” to patients and families.

As a result of this collective work, approximately 350 parks and green spaces have been assessed and are connected to Unity’s electronic medical record. Doctors at Unity’s Upper Cardozo Health Center have prescribed over 600 “park or nature” prescriptions to patients. And videos were launched on NPS YouTube to educate others interested in implementing Park Rx in their communities.

Study of Meridian Hill Park

The Meridian Hill Park Study shows the number and activities of visitors using this 11.5-acre urban park in the Columbia Heights neighborhood. The study revealed that an average of nearly 1,300 diverse urban visitors were in the park on Sunday afternoons for the weekly drum circle. These visitors took part in activities including drumming, dancing, yoga, picnicking, and playing sports. The study should be useful to Rock Creek Park staff in terms of future management, partnerships, and interpretation and education programming and outreach, as well as deciding appropriate regulations for Meridian Hill Park.

continued on page 2

We're Here For You.

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

Christopher Niewold

202.619.6388

christopher_niewold@nps.gov

Beth Porter

202.690.5169

beth_porter@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™

Current Projects

1. Sacred Grounds

Project Partner: National Wildlife Foundation and Greater Washington DC Interfaith Power and Light
NPS Contact: Christopher Niewold
Location: Washington, DC
Congressional District: At-large

Project Goal

Expand the geographical range of this multi-denominational Greater Washington DC Interfaith Power and Light program that creates wildlife habitats on the grounds of houses of worship. This innovative program is designed to encourage congregation members to better honor the natural world by installing habitat for native pollinators, amphibians, and birds at their house of worship, thereby strengthening the natural area resiliency quotient in their urban communities.

NPS Role

Assist with the development and presentation of workshops for interested congregations; seek additional funding opportunities to support the expansion of the program; and work with the partners to institutionalize the program in their respective organizations.

2. Oxon Cove Park Bike Trail

Project Partner: National Capital Parks, East (NACE)
NPS Contact: Beth Porter
Location: Washington, DC
Congressional District: At-large

Project Goal

Develop a paved bike trail to meander through the DC portion of Oxon Cove Park. The trail will provide access to a viewing platform of the cove and connect with the broader DC bike trail network. There will be new recreational access to the site and to the cove.

NPS Role

Facilitate the process of bringing key stakeholders into the process and making sure they are engaged. Identified and pursue funding sources to pay for the environmental assessment, design, and construction of the trail.



Sacred Grounds Mother Child planting. Photo: Naomi Edelson, National Wildlife Federation