



Delaware News

Canoemobile participants explore downtown Wilmington from the Christina River. Photo: NPS/Sophie Sarkar

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership**
US Forest Service
- First State/Brandywine Creek Trails**
Delaware State Parks, First State National Monument

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

For four days, the Canoemobile rolled into Wilmington and provided over 600 students and community members with the opportunity to learn about, experience, and enjoy the Christina River.

The Wilderness Inquiry Canoemobile, a fleet of vans each with six 24' Voyageur canoes, delivers place-based education on urban rivers and waterways nationwide. Each canoe holds up to nine students/chaperones and one highly trained environmental educator, allowing participants who have never been on the water to have their first paddling experience.

Hosted at the Wilmington Youth Rowing Association (WYRA) Boathouse, the school-day events featured a half-day program on the Christina River where paddlers explored their local waterway and its wildlife up close and learned about the river's ecology and cultural history with staff from the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation, the Delaware Nature Society, and the University of Delaware Water Resources Agency.

Participants also learned about the basics of rowing through a tutorial with WYRA coaches. In addition to the school-day program, the Canoemobile was featured at the Brandywine River Fair where the activity engaged approximately 240 community members.

Over 13 days, the Lower Delaware Canoemobile program delivered programming in five cities (Camden, New Jersey; Philadelphia, Chester, and Reading, Pennsylvania; and Wilmington, Delaware) and engaged 2,055 participants.

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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.

An initiative of the Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership, the Canoemobile was a catalyst for federal, state, and local governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations to come together and provide high quality environmental education where it was least expected.

The event was coordinated by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, funded by the US EPA Urban Waters Small Grant, hosted by local city agencies and parks departments, and implemented by Wilderness Inquiry and a number of community-based organizations.



The Kalmar Nyckel makes an appearance during the Wilmington Canoemobile Program.
Photo: NPS/Sophie Sarkar

Current Projects

1. Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Project Partner: US Forest Service
NPS Contacts: Dave Lange, Sophie Sarkar
Location: Philadelphia and Chester, PA; Camden, NJ; Wilmington, DE
Congressional Districts: NJ - 1; PA - 1, PA - 2, PA - 8, PA - 13; DE - 1

Project Goal

Reconnect urban communities with their waterways by improving coordination among federal agencies and collaborating with community-led revitalization efforts to improve waterways and promote their economic, environmental, and social benefits.

NPS Role

Act as a co-lead with the US Forest Service; assist the partnership with cataloging and directing federal resources to address locally identified needs and priorities; and coordinate the Lower Delaware Canoemobile program to provide an opportunity for thousands of youth to experience their local urban rivers.

2. First State/Brandywine Creek Trails

Project Partners: Delaware State Parks, First State National Monument
NPS Contact: David Lange
Location: Northern Delaware
Congressional District: DE - 1

Project Goal

Provide a seamless recreational hiking experience between Brandywine Creek State Park and the former Woodlawn Trustees property, which is now part of First State National Historic Park.

NPS Role

Assist partners with comprehensive trail planning; help to create a new recreational trails map; look for opportunities for trail upgrades and improvements.



Students learn about local wildlife with educators from the Delaware Nature Society at the Wilmington Canoemobile Program.
Photo: NPS/Sophie Sarkar