



New York News

A "PreRamble" community event helped introduce the Collar City Ramble concept by leading people along the proposed route through Troy's city streets and along the Hudson River waterfront. Photo: Jon Flanders

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015

- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Bronx Harlem Urban Waters Federal Partnership
2. East Bronx Coastal Connections
3. Finger Lakes Regional Water Trails
4. Harlem River Greenway
5. Hyde Park-Dutchess County Healthy Trails
6. Jamaica Bay Greenway
7. Northern Forest Canoe Trail Long Range Management Planning
8. Troy Collar City Ramble
9. Ulster County Rail Trail Connections

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

Collar City Ramble Brings Trails to Troy

The Ramble is envisioned as a citywide network of parks, trails and bicycle-pedestrian routes that blend in with city streets, boulevards and alleys. A centerpiece will be the Riverfront Path, planned for parts of the Hudson River shoreline. With improved safety and accessibility for people of all abilities as primary goals, the Ramble will connect the riverfront and downtown with the existing 3-mile Uncle Sam Bikeway. Over time, it will grow to embrace other neighborhoods, as well as schools, colleges, historic sites and other area attractions.

The vision got off the ground in 2013, when Troy's mayor appointed the Transport Troy citizens working group, and charged them with producing a report on alternative transportation for the city. Over the next few months, Transport Troy convened more than a dozen meetings and community workshops, hammering out the vision for a more walkable, bikeable, and accessible city. NPS provided background information, helped with workshops, and helped review the evolving maps and report. By mid-2014, the group submitted a 45-page report, together with a Complete Streets Ordinance that was unanimously adopted by the City Council.

Transport Troy's work also uncovered the unspent remainder of a Transportation grant for trail construction. With time ticking toward the grant's expiration, the group quickly convinced the city council to pass a \$1.4 million bond—with \$1 million of it reimbursable by the state—to fund completion of a key section of the Hudson Riverfront Path.

Current Projects

1. Bronx Harlem Urban Waters Federal Partnership

Project Partner: Harlem River Working Group, Bronx River Alliance
NPS contact: Jerry Willis
Location: Bronx, Manhattan
Congressional District: NY - 13, NY - 14, NY - 15

Project Goal

Reconnect urban areas, particularly those that are underserved or economically distressed, with their waterways; improve collaboration among the federal agencies working to improve those waters.

NPS Role

The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program serves as the federal pilot lead coordinating federal and local activities along the Bronx and Harlem River watersheds.

2. East Bronx Coastal Connections

Project Partner: Town of Hyde Park
NPS contact: Jerry Willis
Location: East Bronx
Congressional District: NY - 14, NY - 15

Project Goal

Create greater access to superior land and water based outdoor recreational opportunities that provide improved habitat and storm resiliency.

NPS Role

Help to create coalitions of public sector and citizen organizations that can be forged together to develop and implement common goals.



Paddlers joined public officials and NPS staff for the designation of a new day-use landing site on the Hudson River Greenway National Water Trail at Bard Rock, on the grounds of the Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. The 256-mile water trail extends from Manhattan to the southern Adirondacks and the southern tip of Lake Champlain. Photo: NPS/Karl Beard

3. Finger Lakes Regional Water Trails

Project Partner: Finger Lakes Land Trust
NPS contact: Karl Beard
Location: Finger Lakes
Congressional Districts: NY - 23, NY - 24, NY - 27

Project Goal

Create water trail opportunities on the Finger Lakes and linking waterways.

NPS Role

Support locally-driven water trail and water access projects, such as those underway on Canandaigua and Cayuga Lakes and on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. Help convene water trail proponents in the region to develop a unified vision for the local water trails, including design standards for access sites and long-term stewardship.

4. Harlem River Greenway

Project Partner: Harlem River Working Group
NPS contact: Jerry Willis
Location: Bronx, Manhattan
Congressional District: NY - 13, NY - 15

Project Goal

Create a continuous greenway along both sides of the Harlem River. The implementation of restoration projects aim to improve the ecological functions of the river and new public access points for recreational boaters.

NPS Role

Assist with community outreach, leveraging funds, organizational development, and capacity building.

“There has been great response to the concept of a Water Trail project from the public and elected officials. The NPS has been instrumental in the planning phase . . . looking at improving our existing sites and making the potential sites a reality.”

- Kevin Olvany, Program Manager, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council

Current Projects cont.

5. Hyde Park-Dutchess County Healthy Trails

Project Partner: Town of Hyde Park
NPS contact: Karl Beard
Location: Dutchess County
Congressional District: NY - 19

Project Goal

Create an expanded network of trail linkages and health programs related to parks and trails in Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie, and the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Sites.

NPS Role

Help with outreach to new communities and health organizations to encourage the creation of new trails and linkages between neighborhoods, parks, and trails and to extend programs to promote physical activity for health.

6. Jamaica Bay Greenway

Project Partner: Regional Plan Association, Gateway National Recreation Area
NPS contact: Karl Beard
Location: South Brooklyn, Queens
Congressional District: NY - 5, NY - 8

Project Goal

Develop a safe, cohesive, accessible, and user-friendly route that attracts visitors and residents to the public land and water resources at Jamaica Bay and connects to the broader New York City bicycle and pedestrian networks.

NPS Role

Assist with developing strong community and interagency partnerships for the greenway

7. Northern Forest Canoe Trail Long Range Management Planning

Project Partner: Northern Forest Canoe Trail
NPS contact: Lelia Mellen
Location: ME, NH, VT and NY
Congressional District: NH – 1; VT -1; ME - 2; NY – 21

Project Goal

Complete a Long Range Management Plan which will ensure NFCT stays ahead of trail growth by anticipating user impact. This will have a positive impact on landowners and ecosystem, economic & public health.

NPS Role

Offer assistance with the management plan that will further the NFCT as a sustainable resource and to have this plan be a model for other water trails.

8. Troy Collar City Ramble

Project Partner: Transport Troy
NPS contact: Karl Beard
Location: Troy
Congressional District: NY - 20

Project Goal

Create a city-wide system of trails and alternative transportation connecting neighborhoods, parks, and the Hudson River waterfront.

NPS Role

Work with community groups and the city government to help create a vision and the first pieces of a unified system of parks, trails, bicycle and pedestrian friendly streets, and alternative transportation linkages.

9. Ulster County Rail Trail Connections

Project Partner: Kingston Land Trust and Woodstock Land Conservancy
NPS contact: Karl Beard
Location: Ulster County
Congressional District: NY - 19

Project Goal

Create an integrated, countywide system of trails extending from the city of Kingston and connecting to trails in other communities and other counties.

NPS Role

Help partners plan, design, and create new trails and connections between them, including potential “complete streets” linkages in urban areas. Work with trail groups, the county, and local communities to find ways of collaborating on the operation, maintenance, and promotion of the growing countywide trail system.



Never too young! On National Public Lands Day, kids and moms cleared hundreds of rocks and roots to create a new 2-mile section of the Hyde Park Trail. Photo: NPS/Karl Beard

"How refreshing! When we had a great idea, our NPS planner got it right away, and could often make it better."

- Jim Lewis, co-chair, Transport Troy Citizens Working Group

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.

Long a hub of industry, Troy won its “Collar City” nickname from its history as a manufacturing center for shirts, waistshirts, and removable collars and cuffs. It is also the home of the historical figure behind America’s iconic Uncle Sam. As the concept of a walkable, bikeable city takes hold, Troy is building upon these roots and redefining itself as friendly and accessible to a wide diversity of business and community opportunities.



In Troy, a series of public workshops helped define the vision for a citywide system of parks, trails and other types of walkable and bikeable routes. Photo: NPS/Karl Beard

“I love our group, Transport Troy. Everyone has an agenda, something they really want. Through the year, sometimes the bikers are active, sometimes the walkers, sometimes the legal beagles take over, and sometimes the party people. There is room for everyone, everybody helps the cause. The NPS is helping us to see around corners, point out ways and means to achieve our goals, and find alliances that might be overlooked.”

- Jim Lewis, Co-chair of the Transport Troy Citizens Working Group