

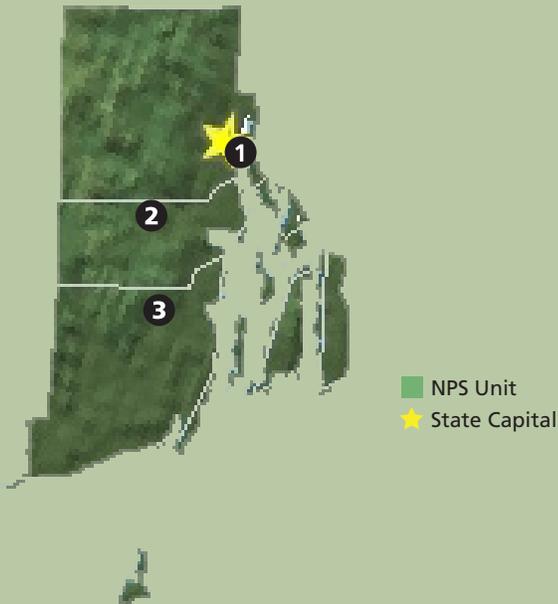


# Rhode Island News



Blackstone below Albion Dam. Photo: NPS/John Monroe

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Seekonk Riverbank Revitalization  
Coalition to Restore the Seekonk Riverbank
2. Build the Buzz for Rhode Island Land and Water Trails  
Rhode Island Land & Water Partnership,
3. Water Trail Stewardship in Connecticut and Rhode Island  
Rhode Island Blueways, The Last Green Valley, Inc.

Find out more about each project on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### Recent Success

After a 2013 attempt that was thwarted by flooding, Chuck Horbert led a Cross-RI paddle crew from north to south in July, 2014. The trip highlighted freshwater recreational opportunities in a state known internationally for Narragansett Bay and saltwater boating. The National Park Service assisted with the formation of Rhode Island Blueways and [www.ExploreRI.org](http://www.ExploreRI.org), an online gateway to land and water trails.



Chuck Horbet paddles into the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association in Hope Valley RI. Photo: Terry Meyer

## We're Here For You.

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



**John Monroe**  
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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](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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# Current Projects

## 1. Seekonk Riverbank Revitalization

Project Partner: Coalition to Restore the Seekonk Riverbank  
NPS Contact: John Monroe  
Location: Providence  
Congressional District: RI - 1

### Project Goal

Make River Road—which lies between Blackstone Park and the Seekonk River—more park-like to protect water quality and increase safe public access to the river with a multiuse trail and at least one paddlecraft launch. Enhance strong working relationships with neighbors and the city to ensure public involvement throughout the process.

### NPS Role

Help plan and facilitate a design charrette to compile ideas and priorities from neighbors, city officials, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and conservation and design professionals.

## 2. Build the Buzz for Rhode Island Land and Water Trails

Project Partners: Rhode Island Land & Water Partnership, Rhode Island Land Trust Council  
NPS Contact: John Monroe  
Location: Statewide  
Congressional Districts: RI - 1, RI - 2

### Project Goal

Promote Rhode Island land and water trails through events, online presence ([www.ExploreRI.org](http://www.ExploreRI.org)), marketing, and partnerships to boost trail use by residents and visitors.

### NPS Role

Expand working relationship with John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

## 3. Water Trail Stewardship in Connecticut and Rhode Island

Project Partners: Rhode Island Blueways, The Last Green Valley, Inc.  
NPS Contact: John Monroe  
Location: Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor  
Congressional Districts: RI - 1, RI - 2, CT - 2, and MA - 2

### Project Goal

Restore riparian areas damaged by paddlers and erosion with sustainable practices. Create stewardship programs to control erosion and manage invasive vegetation at small and medium-size launch sites. This project will test an approach to make available state-of-the-art design and permitting assistance.

### 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. Local volunteers will be trained to make recommended improvements. Results will be shared with NPS colleagues for potential application nationwide.

## 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.