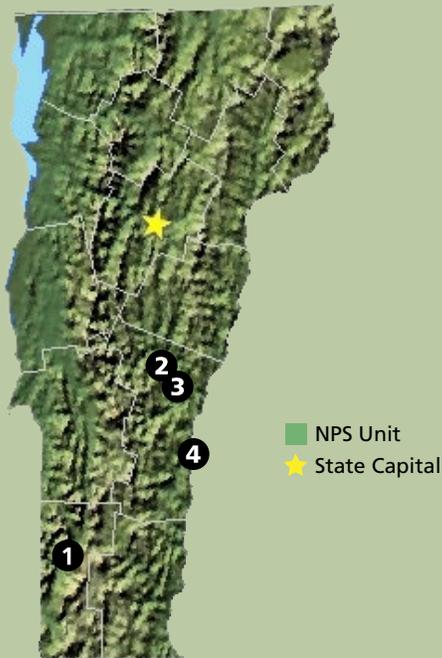




Vermont News

The Manchester Riverwalk Project along the Battenkill River.
Photo: NPS/Jennifer Waite

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Manchester Riverwalk
2. White River FEMA Buyout Connectivity Project
3. Mount Tom Gateway Project
4. Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Storm-Ravaged Rivershores Become New Public Spaces

The White River watershed was one of the most heavily damaged areas of Vermont after Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Over 40 properties in 11 watershed towns were so devastated that they qualified for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation “buyout” program. Planning for the future of the buyout properties has created an opportunity for envisioning a network of public access areas in the watershed, particularly in terms of a paddlers’ trail that would connect to the successful Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail.

The White River Partnership (WRP) has played a critical role as advocate, advisor, and partner with towns to navigate the FEMA buyout process, host public workshops to envision the future of these properties, and secure implementation funding through Community Development Block Grants. “Many of these towns in the watershed are quite small,” notes Steve Libby of the Vermont River Conservancy, “and have limited administrative support to carry through the buy-out process. This project has allowed all the partners to actively engage these towns to help them identify needs, envision uses, and create new spaces for conservation and recreation.”

The National Park Service has supported the partnership of the WRP, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Vermont River Conservancy, the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, and the Green Mountain National Forest.

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

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.

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Current Projects

1. Manchester Riverwalk

Project Partner: Manchester Riverwalk Association
NPS Contact: Jennifer Waite
Location: Manchester
Congressional District: VT - 1

Project Goal

Develop the Battenkill River waterfront in Manchester as a community asset by expanding recreational access, interpreting cultural history, and restoring the river's ecological integrity as a premiere trout fishing river.

NPS Role

Work with Manchester Riverwalk and its partners to develop a trail design with three "gateway" zones and develop an ecological restoration plan for the riverside buffer that hosts the trail.

2. White River FEMA Buyout Connectivity Project

Project Partner: White River Partnership
NPS Contact: Jennifer Waite
Location: Royalton
Congressional District: VT - 1

Project Goal

Create connectivity between approximately 50 FEMA buyout properties, purchased by towns in the White River watershed after the devastating floods of Tropical Storm Irene.

NPS Role

Work with partners and towns to develop plans and secure implementation funds for buyout properties that will mitigate future floods and provide conservation and recreation opportunities, particularly as potential sites along a new paddlers' trail.

3. Mount Tom Gateway Project

Project Partner: Billings Park Commission
NPS Contact: Jennifer Waite
Location: Woodstock
Congressional District: VT - 1

Project Goal

Enhance the safety, preservation, sustainability, and accessibility of the historic gateway trails through Faulkner Park and Billings Park to the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

NPS Role

Coordinate Federal Lands Access Program funding for Phases 1 and 2 restoration of the historic Faulkner Trail within Billings Park.

4. Connecticut River Paddlers' Trail

Project Partners: VVT River Conservancy, St. Gaudens National Historical Park, Conte National Wildlife Refuge, Connecticut River National Blueway
NPS Contact: Lelia Mellen
Location: Connecticut River through New Hampshire and Vermont
Congressional Districts: NH - 2, VT - 1

Project Goal

Strengthen the trail and assist those groups working on the trail.

NPS Role

Assist with improving stewardship of existing and potential access points. Assist with developing shared stewardship and a network of site adopters. Also assist with outreach, trail expansion, and strategic planning.