

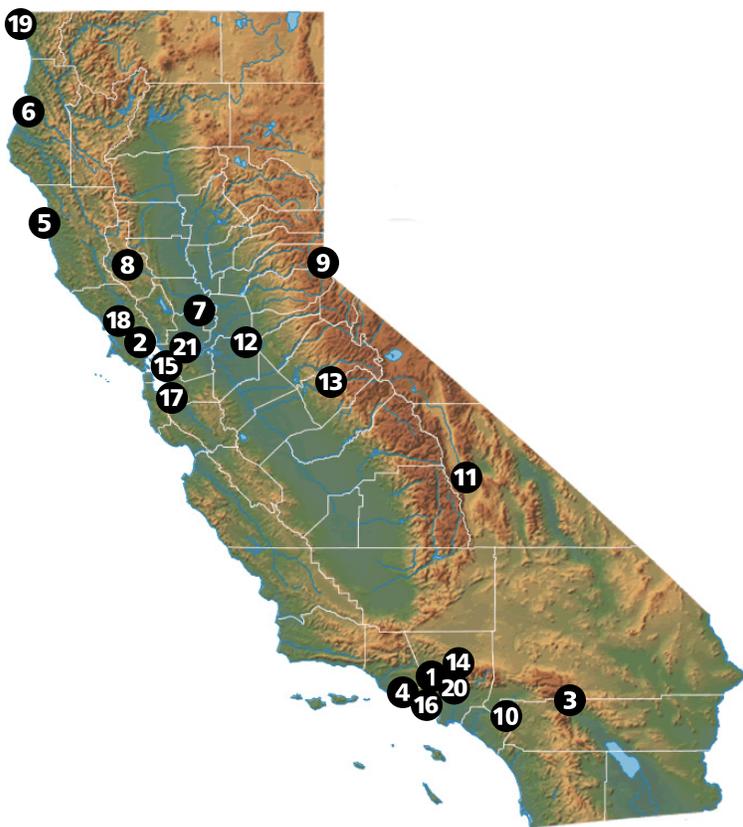


California News



The "trails task team" conducts a field assessment on lands managed by the Habitat Authority in western Puente Hills, Los Angeles County. Photo by Jim Donovan.

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2008



CURRENT PROJECTS

Find out about each project starting on page 2

Recent Successes

25-Mile Trail System will Extend the Recreation Experience on the Urban Edge

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority owns or manages 3,860 acres of natural lands in southeastern

"The RTCA Program helped us organize a trail planning process and ultimately provide the kind of information that people need to enjoy the habitat preserve."

-Bob Henderson, Chairman
Board of Directors
Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation
Authority

Los Angeles County. In 2007, the Habitat Authority adopted a resources management plan, opening a 25-mile recreation trail network. The RTCA Program helped the Habitat Authority conduct a trails assessment and base map with student help, GPS and GIS technology, Habitat Authority staff and their planning consultant, LSA. In addition to providing for long-term stewardship and restoration of the habitat preserve, the process resulted in trail user maps that were developed by NPS-RTCA for six discrete visitor areas. The Habitat Authority continues to manage the property and provide visitor services as a collaborative effort between City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association.

Current Projects

1. Bell Canyon Creek Trail

Location: Western San Fernando Valley, City of Los Angeles.

Partner: West Hills Neighborhood Council

RTCA Contact: Jim Donovan

The Bell Canyon Creek project will establish a three-mile urban greenway through the West Hills neighborhood of the San Fernando Valley connecting the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Preserve, residential tracts and the Los Angeles River. RTCA is working with local partners to develop a stakeholder group, facilitate community visioning workshops, build a forum for collaboration and cooperation among local agencies, and develop a conceptual greenway proposal.



Canal Community Gardens and Trails, Starkweather Shoreline Park, San Rafael.
Photo: Teri Vyenielo Rockas.

2. Canal Community Gardens and Trails

Location: Canal neighborhood of San Rafael.

Partner: Healthy Marin Partnership

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

A broad range of community partners will implement a system of community/family gardens and connecting trails through the Canal neighborhood of

San Rafael as a way to create an environment that supports healthy choices. RTCA is assisting the collaborative with meeting facilitation, planning strategies and stakeholder involvement.

COSCA has assembled 3100 acres of open space that will be open to the public with 23 miles of enhanced trails; 8 miles of new trails; and 7 miles of creek/riparian habitat enhancement. RTCA is assisting COSTA with planning and facilitation of public workshops to gather input for a management plan.

3. Coachella Valley Trails

Location: Coachella Valley, a 45-mile long valley in the western/central area of Riverside County that includes nine cities.

Partner: Coachella Valley Community Trails Alliance

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

This new organization is helping to develop a valley-wide trail network of over 50 miles in this rapidly-growing area of the state. RTCA is helping the Alliance develop a strategic plan, build partnerships and engage the public.

5. Fort Bragg Coastal Trail

Location: Fort Bragg in Mendocino County.

Partner: City of Fort Bragg

RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

This project will result in a 4.5-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail on a former lumber mill site and adjacent State Park headland that will connect Fort Bragg residents and visitors to the community's coastline after a century of private use. Following an RTCA-coordinated ASLA design charrette that produced illustrated concepts for trail alignments, character, connections, and enhancements in the trail corridor, RTCA is leading preparation of a trail interpretive plan.



Conejo Canyons, Ventura County.
Photo: Anne Dove.

4. Conejo Canyons Conservation

Location: Northwest area of the City of Thousand Oaks in eastern Ventura County.

Partner: Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA)

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

Current Projects cont.

6. Humboldt Bay Trail: Eureka to Arcata

Location: Humboldt Bay, north coast region of California.

Partner: Humboldt County Association of Governments

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

This multi partner effort will result in a 7-mile multiple use trail that links Arcata, Eureka and key natural and historic points of interest, providing commuters and recreational users with an opportunity for increased physical activity and greater connection to the Bay. RTCA is assisting with building a shared vision and facilitating partner and community engagement in support of this project.

7. Jepson Prairie Preservation

Location: Solano County.

Partner: Solano County Land Trust

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

This volunteer based effort will enhance and protect vernal pools and bunchgrass prairie habitats on the 1566-acre Jepson Prairie Preserve, one of the best vernal pool habitats remaining in the state. RTCA is assisting the Jepson Prairie Docents' planning group in completing Strategic Organization and Visitor Management Plans.

8. Konocti Regional Trails

Location: On the north shore of Clear Lake, Lake County.

Partner: County of Lake, Public Services

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

This project is a regional effort to create a network of ridgeline, shoreline, and waterways trails in and around Clear Lake linking parks, open space, communities, and the lakeshore. Initial focus will include 25 miles of proposed ridge trail and 15 miles of water trails on the north shore. RTCA will develop a trail concept plan working with diverse agency and community partners, while providing project level planning assistance.

9. Lake Tahoe Water Trail

Location: Lake Tahoe Basin in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California and Nevada

Partner: California Tahoe Conservancy

RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

Kayaking on Lake Tahoe, jewel of the Sierra known for its outstanding natural and recreational resources, is growing. Public agencies in the Lake Tahoe Basin have come together to address management challenges in support of sustainable recreation in this fragile alpine ecosystem. RTCA is assisting a collaborative team of agencies, groups, and community stakeholders and supporting broader community engagement to further shared management and stewardship.

10. Linkage Conservation

Location: The South Coast Ecoregion which extends from the California/Mexico border to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County.

Partner: South Coast Wildlands Project

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

With a broad range of partners, SCWP has developed plans to protect fifteen critical landscape linkages between key wildland areas to conserve biodiversity and provide opportunities for contiguous open space throughout the South Coast Ecoregion. RTCA is helping partners around these linkage areas to develop a new organization to implement these plans.

11. Lone Pine Heritage Trail

Location: Lone Pine area, Inyo County.

Partner: Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce

RTCA Contact: Jim Donovan

The Lone Pine Heritage Trail will celebrate the rural community's identity along Main Street and establish a hub-and-spoke trail network of approximately 30 miles. RTCA is working with community leaders and local agencies to prepare an outlying trail network plan with an emphasis on partnership development, local business owner engagement, and interpretation.



View of the Clear Lake ridgeline from Shannon Ridge Vineyards, Lake County.
Photo: Shannon Ridge Vineyards.

Current Projects cont.



The grave of Lone Pine earthquake victims from 1872 is a state historic landmark on a high point at the north end of town, a destination in the Lone Pine Heritage Trail.

Photo: Jim Donovan.

12. Lower Mokelumne River Recreational Waterway

Location: Communities of Lockeford, Lodi, Woodbridge and Thornton.
Partner: San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

This proposed recreational waterway on 64-miles of the Lower Mokelumne River between the Camanche Reservoir and the Cosumnes River confluence will offer a low-impact, water-based connection and recreation opportunity to rapidly growing Central Valley communities. Support facilities and community programs will also help manage recreational use to decrease the impacts on adjacent riverfront property. RTCA is facilitating meetings of a collaborative work group, encouraging broad stakeholder involvement, and assisting with the development of a recreational waterway concept and implementation strategy.

13. Mariposa Creek Parkway

Location: Mariposa, Mariposa County.
Partner: Mariposa County
RTCA Contact: Sally Sheridan

This project will further this community's vision of a 3.5 mile linear park along Mariposa Creek, providing a safe, healthy pedestrian and bicycle route that connects key destinations in and beyond the city limits. RTCA will help convene and lead the various stakeholders in planning and designing a .4 mile creek side trail linking an existing trail to in town destinations.

14. Reagan Legacy Trail and Wildlife Corridor

Location: Southeastern Ventura County and northwestern Los Angeles County.

Partner: The Nature Conservancy
RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

The proposed landscape corridor will protect 700 acres of key wildlife habitat that function as a major wildlife corridor while providing a 20-mile trail linking the Reagan Presidential Library to the historic Reagan Ranch in Malibu Creek State Park. RTCA is assisting partners with the assessment of project feasibility, compilation of existing conditions information; and development of outreach materials.

15. Richmond Greenway

Location: City of Richmond, Contra Costa County.
Partner: City of Richmond
RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

This project will result in a three-mile greenway in Central Richmond, with links to adjacent community greenways and the San Francisco Bay Trail, providing a broad range of benefits. RTCA is providing organizational development support for Friends of Richmond Greenway; assistance with a concept/master plan for greenway corridor development; and support for an application to Groundwork USA.

16. Rim of the Valley Trail

Location: Los Angeles County.
Partner: Heritage Foundation: Los Angeles Trails Project
RTCA Contact: Jim Donovan

Rim of the Valley is a 200-mile loop trail that was first conceptualized in 1978, and is intended to provide outdoor recreation opportunities and scenic vistas in of the front country of Angeles National Forest and the foothills surrounding the San Fernando Valley. RTCA is working with local

“The RTCA Program has been instrumental in helping Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area build valuable connections with local communities.”

Woody Smeck, Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

Current Projects cont.

trails activists and community college students to collect and compile trail data, coordinate trail mapping and create a database of planning efforts, identify action items or strategies with stakeholders, local agencies and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to facilitate implementation of the trail in the future and support local action on an interagency level.

17. San Francisco Bay Area Upland Habitat Protection

Location: The nine county San Francisco Bay Area.

Partner: Bay Area Open Space Council
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice

The Upland Habitat Goals Project an effort to define a scientifically credible conservation plan to protect biodiversity will provide a framework for conservation practitioners and guide protection & restoration activities. RTCA is assisting with partner and community engagement to further long term investment by public and private land managers in protecting biodiversity.

18. Southern Laguna Watershed Creeks and Trails

Location: The Southern Laguna de Santa Rosa and the City of Rohnert Park, Sonoma County.

Partner: City of Rohnert Park
RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

This project is focused on a 20-mile network of creeks with adjacent trails within southern Sonoma County. RTCA is helping to plan and conduct the public outreach and participation portion of the project, which also includes raising awareness of, and building support for the creek resources.

19. Tolowa Dunes Trails

Location: Del Norte County.
Partner: Tolowa Dunes Stewards
RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

This project will result in increased access and protection for 11,000 acres

of northern forest, freshwater ponds, coastal lagoon, beach and dunes with varied ownership, including Tolowa Indian ancestral lands, through designation, connection, enhancement, interpretation and coordinated management of hiking, biking, water and equestrian trails, including the California Coastal Trail. RTCA is providing assistance with interagency coordination and development of a new Tolowa Trails access guide.

20. Tujunga-Pacoima Watershed Project

Location: Suburban San Fernando Valley and western San Gabriel Mountains, Los Angeles County.

Partner: The River Project
RTCA Contact: Jim Donovan

The Tujunga-Pacoima Watershed Project will generate project ideas and consider actions that will improve the local capacity for storm water retention, increase ground water recharge, improve water quality and restore or enhance wildlife habitat with a goal of providing no less than 20 site-spe-

cific projects for local implementation. RTCA facilitated a series of steering committee meetings, achieved consensus on project goals, assisted in organizing short term watershed classes for the public, and participated in the completion of the watershed assessment and final plan.

21. Vallejo Watershed Conservation

Location: Greater Vallejo watershed, including the City of Vallejo and Solano County.

Partner: Vallejo Watershed Alliance
RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

The goals of this project are restoration, enhancement, improved management and enjoyment of watershed resources such as water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational assets through community stewardship and education projects. RTCA assisted with organizational strategic planning, and leadership for planning, coordination and facilitation of a community outreach and networking workshop.



Headwaters of the Tujunga-Pacoima Watershed just above the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles.
Photo: Jim Donovan.

We're Here For You.

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

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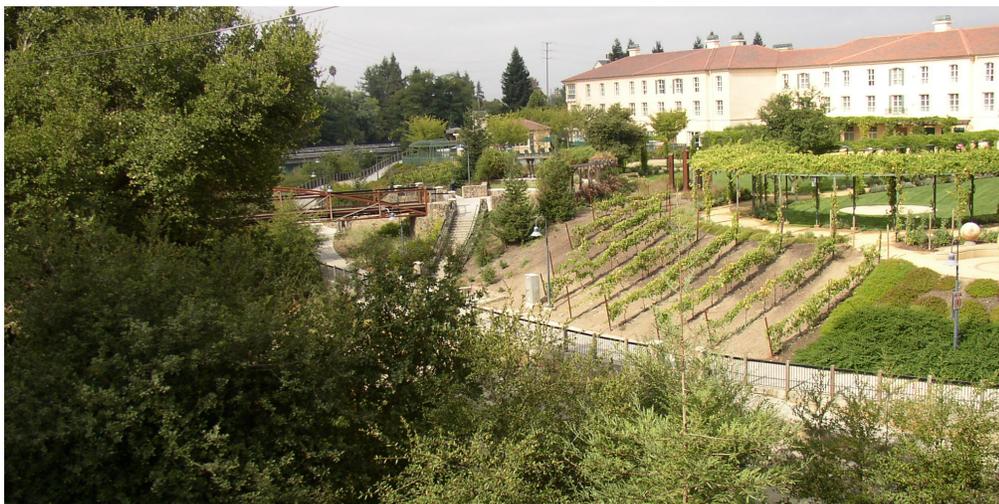
THE RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides 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™



Prince Memorial Greenway, Santa Rosa. Photo: City of Santa Rosa.

Recent Successes cont.

Santa Rosa Creek Dreams to Reality

Starting in 1994, with the adoption of a master plan for its name sake creek, the City of Santa Rosa has been a leader in developing municipal policies and practices to protect and enhance their creeks. RTCA played a key role in that early effort by bringing together community leaders and creek restoration experts from around the country to share their knowledge of creek restoration. RTCA also led a “Take Part” workshop in which participants could create their visions for the future of the creek, as documented in “Creek Dreams Revealed”. These “creek dreams” became the inspiration for a master plan which recommended projects such as the now complete Prince Memorial Greenway . That early involvement laid the groundwork for the more recent Citywide Creek Master Plan, a comprehensive plan for the protection and enhancement of the entire 70-mile network of waterways in the city. RTCA provided guidance in community outreach, the results of which are documented in the publication, “Creek Dreams – Expanding the Vision.”

“Response to the project has been overwhelmingly positive! I hope the brochure has many years of life in Marina Bay.”

-David Blackburn, Chief of Interpretation (former), Rosie the Riverter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park

A “Must See, Must Do” Trail Guide for Richmond

A new Trail Guide to Richmond’s Marina Bay on the San Francisco Bay Trail (Bay Trail) enhances community and visitor use of this splendid, fascinating, and little-known segment of the 400-mile regional trail under development on the shores of San Francisco Bay. The Trail Guide was produced, designed, printed, and distributed in a partnership effort of Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC), Richmond Convention and Visitors Bureau, Richmond Museum of History, Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park, City of Richmond, Richmond Sanitary Service, and Signature Properties, supported by RTCA.