

Rivers, Trails and Conservation
Assistance Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Collaboration Services

Bringing interested parties together to implement shared goals

The National Park Service facilitates collaboration in the planning and implementation of conservation and outdoor recreation projects.



The National Park Service

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

About Us

The **National Park Service**, through the **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance** program (NPS-RTCA), has supported locally-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the United States for more than 30 years. NPS-RTCA assists communities in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors. Through an annual application process, community groups, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state and federal agencies can apply for NPS-RTCA technical assistance.

Our Model

Across the country, NPS-RTCA staff pair their professional planning, design and technical expertise with your team and knowledge experts from the community. Together, our 1 to 2 year-long partnership works to achieve your conservation and outdoor recreation vision. Based on the complexity of the project, we tailor our assistance to meet your needs and help you navigate a path to success. Although NPS-RTCA is not a grant-funding program, we can help your organization identify potential funding sources for your project.

Community Engagement

As a collaborative partner, we strive to achieve successful project outcomes by engaging communities in the visioning, planning and implementation of each project. We encourage strong community partnerships and facilitate meaningful engagement to ensure your conservation and outdoor recreation projects last into perpetuity.

Connecticut

Facilitating a Collaborative Process for the Naugatuck River Greenway

Just 30 years ago, Connecticut's Naugatuck River was so badly riddled with decades of chemical, industrial and physical waste that the river was declared "dead" – void of any living organism. After many years of restoration efforts by communities along its banks, the river has become a centerpiece of the state's recreation, transportation, economic development and riparian habitat.

Eleven towns, spanning along 44 miles of the Naugatuck River from Torrington to Derby, had visions of recreation opportunities along the water. In 2012, the communities invited NPS-RTCA to help them organize their efforts to create a greenway through all 11 towns on the restored river corridor.

The greenway project, set to be completed in 2030, is a massive undertaking, and one that requires incredible collaboration. NPS-RTCA has been assisting with coordination efforts, creating the Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee, organizing partners and rallying communities to the river with a major bicycling event and promotional materials. Town by town, the greenway is reuniting residents with the river and giving the communities new life.



California

The Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership

The Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership is a unique large landscape partnership between local communities, county governments, and state and federal agencies from California's rural Eastern Sierra region. Working together, the partnership aims to improve recreation opportunities and restore ecosystems to their natural resiliency and functions.

The partnership is developing and implementing strategies related to sustainable recreation and tourism, climate resiliency, and is supporting visitor services. Through collaboration and the leveraging of resources, the partnership is working to achieve their shared goals. NPS-RTCA supports the partnership and coordinates with leaders from the six National Park Service units that are located within the Eastern Sierra landscape.

The region is largely dependent on natural resources, recreation and tourism to sustain the local economy. The Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership opens up channels for communication and action for recreational and economic opportunities throughout the region.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who are we?

The **National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program (NPS-RTCA)** assists communities, public land managers and nonprofit organizations with conservation and outdoor recreation projects. NPS-RTCA provides professional planning, design and technical expertise to help achieve your conservation and outdoor recreation vision.

Does NPS-RTCA provide funding?

No. NPS-RTCA is not a grant-funding program, but we can help you identify potential funding sources for your project.

What kind of projects does NPS-RTCA support?

Our program staff support locally-led projects that develop or restore parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as create outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.

Are NPS-RTCA staff contractors?

The NPS-RTCA model is to combine the skills of our staff with those of your organization. It's a partnership – we work alongside your team and local knowledge experts to assist with the work that you are leading.

How much time do NPS-RTCA staff spend on each project?

Typically, NPS-RTCA staff collaborate with communities for 1 to 2 years on conservation and outdoor recreation projects. Depending on the complexity of the project and our staffing capacity, the time frame may be extended.

Who can apply for assistance from NPS-RTCA?

NPS-RTCA provides services to established community groups, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state and federal agencies.

How can you apply for assistance from NPS-RTCA?

NPS-RTCA support is provided when we are invited to assist you on a conservation or outdoor recreation project. We encourage you to contact us to discuss your project before applying. The application is available on our website: www.nps.gov/RTCA



nps.gov/RTCA



NPS_RTCA@nps.gov



facebook.com/RTCANPS



twitter: [@RTCANPS](https://twitter.com/RTCANPS)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

