

# Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Parks

Creating a system of parks for all

The National Park Service serves as a catalyst to build a network of parks and open spaces across the nation. We work to establish new parks or rehabilitate old parks to meet the public needs of today.

## 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.

Alaska

## Building a Community Park in the Bering Sea



Three-hundred miles west from Alaska’s mainland, St. Paul Island is home to the first baseball team in the state. Despite the lack of bleachers and eroding playground, the historic baseball field and surrounding area has actively been used for recreation and community gatherings since the 1880s. Inspired by their history with the sport, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island had a vision to restore the field and turn the surrounding land into a vibrant community park.

NPS-RTCA collaborated with the community, neighboring school and tribal government to gather ideas for the underutilized space. Following a site visit and design charrette, NPS-RTCA developed a concept plan that laid out the project’s goals, design guidelines, resource and funding opportunities, topography and implementation phases that the tribal government can refer to as they move forward in restoring the baseball field and creating a diverse outdoor recreation space.

Today, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Tribal Government has started to develop St. Paul Community Park – a safe and resilient recreation area that will promote community health and strengthen the sense of place of the island in the middle of the Bering Sea.

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California

## Collaborating With the Mountain Maidu Tribe in Developing a Park

After more than a century of displacement, the Mountain Maidu people have returned to their homeland – Tásmam Koyóm (the Maidu name for Humbug Valley) – a 2,300-acre alpine valley in California’s Sierra Nevada.

With a vision to develop a cultural park dedicated to education, healing and traditional ecosystem management, the Maidu Summit Consortium requested assistance from NPS-RTCA. In collaboration with the American Society of Landscape Architects, NPS-RTCA supported the Mountain Maidu tribe in developing conceptual plans for a park entry site to welcome visitors, identified public access opportunities to a trail network while protecting special cultural sites that only tribal members can access, and developed a 40-acre visitor zone that includes improvements to the Yellow Creek Campground.

Today, the Mountain Maidu tribe continues to work on developing the Tásmam Koyóm Maidu Cultural Park where they will be able to share their history and heritage with visitors and care for the land.



# 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](http://www.nps.gov/RTCA)

 [nps.gov/RTCA](http://nps.gov/RTCA)

 [NPS\\_RTCA@nps.gov](mailto:NPS_RTCA@nps.gov)

 [facebook.com/RTCANPS](https://facebook.com/RTCANPS)

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