



Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Do you have an idea for a conservation or recreation project? Do you have a project planned or in progress? Have you reached out for public involvement?

Having trouble figuring out how to get started or don't know what the next step should be?

Could you use some technical assistance?

If the answer to these questions is “Yes,” then the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program may be able to help. Read on to see how we might be able to assist you...

Who We Are

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA or, often, ‘Rivers & Trails’) works collaboratively, by invitation, with partners to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. These partners include non-profit organizations; community groups; tribes or tribal governments; local, state, and federal government agencies; and coalitions.

RTCA provides a variety of assistance tailored to meet our partner’s needs – however, we do not provide direct funding.

How We Assist Groups

RTCA works in partnership with urban, rural, and suburban communities to help them navigate the planning process and convert ideas into actions. We typically provide assistance in conceptual planning, organizational development, and capacity building in order to help our partners meet their conservation and recreation goals.

RTCA provides assistance through a network of regional and state field offices throughout the country. Here in the Pacific Northwest, our regional office in Seattle serves communities in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. We provide both short-term consultations and long-term project support. Our involvement may range from a one-day workshop to as much as two years - depending upon project needs and merits.

Types Of Assistance We Provide

We provide technical assistance to meet the needs of each partner's unique project. RTCA community planners, landscape architects, and outdoor recreation planners provide assistance by:

- facilitating the creation of community and project visions
- enhancing public awareness
- broadening a group's base support
- developing a planning process focused on public involvement
- organizing and facilitating public meetings and workshops
- assisting organizational development and strategic planning
- helping to develop strategic and concept plans
- sharing creative approaches to identifying and analyzing resources

Advantages Of RTCA Involvement

Along with planning and organizational expertise, NPS assistance lends recognition and significance to local projects, which can help attract financial and volunteer support. We promote public involvement and collaborative planning in all of our projects - which results in increased public support and commitment for on-the-ground results.

Examples Of Recent Projects We Have Assisted

- Rock Creek Conservation Plan; King County, WA
- Indian Creek Greenway & Daylighting (restoration) Project; Caldwell, ID
- Lakes-to-Locks Water Trail System; Seattle, WA
- Jacksonville Woodlands; Jacksonville, OR

Application Due Date

To be considered for technical assistance, groups/organizations and/or agencies must complete the standard RTCA application. **Applications must be received by August 1st.** We strongly encourage applications to be submitted as soon as possible so that we have the opportunity – before the August 1st deadline – to review them and suggest improvements to make the applications compete more successfully (we do receive considerably more applications than we have the capacity to assist). We much prefer applications to be submitted electronically. Notification regarding whether or not assistance is awarded is typically provided in early October (the start of the federal fiscal year) and, if assistance is awarded, we usually can initiate our involvement shortly thereafter.

To Find Out More About RTCA

Please visit our website at www.nps.gov/ccso/rtca for more information about RTCA and examples of our assistance to projects and/or to download an application. If you would then like to talk more about our program, your project, and/or the application process, feel free to contact me via phone or email.

Sincerely,

Michael Linde
Leader, Partnership Programs
(206) 220-4113
michael_linde@nps.gov

