



NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program





NPS Mission

“The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.”





RTCA Mission

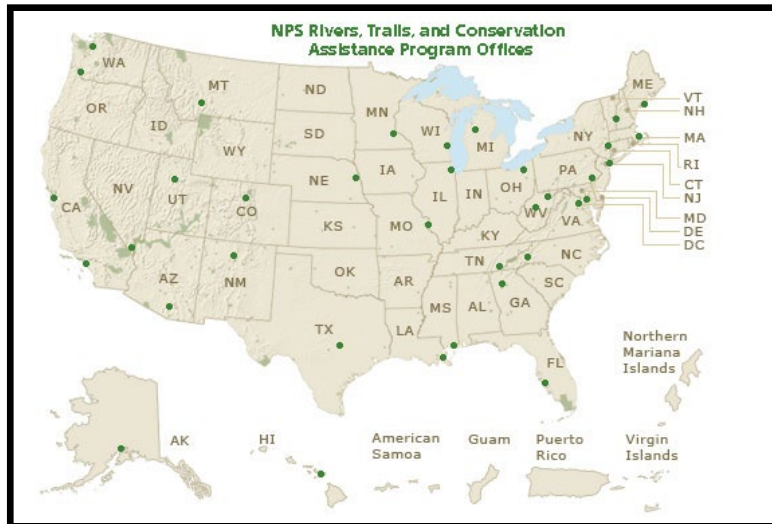
“The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America.”





Who we are -

- A community assistance arm of the National Park Service.
- We support community-led conservation & outdoor recreation projects.
- Provide expertise & experience from around the nation.
- Offer free technical planning assistance through an application process.
- We are working in rural, suburban and urban communities.





Types of Projects

- Nature-based recreation development
- Conservation projects
- Greenways and Trail Development or Enhancement
- River Restoration and Watershed Planning
- Recreational Access or Water Trails
- Open Space Preservation or Planning



Serving Communities

NPS Rivers, Trails, and
Conservation Assistance Program



RTCA is invited by communities and community partners to assist with conservation & recreation partnerships





Supporting Community-Led Projects



RTCA Goal:

*Empower people to conserve their natural resources
and create outdoor recreation opportunities*



Types of Assistance

Technical Planning

- Overall Project Planning, Design or Management
- Resource Assessment
- Planning
- Community Organizing
- Visioning
- Project Branding / Marketing
- Strategic Planning



"Building Partnerships for Project Implementation"





Types of Assistance

- Project Outreach
- Organizational Development
- Partnership Development
- Public Involvement
- Identify Funding Sources



*"Seek a Common Vision
For Conservation &
Outdoor Recreation Goals"*



Creating Recreational, Ecological, and Social Connections



Promoting Healthy Recreation

NPS Rivers, Trails, and
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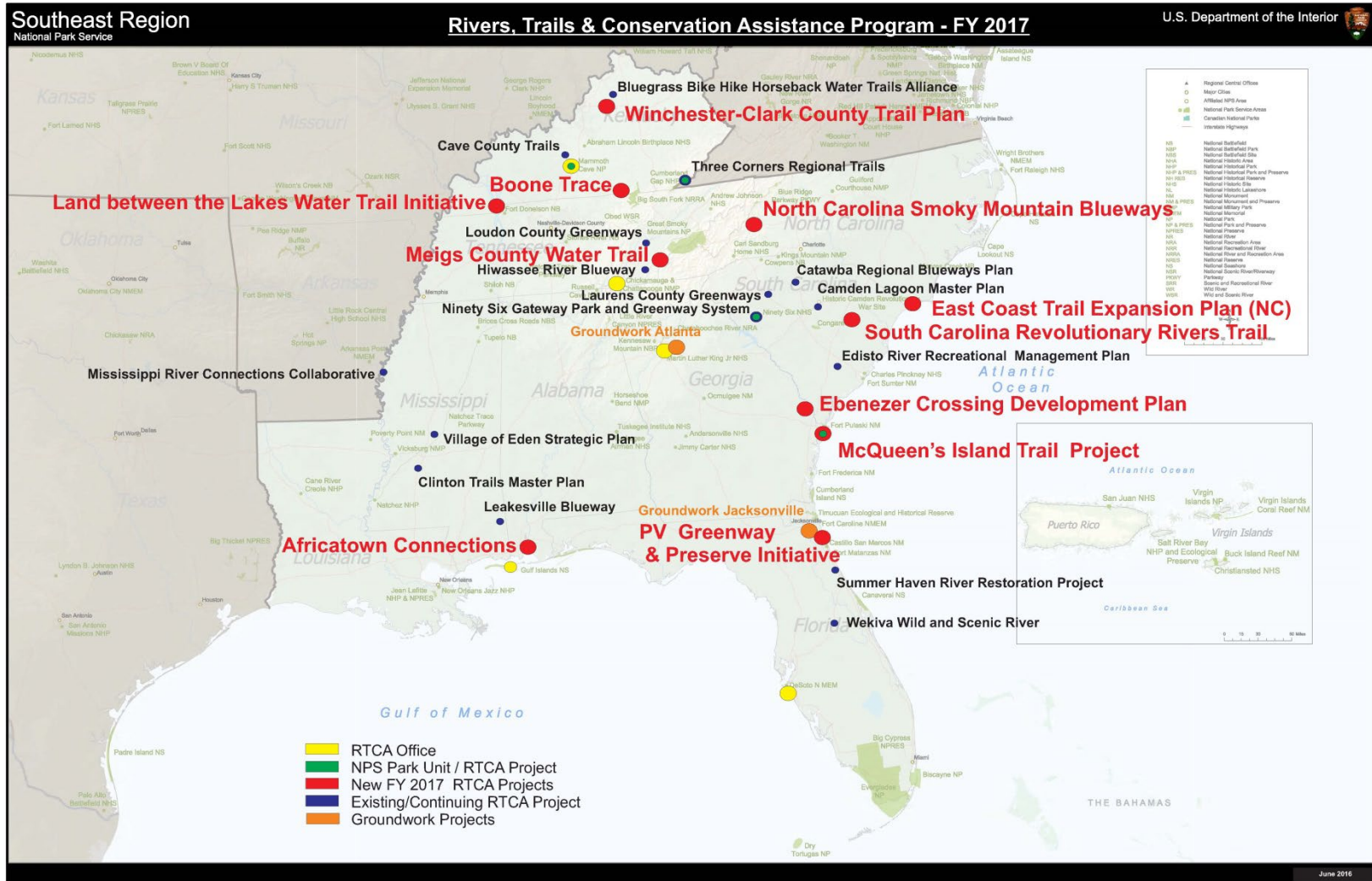


Engaging Youth Partners



Southeast Projects

NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program



What can the RTCA Program do for your project?

Bring the credibility of the
National Park Service
to your project

Engage local
communities
through public
outreach strategies

Assist building project
partnerships

Identify sources for funding
and assist in making your
project more “fundable”

Provide expertise to support the planning of greenway and water
trail projects and land conservation opportunities



Requesting Assistance

NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Application Guidelines

About the Program

The National Park Service (NPS) manages some of our nation's most historic, scenic resources, and critical natural areas. NPS also provides assistance to locally-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. RTCA staff work in urban, rural, and suburban communities to help applicants conserve rivers, preserve natural areas, and develop trails and greenways. Our staff help on a variety of natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects including multi-use trails, single-use trails, greenways, water trails (also called blueways), river corridor conservation, land protection, and park planning.

RTCA staff help with partnership-building to achieve community goals, through organizational development, assessing resources, developing concept plans, public education and participation, and identifying potential sources of funding. The project applicant may be a state or local agency, tribe, non-profit organization, or citizens group. Federal agencies, including the National Park Service, may apply or jointly collaborate with a non-federal partner. RTCA does not provide financial assistance to support project implementation.

Applicants should discuss their project with RTCA staff before applying for assistance. It can be helpful to schedule an advance field visit by our staff to best understand how RTCA can be of assistance.

Please return your completed application to the Program Manager for the region in which your project is located. Contact information is available under "Contact Us" on our website. You may also contact the RTCA Supporter, NPS RTCA Program Manager at 202-534-0900 or chelle_blockman@nps.gov.

For further information about RTCA and the work we are doing around the country with nearly 300 communities, please visit our national website at <http://nps.gov/rtca>.

Project Selection Criteria

Please make applications of eligibility no more than 2 pages. See attached application form. Applicants are evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The project has specific, concrete, definable goals and results expected in the near future (uses of trail or protected river, acres of green space, etc.)
- The project protects or improves certain natural resources or enhances outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Roles and contributions of project partners are substantial and well-defined.
- There is evidence of local community support for the project.
- The anticipated use for RTCA is clear and appropriate.

Current Strategic Themes for RTCA

- provide physical connections among resources;
- improve public natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation;
- partner with an NPS area and/or contract to NPS areas;
- partner with a local organization;
- engage youth.

Applicants are due by **August 1st** for assistance beginning the following fiscal year (October 1st through September 30th). Assistance for the next year may be renewed on a rolling basis upon request. Project selection is generally a two-step process in early November after passage of the federal budget.

* NPS areas include National Areas and Monuments, National Historic Areas, National Trails and Wild Scenic Rivers.

www.nps.gov/rtca 2011 RTCA Application

Consultation?

Short Term Assistance : 1 or 2 months

or

Project?

Long Term Assistance : 1 year

www.nps.gov/rtca

Deadline for Project Applications is March 1st





RTCA Projects

Past SC Projects

- Waccamaw River Blueway
- Waccamaw River National Water Trail Designation
- Revolutionary River Trail (NRT; NWT Designation)
- Laurens County Greenways / Blueways Master Plan
- Florence County Trails Plan
- Palmetto Trail Extension
- Spartanburg Blueways
- Duncan Park Revitalization Plan
- Kings Mt. Gateway Trail Extension
- Berkley County Blueways Plan
- Edisto River Water Trail
- East Coast Greenway (SC)
- Catawba Indian Nation Trails Plan
- Ninety Six Regional Park Plan
- Camden Water Access / Park Plan
- Saluda River Blue Trail / ADA Access

2023 Projects

- Lake City Blueway
- Lincolville Historic Park Plan
- River to River – Palmetto Trail Connection (Broad River to Wateree River)





RTCA Vision

A network of parks, rivers, trails, greenways and open spaces that promote quality of life and link people to their natural and cultural heritage.



Let's Make the Connections

How Can We Help?

Bill Lane

Atlanta Regional Office / SC State Project Manager

Bill_lane@nps.gov

www.nps.gov/rtca

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Thank You



Bill Lane
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program