

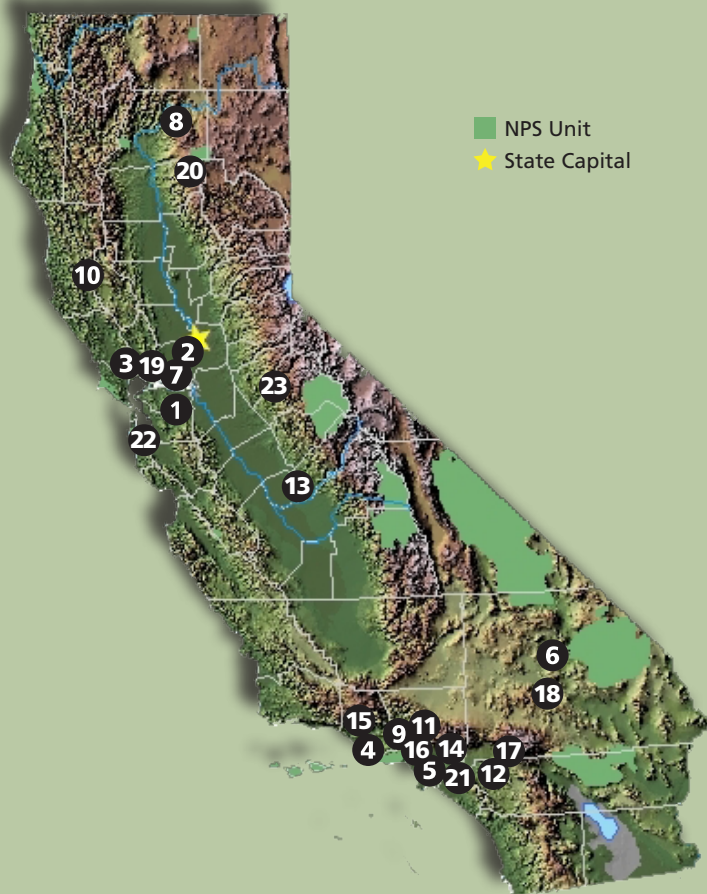


California News



San Francisco Bay Trail Project Manager Laura Thompson on the Landfill Loop.
Photo: Bruce Bayaert

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2012



Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Success

Interpreting the San Francisco Bay Trail in Richmond

Under the committed, resourceful leadership of Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC), and with foundational guidance and support from the Bay Trail Project, the City of Richmond, California is leading the way to completion of the 500-mile San Francisco Bay Trail. Today, Richmond has over 31 miles of Bay Trail - more than any of the other 46 communities working on this regional pedestrian and bike trail that is slowly but surely circling San Francisco Bay.

TRAC has also, over the last decade, been using its successful partnership approach to create and implement a comprehensive program of wayfinding and interpretive elements that enhance access and appreciation for both new and regular visitors to Richmond's Bay Trail.

In 2002 TRAC invited RTCA to help establish its Interpretive Subcommittee and to work with the group to initiate Richmond's Bay Trail interpretive program. Fortunately, Richmond's expansive 32-mile shoreline and richly documented history spanning native American Ohlone settlements, prominence in the early 20th century industrial boom, and emergence

ABOUT US

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.

Current Projects



Partners planting the first site along the Alhambra Creek Botanical Trail in Martinez included students and teacher from New Leaf School, Friends of Alhambra Creek, California Native Plant Society, John Muir National Historic Site, and RTCA's Student Conservation Association fellow. Photo: Peg Henderson.

1. Alhambra Creek & Botanical Trail to John Muir National Historic Site

Project Partner: Friends of Alhambra Creek

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: City of Martinez

This project, located in the City of Martinez in the San Francisco Bay Area, will result in a 3.5 mile trail that will connect the downtown train station (Amtrak) with John Muir National Historic Site, highlighting Alhambra Creek and native plant gardens along the route with connections to regional trails.

2. Cache Creek Parkway

Project Partner: Yolo County Natural Resources

RTCA Contact: Peg Henderson

Location: Communities of Capay and Yolo, approximately 45 miles north east of Sacramento

The county and their partners will continue to improve flood capacity,

restore riparian habitat, and create a network of nature preserves, trails and parklands along a 14 mile reach of Cache Creek. Development of the Cache Creek Parkway Plan will provide the framework and guide the completion of this interlinked system of open space. RTCA staff will assist this effort by providing expertise in team building and facilitation, resource identification, public involvement, and planning.

3. California Coastal Trail

Project Partner: Fifteen coastal counties of California

RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier

With goals for completion as well as improved operation and maintenance of the 1,200 mile California Coastal Trail, RTCA will help the non-profit Coastwalk and its partners build organizational capacity, including potential development of a CA Coastal Trail "association." Work will include research of organizational and funding

models and outreach of agencies and organizations with trail ownership and management responsibilities.

4. California State University Regional Park

Project Partner: California State University, Channel Islands

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: CSUCI Campus, Camarillo

Located as part of the California State University, Channel Islands campus in Camarillo, California, this new 370-acre regional park will include restoration of riparian and upland habitat and establishment of a trail system that connects to existing regional trail networks, including those in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. RTCA is providing assistance with the planning process, stakeholder and community engagement, and the generation of a concept master plan.

Current Projects cont.

5. Compton Creek Regional Garden Park

Project Partner: City of Compton
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin
Location: City of Compton

Assisting the City of Compton to develop an Adopt-a-Trail program to help maintain the trail and incorporate the Equestrian Trail recommendations for future grant proposals and City funded improvements. Establishing an Adopt-a-Trail Program will improve the appearance and welcoming nature of the trail. RTCA is working with the City to create a set of recommendations for the Equestrian Trail to address surface tread, water quality, and safety for the agricultural community of Richland Farms and Compton.

6. Desert Discovery Park

Project Partner: Mojave National Preserve
RTCA Contact: Deb Reardon or Peg Henderson
Location: City of Barstow

This project will convert a vacant lot with limited improvements into a 12-acre park site, including trails and opportunities for outdoor education and community art. RTCA will assist with assembling a conceptual planning document for the park, which may be used to leverage future project funding.

7. Great California Delta Trail

Project Partner: Delta Protection Commission
RTCA Contact: Suzanne Brinkley
Location: Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo counties

The Great California Delta Trail will create a network of approximately 1,000 miles of bicycling and hiking trails around the Delta with regional trail linkages (Bay Trail) and connections to the Sacramento River and Delta parks and recreation facilities, natural resources, and communities. RTCA is

assisting with community engagement, policy analysis and facilitation. The Delta Trail blueprint will set the foundation for future master planning.

8. Great Shasta Rail Trail

Project Partner: McCloud Local First Network
RTCA Contact: Barbara Rice
Location: Between McCloud and Burney in Siskiyou and Shasta counties

This rail-trail project will focus on a proposed 80-mile rail banked recreational trail between McCloud and Burney with connections to national forest and state park lands, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and ultimately extending to the communities of Mount Shasta and Weed. RTCA will work with local partners, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the community to develop a compelling vision and conceptual trail plan.



Mural along Compton Creek Trail. Photo: Anne Dove

Current Projects cont.



Summer enjoyment on the Navarro River at the Greenwood Road Bridge, Philo, CA.
Photo: Patrick Tormay Miller

9. Griffith Park de Anza Trail

Project Partner: Friends of Griffith Park
RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston
Location: City of Los Angeles

RTCA will assist in developing a concept plan for enhancing Griffith Park's 4-mile certified segment of Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, including identifying opportunities for improved community connections to the trail, increasing visibility of the trail through improved signage and interpretation, and making recommendations for trail enhancements focused on long-term conservation and sustainability of the historic resource.

10. Navarro River Water Trail

Project Partner: Anderson Valley Land Trust
RTCA Contact: Stephen Bowes
Location: Mendocino County from the Anderson Valley to the Pacific coast along the Navarro River and Rancheria Creek

This 46-mile waterway, located in Mendocino County, linking the Anderson Valley to the Pacific coast, includes the Navarro River and Rancheria Creek. A water trail assessment will be completed looking at opportunities to expand river based recreation for visitors, local

residents and paddling enthusiasts, between Hendy Woods State Park and the Navarro River Redwoods State Park, while promoting enhanced stewardship of watershed lands.

11. Northeast Los Angeles Trails and Recreation

Project Partner: Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles (CRA/LA)
RTCA Contact: Anne Dove
Location: Northeast area of the City of Los Angeles

As part of a collaborative redevelopment planning effort, this project will lead to implementation of approximately 9 miles of the recreational route of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in northeast Los Angeles. RTCA will work with partners to develop conceptual plans for the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT recreational route along the Los Angeles River. The plans will also address broader river corridor planning for urban open space, recreation, and connectivity.

12. Riverside Citizen Science Program

Project Partner: City of Riverside
RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin
Location: City of Riverside

A collaborative group of agencies in Riverside are pooling resources to create a Citizen Science Program to deliver informal science education to the region. RTCA is helping the group to write strategic and action plans for implementation in late 2012. One of the goals of the project is to engage citizens in 40 acres of riverine wetland restoration with boardwalk and interpretative signage, and restoration of Kangaroo Rat habitat on 1500 acres in Sycamore Canyon Wildlife Park. Sycamore Canyon Park will be home to the Community Science Center offering many programs to the public from this location.

13. San Joaquin River Blueway

Project Partner: San Joaquin River Partnership
RTCA Contact: Linda Stonier
Location: The San Joaquin River from the River Gorge, upstream of Millerton Lake, to the San Francisco Bay Delta

This year RTCA will help the Partnership on two fronts - to further the goals of the "San River Blueway Vision for Public Enjoyment and Stewardship of the San Joaquin River" through stakeholder outreach and integration of the Blueway concept into planning and policy efforts; and to initiate creation of a "Blueway Visitors' Guide" to identify and demonstrate quality, appropriate public access opportunities, and to increase public enjoyment and appreciation of the San Joaquin for Valley residents and visitors.

14. Santa Fe Dam Nature Center Trails

Project Partner: San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy
RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston
Location: City of Irwindale

The focus of this project is the development of a conceptual trail plan for the Nature Center area of the Santa Fe

Current Projects cont.

Dam Recreation Area. This project will result in a network of trails throughout the 500-acres of natural area surrounding the Nature Center. The trail system will improve connections between Santa Fe Dam's existing natural and recreational resources including the regional San Gabriel Bike Trail.

15. Ventura River Parkway

Project Partner: Friends of the Ventura River

RTCA Contact: Patrick Johnston

Location: Ventura River Corridor near City of Ventura

This project will result in the development of 6-10 miles of connector trails along the lower eight mile stretch of the Ventura River, providing key access to the river corridor for several of the area's most park-poor communities. RTCA is assisting in the development of a conceptual trail plan for this area, identifying key linkages, analyzing opportunities and constraints, and making recommendations on trail design options.

16. Wellness Center Healthy Community Maps

Project Partner: Amigos de los Rios

RTCA Contact: MaLisa Martin

Location: Boyle Heights community in the City of Los Angeles

This project seeks to engage the community, health agencies, and youth in mapping safe and accessible routes within the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles and the revitalized Wellness Center. Together with the community partners we will identify gaps in pedestrian mobility and create a prioritized list of projects to promote neighborhood pedestrian circulation for health and recreation.

17. Zanja Trail and Greenway

Project Partner: City of Redlands

RTCA Contact: Anne Dove

Location: City of Redlands

This project will result in the creation of a six-mile greenway that follows the alignment of the historic irrigation ditch, the "Mill Creek Zanja", located within the City of Redlands and the community of Crafton in San Bernardino County. The Mill Creek Zanja, constructed by Serrano Indians in 1819, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Consultations

We are also pleased to note the following consultations. Consultations are efforts that strategically focus on a more limited scope of work, achieved in the short term, such as retreat/workshop planning and facilitation, visioning, program development, and project planning.

18. California Desert Managers, Conservation Land Acquisition Work Group

Project Partner: Bureau of Land Management/Desert Managers Group

Location: Barstow

19. Gateway to West Sonoma County

Project Partner: Sonoma County Regional Parks Department

Location: Occidental

20. Lassen Volcanic National Park Gateway & Natural Resource Planning

Project Partner: Lassen Volcanic National Park

Location: Northeastern California

21. Partnerships for Trails

Project Partner: Trails4All

Location: Southern California region

22. San Francisco Peninsula Conservation & Recreation

Project Partner: Golden Gate National Recreation Area/Peninsula Work Group

Location: San Mateo County

23. Transit to Parks

Project Partner: USDA Forest Service

Location: Central Sierra Nevada region



Cyclists riding along the San Gabriel River Trail through the Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area in Irwindale, California. Photo: Patrick Johnston

We're Here For You.

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

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2011 Nationwide Partnership Success

- 1,991 Miles of Trail Developed
- 1,925 Miles of River Conserved
- 33,230 Acres of Open Space and
Parkland Protected
- 94% Percentage of Community
Partners Satisfied

Find more information online
at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Recent Success cont.

as a major shipbuilding center during World War II are fodder for many fascinating stories. The area's natural and cultural features, along with the community's renaissance as a recreational and heritage destination including the establishment of Rosie the Riveter World War II National Homefront Historical Park, provide a wealth of opportunities for meaningful and welcome interpretation along the Bay Trail.

For its first project with RTCA, the Interpretive Subcommittee created a series of wayfinding and interpretive panels for the Seacliff Drive, Ferry Point, and Brickyard Cove trail segments. These waysides focused on quarrying and brickmaking, the historic Kaiser shipyards, shorebirds, and shoreline transformation. Local designer Bette Tarr designed the graphics and Toll Brothers developers contributed funding for design, fabrication, and installation.

Soon after the signs went in, a Brickyard Landing resident wrote to TRAC, "Big Kudos for the terrific signage now erected along the trail in front of Brickyard Cove Road and Seacliff Drive. I think they are just terrific..and a marvelous addition to the neighborhood. Thanks!"

RTCA and the Subcommittee then partnered with Rosie the Riveter World War II National Homefront Historical Park, Richmond Sanitary Service, and local designer Jan Brown to develop and distribute an interpretive trail guide for the very popular Marina Bay section of the trail.

Ultimately, inspired and enabled by its interpretive work with RTCA, TRAC went on to partner with West County Wastewater District, East Bay Regional Park District, the

*"TRAC has built upon
the skills RTCA taught
and the confidence
their staff instilled to
prepare two more trail
guides and many inter-
pretive and orientation
signs."*

-Bruce Bayaert, TRAC Chair

Port of Richmond and others to create and install a total of 22 interpretive exhibits and wayfinding signs on the Bay Trail and to produce two additional interpretive trail guides in the now-popular Richmond Bay Trail User Guide series.

A sampling of the Richmond Bay Trail Interpretive Program can be viewed at:

<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/signs.htm>

<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/map.htm>

