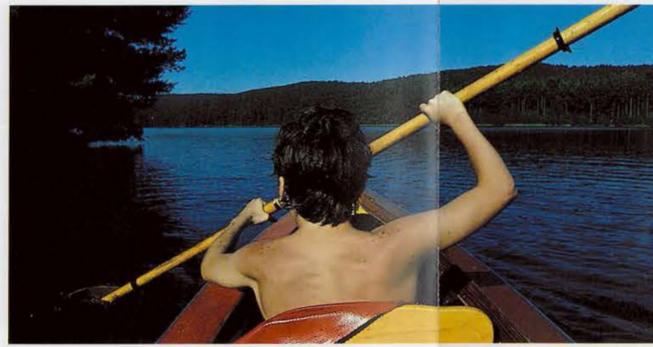
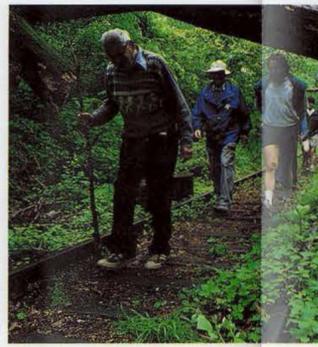


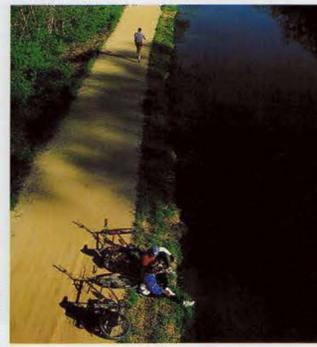
# RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



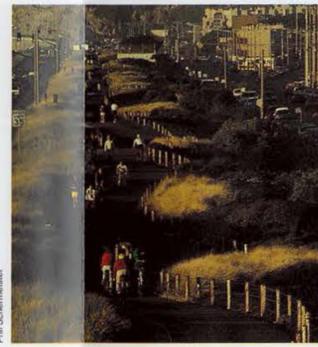
Your community and every community contain special places. These places might be obvious and well known, like a nearby park, a historic district, or this scenic stretch of river . . .



... Or their potential might be awaiting discovery. This abandoned railroad right-of-way, for example, could be turned into a trail for walking, cycling, and exploring.



Conserving rivers and trail corridors improves the quality of life and enhances local property values.



Rivers, trails, and open space provide opportunities not only for recreation and tourism but also for car-free transportation to schools, stores, and workplaces. More than mere amenities, these assets are benchmarks of healthy communities.



Open spaces close to home also protect the environment and preserve wildlife habitat. The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance



program of the National Park Service can help your community identify what your local resources are and devise appropriate ways to conserve them.

## TAKING ACTION

Small treasures close to home add immeasurable value to your community. A cool running creek to splash in on a hot summer day, a pathway that invites us into the outdoors, a historic building or a cherished valley view—these special places help to give your community its personality and character.

Do you feel these beloved resources vanishing, never to be enjoyed by future generations? Are these places becoming neglected or simply disappearing? You and your neighbors can play the crucial role in preserving the resources you value. Working together, you and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) can:

- Link together parks, schoolyards, open spaces, and residential areas with a network of safe, quiet greenways.
- Put the natural sparkle back into a neglected waterway.

- Recycle an abandoned railroad right-of-way into a trail for people in walking shoes, on bicycles, in wheelchairs, on crosscountry skis, in baby carriages, or on roller skates.
- Preserve open space for trees and animals, helping bring nature back to your city or town.

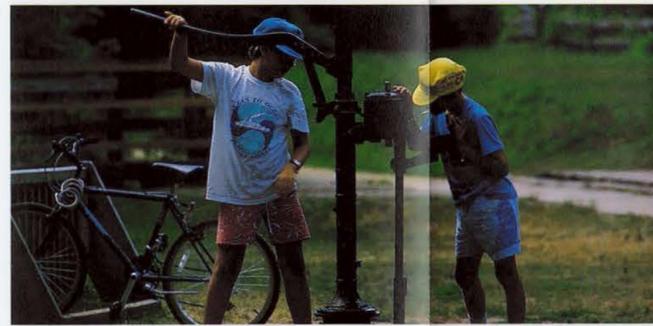
- Teach conservation-minded landowners how to ensure that their property is forever treated with the same care they have shown.
- Use your community's natural surroundings, culture, and history as a focus for educational and cultural activities, community celebrations, and tourism.

Just as citizens in hundreds of communities around the country have done, you can seize opportunities like these and find ways to manage and conserve local assets with the help of the RTCA program. The program can bring the knowledge and experience gained in protecting America's great national parks to your conservation project. We can help you solve local problems, without federal ownership or control.



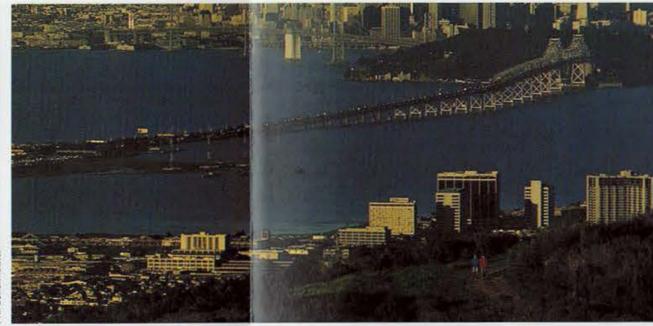
Illustrations by Greg Harlin

# RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



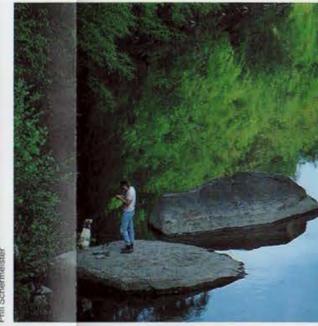
People everywhere are finding ways to preserve special places. The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program helps communities protect the resources they value without involv-

ing federal ownership or management. Local residents decide what they want their project to accomplish, and the Park Service provides help with technical issues that might otherwise keep a local effort from succeeding.

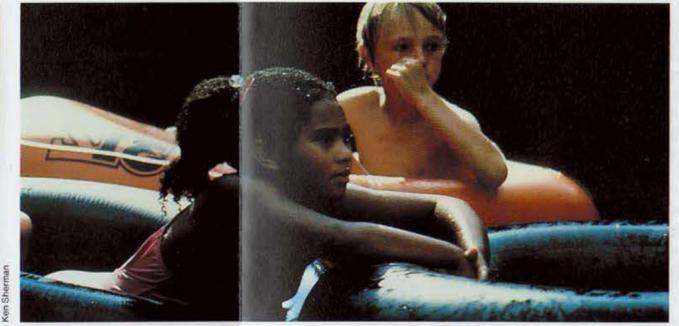


The opportunity to protect local landscapes exists in every city and town, ranging from historic waterfronts to rambling rural trails to urban refuges of open space. These places can link peo-

ple together, develop a sense of community, build neighborhoods, and create a common heritage.



The places we care about can change with alarming speed. But communities working together can shape the direction of that change to protect special places for their children.



If your community might benefit from a partnership with the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, please contact the appropriate National Park Service office listed below.

## Working Together

Citizens, landowners, and local officials who care about your community's future are the people who will make these projects successful. The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is here to help coordinate planning and project work. The partnerships forged by RTCA stress local leadership and local implementation.

The RTCA program helps communities protect rivers, trails, and greenways on lands outside the federal domain and without federal ownership. By lending the broad skills and high credibility of the National Park Service to local projects, we help other groups achieve their goals.

RTCA is based on the principle of partnerships. By working together, residents, landowners, government agencies, and private organizations can meet the challenges of conservation. The National Park Service works with all of these groups to help them establish goals, resolve difficult

issues, and reach consensus on how community resources should be used and managed. We become involved at the request of the community, serving as a catalyst for local action.

RTCA acts in partnership with a range of other organizations. Grassroots groups provide the critical energy to move a project from conception to completion. Every river, trail, or other important place can have a group of "Friends," a protective association, or a land trust. If yours does not, RTCA can help you form one.

Regional and state organizations can coordinate and support local groups and act as umbrella organizations that make local group efforts more visible and effective. National nonprofit groups can help share information and ideas around the country. The RTCA staff can help link you and your local group with such groups and their broad constituencies.



## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

## Types of Assistance

RTCA is committed to assisting projects in ways that produce measurable, tangible results in a relatively short time. We can provide you with information about a specific procedure or issue, or develop long-term, working relationships with you and your local community.

RTCA provides the following types of assistance:

**River, Trail, and Greenway Planning**  
RTCA helps communities move projects from the idea to the reality. We lend expertise in ecology, consensus-building, trail design, and river access. We can help you harness public involvement to identify resources, understand the issues, set goals, and choose among the alternatives. RTCA also helps projects find ways to attract the financial support that leads to tangible results.

**Regional Assessments** Efforts to conserve natural places often need to be reconciled with other needs. Making choices in these cases is difficult. RTCA helps states or large metropolitan regions inventory and evaluate their significant river and trail corridors. Each assessment is tailored to specific regional needs and conditions. These assessments of natural, cultural, and recreational resources provide information that enables local officials and public and private landowners to make better decisions.

**Conservation Workshops and Consultations** RTCA provides training, advice, and information on river and trail conservation techniques. We can put you in touch with professionals and citizen groups that specialize in recreation, trail design, landowner liability, public involvement, and the economic benefits of conservation.

## Requirements for Assistance

Information and advice on many conservation and recreation topics are available from any National Park Service office (see addresses below). However, a group seeking longer-term assistance must formally apply for it. The program receives far more requests each year than can be accommodated. Successful applicants generally meet several criteria:

**An Involved Public** Conservation projects are more likely to succeed if they have broad public support. The RTCA program requires meaningful public participation in both planning and implementation of selected projects because full public involvement builds popular support.

**Cost-Sharing and Cooperation** Public agencies and private groups sponsoring a project must help fund it, with either cash

or in-kind services. Usually, the larger the project, the smaller the Park Service share. At the beginning of each project, participants formally agree to cooperate as active partners.

**Results Orientation** Successful applications have specific, tangible, attainable goals. We work with communities to help them develop citizen groups and take actions that will achieve specific goals, such as building a trail, protecting a tract of fragile riverside land, or launching an annual river clean-up and festival.

**Significant Resources** Proposed projects should protect or enhance important community resources (such as rivers, trails, and landscapes) that will help to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.



## Getting Started

If you are a citizen with an idea for a project, discuss it with others in your community to see if there is some common interest. Our staff can help you decide what the best course of action might be, and if it appears that your project fits the program's criteria, we will help you develop an application.

For more information on the RTCA program and procedures for requesting assistance, contact your regional National Park Service office or the Washington, D.C., headquarters, as listed at right.

**Alaska Region**  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 257-2650

**Mid-Atlantic Region**  
National Park Service  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
(215) 597-1581  
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, and WEST VIRGINIA

**Midwest Region**  
National Park Service  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, NE 68102  
(402) 221-3481  
ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, KANSAS, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, OHIO, and WISCONSIN

**North Atlantic Region**  
National Park Service  
15 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
(617) 223-5203  
CONNECTICUT, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, RHODE ISLAND, and VERMONT

**Pacific Northwest Region**  
National Park Service  
909 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 220-4079  
IDAHO, OREGON, and WASHINGTON

**Rocky Mountain Region**  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, CO 80225  
(303) 969-2850  
COLORADO, MONTANA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, UTAH, and WYOMING

**Southeast Region**  
National Park Service  
75 Spring Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
(404) 331-5838  
ALABAMA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, KENTUCKY, MISSISSIPPI, NORTH CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO, SOUTH CAROLINA, TENNESSEE, and the VIRGIN ISLANDS

**Southwest Region**  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 728  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505) 988-6762  
ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, NEW MEXICO, OKLAHOMA, and TEXAS

**Western Region**  
National Park Service  
600 Harrison Street  
Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
(415) 744-3975  
ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, HAWAII, and NEVADA

**National Park Service**  
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013  
(202) 343-3780