

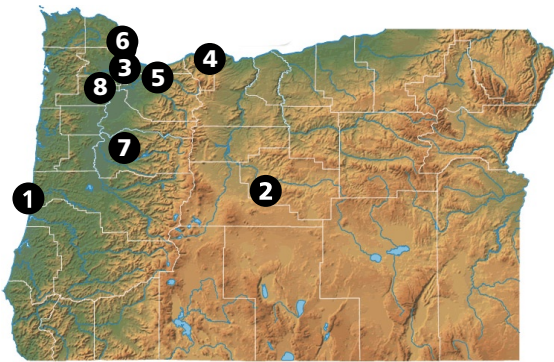


# Oregon News



Access to Portland's waterfront provides close-to-home recreation and a connection to cityscape vistas. Photo: Portland Metro

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2008



### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Alsea River Water Trail**  
Port of Alsea
- 2. Deschutes River Water Trail**  
Bend Paddle Trail Alliance
- 3. Groundwork Portland**  
City of Portland
- 4. Hood River County Trails**  
Hood River County
- 5. Sandy River Water Trail & River Access**  
American Whitewater
- 6. WA-OR Bi-State Regional Trails**  
City of Vancouver/Clark County Parks & Recreation  
Department/Portland Metro
- 7. Willamette Valley Birding Trail**  
Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development
- 8. Yamhill River Trail**  
Yamhill County Parks & Recreation

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### “Voice of the River” Resonates in Baker City

Baker City's Leo Adler Memorial Parkway is a 2.5-mile riverside park and pathway connecting a series of eight public spaces along the Powder River, including gardens honoring the early Chinese community, mining history, and the Leo Adler Walk of Scholars. Interpretive themes and public art projects depicting “the voice of the river” were integrated in the concept plan that RTCA helped partners craft in 1998. Since then, the city has leveraged \$1.5 million for trail construction, land acquisitions and easements, river restoration, interpretive displays and public art.

*“Recreation has really increased--you should see the river--kids are loaded in there!”*

- Baker City Planner.



Bas relief murals on the sides of several old bridges along the parkway depict “the voice of the river” and stories from Baker City's Rich History. Photo: NPS-RTCA



# Current Projects



The Alsea River Water Trail embraces the Port's mission to support economic development and protect the bay and river. The City of Waldport and upriver marinas are enthusiastic trail partners. Photo: David Chui, NPS-VIP Program

## 1. Alsea River Water Trail

Lead Partner: Port of Alsea

The Port envisions a 10-mile water trail, from Alsea Bay to the head of tide on the Alsea River, for non-motorized paddle craft. With no commercial or industrial development, and designated an Important Birding Area, Alsea Bay is an ideal location for a water trail. RTCA is helping to develop a concept plan, public outreach, and educational

materials. The water trail will include public and private facilities, and kayak rentals by the Waldport High School Youth Entrepreneurs.

## 2. Deschutes River Water Trail

Lead Partner: Bend Paddle Trail Alliance

Project partners are working together to develop a canoe and kayaking route

on the Deschutes River near Bend. With Rivers & Trails assistance, the Trail Alliance has completed a comprehensive water trail inventory, secured over \$85,000 in funds, and printed a boating guide to the water trail. A dedication celebration will take place in Fall '08.

## 3. Groundwork Portland

Lead Partner: City of Portland

The City of Portland, Organizing People Activating Leaders (OPAL), EPA, Oregon Sustainable Agriculture Land Trust, and Oregon Tradeswomen Inc. are focusing their Groundworks restoration efforts in Portland's traditionally underserved areas. RTCA is working with project partners to form a new non-profit whose mission is to transform blighted land parcels and brownfields into parks, gardens and community-oriented spaces.

## 4. Hood River County Trails

Lead Partner: Hood River County

Hood River County applied to RTCA for assistance in developing a trail plan and use map for their popular system of over 200 miles of trails. RTCA is helping to develop an action plan for the planning effort, facilitating decision-making, and creating a web-based trail-use questionnaire.



The Deschutes paddle trail allows clear boat passage where possible, paralleling the scenic Deschutes Walking Trail through the City of Bend. A "park and play" whitewater spot is also part of the trail, creating a place for paddlers to improve their skills in a safe environment close to home, while also attracting visiting paddlers, enhancing tourism for the City of Bend, and minimizing human impact upon the river. Photos: Bend Paddle Trail Alliance



# Current Projects (cont.)

## 5. Sandy River Water Trail & River Access

Lead Partner: American Whitewater

The successful outcome of this project will be a river access plan for the Sandy River. Key partners include Oregon State Parks and Recreation, and the Bureau of Land Management. RTCA is helping to facilitate planning meetings, conduct a public parcel inventory, and develop a water trail plan.



## 6. WA-OR Bi-State Regional Trails

Lead Partner: City of Vancouver/Clark County Parks & Recreation Department/Portland Metro

RTCA is working with local and regional governments and non-profits from WA and OR to inventory existing trails in the Vancouver/Portland Metro Area to prioritize opportunities, identify and solve issues, and create a trail plan.

Willamette Valley Birding Trail partners are planning a 500-mile route that includes more than 100 prime birding sites, with links to the state's Cascade, Coast, Klamath, and Basin & Range Birding Trails. Photo: Portland Metro



## 7. Willamette Valley Birding Trail

Lead Partner: Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development

RTCA is working with project partners to designate a self-guided driving tour of more than 120 birding sites in the Willamette Valley. This will be Oregon's fifth state birding trail in a system that highlights the state's unique ecoregions and their habitat diversity, where 507 different species of birds have been recorded.

A bi-state trails website will soon showcase historic and scenic attractions in the Vancouver/Portland Metro Area. Photos: Portland Metro

## 8. Yamhill River Trail

Lead Partner: Yamhill County Parks & Recreation

The county is exploring the potential for multi-use land and water trail along the Yamhill River, with several rural towns, recreation groups, and landowners who support the creation of a community trail. The proposed 3 to 5 mile trail will connect the communities of Lafayette and Dayton, and five existing parks.



An historic footbridge across the Yamhill River will be the eastern terminus of the Yamhill River Trail. Photo: David Chui, NPS-VIP Program



## We're Here For You.

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

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## THE RTCA PROGRAM

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.

Find more information online at [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Successes cont.

### Jacksonville Woodlands Wins State Award

In 2007, the Jacksonville Woodlands Association received the Oregon Heritage Excellence Award for protecting the natural and cultural heritage of historic Jacksonville through establishment of the Jacksonville Woodlands and Trail System. After RTCA assisted with development of a woodlands management plan, the Association acquired over 320 acres of land, developed 10 miles of trails, installed interpretive signs; commissioned public art, and published visitor brochures. Grants of \$908,500 funded wildfire hazards reduction and restoration of woodlands habitat on 1,335 acres.



Visitors to the Jacksonville Woodlands try their hand at gold panning. Photo: Larry Smith

*“Of the hundreds of towns that we have visited this past year, I have not found any town the size of Jacksonville with the foresight and citizen support to have successfully preserved over 300 acres of natural woodlands like we have.”*

Larry Smith, Jacksonville Woodlands Association

### Water Trail Pairs Paddling with Ecology

RTCA worked with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership in 2004 to create the Lower Columbia River Water Trail, a 146-mile stretch of the Columbia River between Bonneville Dam and the Pacific Ocean.

The Estuary Partnership recently initiated “On-River Educational Field Trips in Big Canoes,” where students, teachers, and parents measure water quality, observe wildlife, and learn about water safety.

For more news, visit [www.columbiawatertrail.org](http://www.columbiawatertrail.org).



Two 34-foot canoes serve as floating classrooms on the Lower Columbia River Water Trail.

Photo: Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership