



# NPS-RTCA

## Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

### About Us

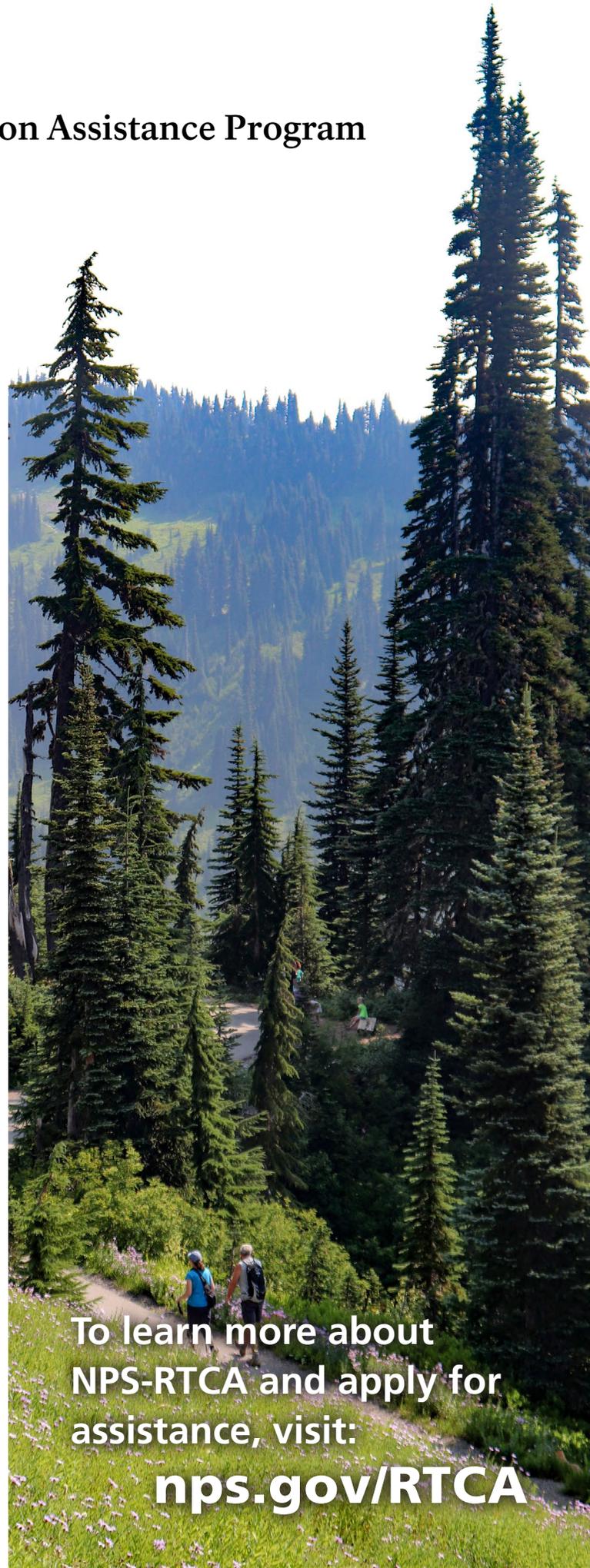
The National Park Service, through the **Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance** program (NPS-RTCA), has supported locally-led conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the United States for more than 30 years. NPS-RTCA assists communities in developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors. Through an annual application process, community groups, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state and federal agencies can apply for NPS-RTCA technical assistance.

### Our Model

Across the country, NPS-RTCA staff pair their professional planning, design and technical expertise with your team and knowledge experts from the community. Together, our 1 to 2 year-long partnership works to achieve your conservation and outdoor recreation vision. Based on the complexity of the project, we tailor our assistance to meet your needs and help you navigate a path to success. Although NPS-RTCA is not a grant-funding program, we can help your organization identify potential funding sources for your project.

### Community Engagement

As a collaborative partner, we strive to achieve successful project outcomes by engaging communities in the visioning, planning and implementation of each project. We encourage strong community partnerships and facilitate meaningful engagement to ensure your conservation and outdoor recreation projects last into perpetuity.



To learn more about  
NPS-RTCA and apply for  
assistance, visit:  
[nps.gov/RTCA](https://nps.gov/RTCA)



## Parks

Creating a system of parks for all

# Building Healthy Communities



## Trails

Creating a network of trails for public health and enjoyment



## Heritage

Helping communities preserve cultural connections to lands and waters

## Health

Developing outdoor recreation strategies that support community health goals

## Accessibility

Developing equitable access to the nation's lands and waters

## Water Trails

Creating public access to explore our nation's waterways

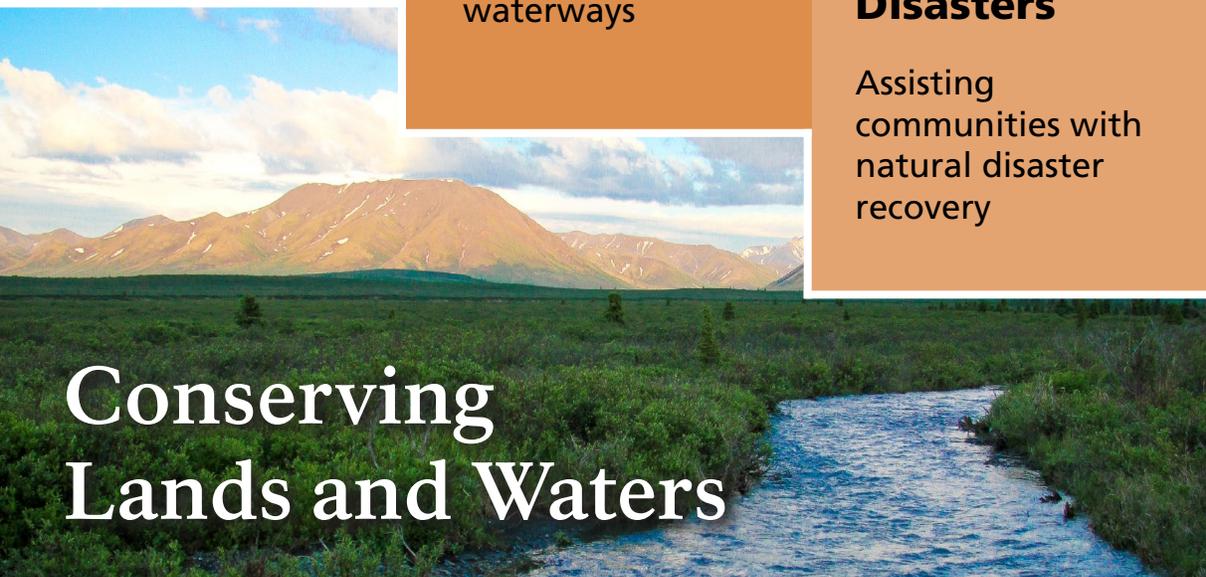
## Natural Disasters

Assisting communities with natural disaster recovery



## Underutilized Spaces

Reimagining underutilized spaces for community use



# Conserving Lands and Waters

## Climate Change Adaptation

Assisting communities in becoming resilient to a changing climate

## Land and Habitat Conservation

Developing local and regional conservation strategies

## River Restoration

Restoring rivers to their natural systems



## Organizational Development

Strengthening the capacity of organizations

## Collaboration Services

Bringing interested parties together to implement shared goals



# Developing Organizational Capacity



# Supporting Public Land Management Collaboration

## National Parks

Supporting parks and their gateway communities



## State and Federal Lands

A large landscape approach to working together



## Youth Program Development

Engaging the next generation in America's great outdoors

# Engaging Youth

## Youth Stewardship

Engaging local youth in the planning and development of conservation and outdoor recreation projects



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who are we?

The **National Park Service – Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program (NPS-RTCA)** assists communities, public land managers and nonprofit organizations with conservation and outdoor recreation projects. NPS-RTCA provides professional planning, design and technical expertise to help achieve your conservation and outdoor recreation vision.

## Does NPS-RTCA provide funding?

No. NPS-RTCA is not a grant-funding program, but we can help you identify potential funding sources for your project.

## What kind of projects does NPS-RTCA support?

Our program staff support locally-led projects that develop or restore parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as create outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.

## Are NPS-RTCA staff contractors?

The NPS-RTCA model is to combine the skills of our staff with those of your organization. It's a partnership – we work alongside your team and local knowledge experts to assist with the work that you are leading.

## How much time do NPS-RTCA staff spend on each project?

Typically, NPS-RTCA staff collaborate with communities for 1 to 2 years on conservation and outdoor recreation projects. Depending on the complexity of the project and our staffing capacity, the time frame may be extended.

## Who can apply for assistance from NPS-RTCA?

NPS-RTCA provides services to established community groups, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state and federal agencies.

## How can you apply for assistance from NPS-RTCA?

NPS-RTCA support is provided when we are invited to assist you on a conservation or outdoor recreation project. We encourage you to contact us to discuss your project before applying. The application is available on our website: [www.nps.gov/RTCA](http://www.nps.gov/RTCA)

 [nps.gov/RTCA](http://nps.gov/RTCA)

 [NPS\\_RTCA@nps.gov](mailto:NPS_RTCA@nps.gov)

 [facebook.com/RTCANPS](https://facebook.com/RTCANPS)

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

