



An Overview of the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program in Texas

Kathryn Nichols
Community Planner, NPS

Krista Sherwood
Community Planner, NPS

*North Central Texas Council of Governments
Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
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NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program



Who We Are

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.



NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program



RTCA is...

- A planning & technical assistance program
- Community-based



- Available to non-profits, local, state, and federal agencies
- NOT a Grants Program



How We Work

- Collaboratively with a variety of partners
- By local request
- Assistance is tailored to partner's needs





Types of Assistance

- Building partnerships to achieve community-set goals
- Assessing resources
- Developing concept plans
- Engaging public participation
- Identifying potential sources of funding





Types of Assistance

- Creating public outreach
- Organizational development
- Providing conservation and recreation information





Project Examples - 2011

- Greens Bayou Corridor
- Montopolis Tributary Trails
- Northeast Texas Rail Trail
- Poteet Middle Camino Real Recreation Trail





Application Process

- Call for Applications announced in the Spring
- **Applications are due August 1**
- Project Selection announced in September
- RTCA Assistance begins in October





Applications should:

- Include a brief description of the project & the needs
- Explain how the project will improve natural resources & enhance recreation
- Identify project partners & provide three (3) Letters of Support & additional examples of support (i.e., plans, political endorsements, etc.)
- Include a description of the type of assistance needed from RTCA
- Identify the NPS RTCA Strategic Initiatives that the project addresses





NPS RTCA Strategic Initiatives



- Network providing physical connections among resources
- Includes both natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation
- Partner with an NPS area
- Partner with a health organization
- Engages youth





Project Selection Criteria

- Project has specific partner-defined goals and tangible conservation or outdoor recreation results
- Protects, improves or enhances natural resources or outdoor recreation





Project Selection Criteria

- Roles and contributions of partners
- Evidence of broad community support
- Clearly stated & appropriate RTCA role



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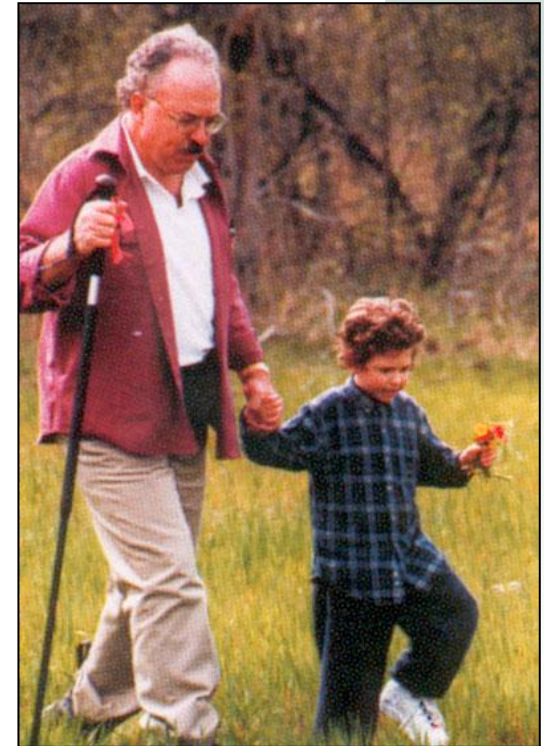
P. O. Box 688
San Marcos, TX 78667

Kathryn Nichols (512) 245-7246

Krista Sherwood (210) 627-1203

Marta Newkirk (512) 245-7232

Chance Kinnison (512) 245-7232



www.nps.gov/rtca