

Rhode Island Blueways Update #1

July 11, 2006



Meg Kerr, Alison Wald, Carolyn Richardson and John Monroe

Summer is in full swing and I hope this note finds you out on the water often. Since the Blueways Design Workshop on April 25th, Blueways continues to move ahead on a number of angles. Periodically, we'll send you a brief note to keep you informed and involved.

For more information, or to lend a hand, please call Meg Kerr at 401 714 2313.

Interns and Volunteers

As of July, Alison Wald and Carolyn Richardson are doing fieldwork along the Blackstone and Pawtuxet Rivers. Using a Blueways inventory sheet based on the work of other water trails, Alison and Carolyn are visiting waterfront access sites to assess launch and landing features, nearby amenities and needs for conservation improvements. They will also chat with “paddlesport” outfitters to make good connections.

The Salt Ponds Coalition will be using the form to collect access information in the South Shore ponds. We would welcome others to help out on their favorite waterway. Call Meg if you are interested, too.

Joe Baer, of the Wheeler School in Providence, is the newest member of the Rivers Council. With his background and interest in paddling, he has volunteered to pitch in on Blueways. Already, he has helped with the access inventory sheet. We appreciate his help.

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Mapping

Paul Jordan of DEM continues to work with us as we collect access site and paddling route data and images. Our intention is to create a Blueways website that links to the DEM mapping and database for detailed trip planning.

Funding

The Rivers Council in partnership with the Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Councils has made available funding to support Blueways work on the Pawtuxet River.

Paddling Event

A September event is in the works to celebrate Blueways paddling opportunities already in place. Stay tuned for more information as we select a date and invite your involvement.

We are eager to show the power of Blueways by doing, not just talking and showing!

Do you have ideas or energy to offer? Please call Meg -- 401 714 2313 -- and she'll be delighted to look for a way to connect.



Rhode Island Blueways is a pilot project of the Rhode Island Rivers Council. In 2006, with the technical assistance of the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program we launched Blueways. Using lessons learned from other water trails across America, we will create a state-wide network of paddling trails, from freshwater streams and ponds to estuaries and the open ocean. Paddling “trails” are defined by clear information for paddlers, convenient access sites and portages, and conservation of the land and water on which we travel.

For more information about the Rivers Council, go to www.ririvers.org. To learn more about Rivers & Trails, see www.nps.gov/rtca.