



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rivers, Trails, and
Conservation Assistance

1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
202-565-1200 phone
202-565-1204 fax

Rivers & Trails News Release

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Contact: Alan Turnbull, 202-565-1191
alan_turnbull@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/rtca

Toothpaste and Soap Improving Rivers

National Park Service and Nonprofit Partners Benefit from Tom's of Maine River Conservation Grants

Seven small nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting the rivers in their communities have received grants totaling \$30,000 from the National Park Foundation through the Tom's of Maine's River Awareness Campaign. The money will benefit rivers through a wide variety of conservation and recreation projects.

Groups are using the funds for river restoration, canoe access, public awareness, land protection, streambank stabilization, trail construction, and more. Each project was conceived by community based organizations and responds to the particular needs of local rivers.

The recipients, and the projects they will undertake, are:

1. Damariscotta River Association (\$5,000); to restore Alewife habitat and create a viewing area on the Damariscotta River in Maine. For further information, contact Julie Isbill, 207-725-5028 or julie_isbill@nps.gov
2. Groundwork Elizabeth (\$8,500); To put on a high-visibility public relations and beautification event on the Elizabeth River in New Jersey. For further information, contact Cynthia Szymanski, 202-354-6912 or cynthia_szymanski@nps.gov

(more)

3. Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers (\$5,000): To build a "rain garden" at Tonowanda Elementary School in the Underwood Creek/Menominee River watershed in Wisconsin. For further information, contact Angie Tornes, 414-297-3605 or angie_tornes@nps.gov
4. Big Sioux River Corridor Council (\$3000): To install signs and create access areas and portages for the Big Sioux Water Trail segment from Sioux Falls to Newton Hills, South Dakota. For further information, contact David Thomson, 402-221-3459 or dave_thomson@nps.gov
5. University Kayak Club (\$5,000): To formalize three popular river access points and educate whitewater enthusiasts in order to protect the river and riverbanks on the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River in Washington. For further information, contact Dan Miller, 206-220-4122 or dan_miller@nps.gov or Susan Rosebrough, 206-221-4121 or susan_rosebrough@nps.gov
6. El Rio de los Reyes en Reedley Conservation Trust (\$5,000): To protect riparian habitat by creating a formal low-water river crossing on the King's River in California. For further information, contact: Sally Sheridan, 805-687-6090 or SallySheridan@msn.com
7. Lynn Canal Conservation, Inc. (\$2,000): To help provide a seasonal staff person who provides one-on-one visitor education in a heavily used riverfront recreation area on the Chillkoot River in Alaska. For further information, contact Cassie Thomas, 907-257-2644 or cassie_thomas@nps.gov

These nonprofit organizations were eligible for the grants because they have partnered with the National Park Service's Rivers & Trails program to preserve or restore their local rivers and waterways. The Rivers & Trails Program typically provides technical assistance for community-based river conservation, but not funding. Tom's of Maine is helping take this community assistance work further by providing these grants through its River Awareness Campaign.

"These grassroots groups have developed important conservation plans with assistance from NPS, and now they can put them right into action with this funding from Tom's of Maine." said NPS Director Fran Mainella. "Since we've worked with each of these groups before, we are confident their results will benefit the rivers and their communities."

The Tom's of Maine Rivers Awareness Program is partnering with Rivers & Trails to enable river groups to accomplish tangible, on-the-ground conservation projects while increasing public awareness of local river issues. The grants are administered by the

National Park Foundation, created by Congress in 1967 as the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service.

The NPS Rivers & Trails program works with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. Rivers & Trails helps local coalitions develop concept plans, build partnerships to achieve community-set goals, engage the public's imagination, and identify potential sources of funding. More information is available at www.nps.gov/rtca.

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