



VA Recreation and Park Society Governor's Conference On Greenways, Blueways and Trails 2008

**Water Trail Planning and Management
Monday, October 6, 2008 8:00am**

What is a water Trail?

- Recreational & educational corridor
- Single & multiple day experiences
- Access Points
- Boat Launches
- Camping Areas
- Provide Safe Access & Information
- Connect to our Heritage

What is a water trail?

- Trail Map & Guides
- Signage
- Web Information
- Economic Development Generators
- Stewards of Natural Resources
- Safe
- Fun
- Accessible to All

Water Trail Checklist

Every Water Trail Must Have...

- Local Managing Organization
- Public Involvement
- A Map
- Information Provided to Users
- Water Trail Feasibility Study
- Active Volunteers
- Signage

Water Trail Checklist

Every water trail should consider...

- Regional/National Designation
- For Sale Map & Guide
- Volunteer Recruitment & Development
- Stewardship & Conservation Plan
- Interpretive Plan & Program
- Safety Plan
- Management Plan
- Outreach Educational Programs
- Marketing & Promotion Plan
- Trail Amenities

Partnerships

Water trails are the products of partnerships.

- Public
- Private
- Volunteers
- Property Owners
- Local Businesses

Partnerships

Project Example – Chemung Basin River
Trail Partnership

www.chemungrivertrail.org

Resources – Susquehanna River Trail
Association Bylaws

Stewardship

Water trails promote minimum impact, sustainable practices.

- Leave No Trace Ethic
- Users as Caretakers
- Protect & Restore

Project Example – West Branch
Stewardship & Conservation Plan

Stewardship

Project Example – West Branch
Stewardship & Conservation Plan

Resources – PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry
Campsite and Aquatic Bugger Guidelines

Volunteerism

Community involvement and volunteerism are keys to developing water trails.

- Local Management Organization
- Outreach Programming/Activities
- Promoting Respect for Resource

Volunteerism

Project Example – Susquehanna River Trail
Association – Island Steward Program

www.susquehannarivertrail.org

Friends of the Rappahannock Volunteer
Programs

www.riverfriends.org

Education

Educating users promotes awareness of resource.

- Trail Guides
- Web
- Experiences

Education

Project Example – Wildlands Conservancy –
Education Programs

www.wildlandspa.org

Resources – Boating Sidekicks

www.boatingsidekicks.com

Conservation

Water trail activities support conservation of natural resources.

- Conservation Constituency
- Protecting the Resource
- Conservation Programs

Conservation

Program Examples – PFBC Conservation Programs

Resources – Pennsylvania Land Trust Alliance

www.conserveland.org

Community Vitality

Water trails build connections that enhance sense of place and community.

- Interpretive Plan
- Connections to Land Based Recreation
- River Towns

Community Vitality

Project Example – Lancaster York Heritage
Region – River Towns

Susquehanna Greenway

www.susquehannagreenway.org

Diversity

Water trails are non-exclusive.

- Outreach Programming
- Enhance Long-Term Impacts
- Strategic Partnerships

Diversity

Project Example – SWPA – Venture
Outdoors

www.ventureoutdoors.org

Wildlands Conservancy Bike & Boat
Program

www.wildlandspa.org

Wellness & Wellbeing

Awareness, education & safety promote wellness and wellbeing of all users.

- Provide Safety Information
- Establish Access/Trail Facilities
- Provide Information

Wellness & Wellbeing

Project Examples – PANA/nrg Outdoors
Program www.nrgoutdoors.org

Wyoming Valley Wellness Partnership
www.wvwellnesstrails.org

Additional Resources

- Water Trails Toolbox

Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails
Network

www.baygateways.net/watertrailtools.htm

- Community Toolbox

Rivers Trails & Conservation Assistance
Program

www.nps.gov/phso/rtcatoobox/



Contact Info

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