



Building Community Capacity for Water Trail Development

Water trails are networks of points along the water that people can access using human-powered boats. To NPS staffer Jerry Willis, they can change a community's perception about its local waterways, particularly urban waters that have been neglected and polluted over the years.

"Water trails are a wonderful strategy to get people to look at these rivers in a different way," he says. "They are a foot in the door. We can start talking about creating access points for people to get to the river, stream bank restoration, and replacing invasive species. If you bring people to the edge of the river, you'll create a new generation of stewards for these often forgotten resources."

NPS RTCA Water Trail Tools:

Staff can provide resources for and examples of water trail plans, missions and visions, access strategies, traits of successful water trails, site surveys, landowner agreements, and brochures and guides. Some online tools include:

Logical Lasting Launches

This guide provides design guidance for developing canoe and kayak launches; case examples, designs, and photos are included.

Case Studies of Water Trail Impacts on Rural Communities

A comparative analysis of rural communities with calm water trails. Case studies illustrate impacts of calm water trails and trends are drawn from community economic development associated with water trails.

North Carolina Paddle Trails Study

This study of data from over 2,000 paddling enthusiasts was conducted by the NC State Trails Program in partnership with North Carolina State University's School of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management in 2008.

Contact Us

NPS RTCA staff provide assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. Staff have supported water trail development projects across the country for a decade or more.

Visit <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/portals/rivers/proj/pg/watertrails.htm> for more information.

If your community is interested in creating a water trail and nurturing a connection to your water resources, we'd love to talk. Applications for NPS RTCA assistance are due by August 1. Find our contact information at www.nps.gov/rtca ("Contact Us")



2011 Water Trail Projects	Project Partner	State (Cong. District)
Alabama Statewide Trails Conference	Alabama Depart of Economic and Community Affairs	Alabama :
Androscoggin Greenway	Androscoggin Land Trust	Maine : 2
Central Iowa Greenways Initiative	City of Des Moines	Iowa : 3, 4
Connecticut & Rhode Island Program Development	Weir Farm National Historic Site	Connecticut : , Rhode Island :
Corpus Christi Trails	Coastal Bend Bays Foundation	Texas : 27
Delaware River Resource Protection Strategic Plan (NJ/PA)	Delaware River Greenway Partnership	New Jersey : 4,7,12
Dog River Watershed Scenic Blueway	Dog River Clearwater Revival	Alabama : 1
Green Corridor - Minnesota River Trail	Green Corridor Trail Committee	Minnesota : 7
Greens Bayou Corridor	Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition	Texas : 2, 7, 18, 29
Groundwork Wyoming County	Groundwork Wyoming County	West Virginia : 3
Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Youth Steward Program	Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership	Mississippi : 4
Idaho-Oregon Snake River Water Trail	Canyon County Parks Department	Idaho : 1, 2
James River Heritage Trail	VA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Virginia : 1,3,4,5,6,7
Kentucky River Water Trail	Kentucky Riverkeeper	Kentucky : 6
Lake Michigan Watertrail Organizational Development	Illinois Paddling Council	Illinois : 2
Last Green Valley Water Trails	The Last Green Valley, Inc. (Quinebaug-Shetucket)	Connecticut : 2, Massachusetts : 2
Lewis River & Vancouver Lake Water Trail	Vancouver/Clark County Parks Department	Washington : 3
Louisiana Statewide Trails Plan and Database	LA Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism	Louisiana :
Lower Susquehanna Trails Strategic Action Plan	Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway	Maryland : 1, 2, 6
Lower Tuolumne River Boating Trail	California State Parks	California : 18, 19
Maine Island Trail Southern Extension	Maine Island Trail Association	Maine : 1
Middle Chattahoochee River Blueway	Carroll County Parks Department	Georgia : 3, 5, 13
Mississippi River Trail	Mississippi River Trail, Inc.	various states
MS River Trail Corridor Blueway - Forked Deer River	Mississippi River Corridor	Tennessee : 8
Moab Lions Park	Moab Trails Alliance	Utah : 2
Nation Ford Greenway	Nation Ford Greenway	South Carolina : 5
Navarro River Water Trail	Anderson Valley Land Trust	California : 1
North Fork Riverpoint Development	Noth Fork Riverfront Development Group	Nebraska : 1
North Little Rock Active Living	City of North Little Rock	Arkansas : 2
Northwest Indiana Blueways and Stewardship Group	Northwest Indiana Paddling Association	Indiana : 1, 2
Occoquan Water Trail	Occoquan Watertrail League (OWL)	Virginia : 10, 11
Ocmulgee River Blueway	Hawkinsville Better Hometown	Georgia : 1, 8
Ohio River Trail	Ohio River Trail Council	Pennsylvania : 4, 14, 18
Pascagoula River: A Vision for George County, Mississippi	Land Trust for Mississippi Coastal Plain	Mississippi : 4
Pend Oreille Water Trail	Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance	Washington : 7
Petaluma River Access	City of Petaluma	California : 6
Potomac Island Gateways; Sharpshin and Tenfoot Islands	Potomac Conservancy	Maryland : 8
Regional: Engaging Youth in Parks	Student Conservation Association	
Regional: Healthy Recreation	YMCA of the USA	None/Not Applicable (N/A):
Salt Lake City Rail Trail, Canal, and Jordan River	Salt Lake City	Utah : 1
San Joaquin River Recreation Corridor	San Joaquin River Partnership	California : 21,20,19,18
Schuylkill River Water Trail	Schuylkill River Greenway Association	PA : 1, 2, 6, 7, 13, 15, 16, 17
SE Coast Saltwater Paddling Trail--Georgia, NC, SC, VA	GA DNR--Coastal Resources Division, TCF, SC DNR, VA DCR	Georgia : 1; NC: 1, 3, 7; SC: 1, 2,6
Southern NJ State Program Development	New Jersey	New Jersey :
The Great Rivers Confluence	Friends of Freedom Park	Minnesota : 6, Wisconsin : 3
Tuscarawas River Water Trail	Stark County Park District	Ohio : 16
Twelve Mile River Recreation Restoration Plan	Upstate Forever	South Carolina : 3
Umpqua Water Trail	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Oregon : 4
Upper James Outdoor Recreation Plan	Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission	Virginia : 6
Waccamaw River Blue Trail	Waccamaw Riverkeeper and American Rivers	NCA : 7, SC : 1
Wisconsin Lake Michigan Water Trail	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	Wisconsin : 1,4,5,6,8