

What is a water trail?

Water trails are recreational corridors between specific locations that can be used for both single day and multiple-day trips. They provide safe access to and information about Pennsylvania's waterways while also providing connections to our history, ecology, geology, heritage and wildlife. Most importantly, water trails are open to anyone who is interested in getting out on the water!



Susquehanna River-North Branch,
Wyoming Valley RiverFest

Getting Started...

Following are some initial steps that you can take:

- Learn more about the benefits of and how to create a local water trail. As a first step, review information available on the water trails page of the PFBC's web site: www.fish.state.pa.us.
- Start talking to and organize other stakeholders in your community.
- Bring a group together to talk about the level of interest and any resources that you may need to get things moving.
- Contact the statewide partners for help.

If you are a member of a local group interested in developing a water trail assistance and help is available through the statewide partnership.

For more information about help available to assist your effort, please contact us at:

Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Western PA
22 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-481-9400
Fax: 412-481-9401
Email: hhardy@pecpa.org



Pennsylvania Water Trails Program



Statewide Water Trails Program/Partnership



Monongahela River

The PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources (DCNR), PA Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC) and the PA Environmental Council (PEC) are refining and implementing a statewide water trails program as a component of the State's Greenways Program. A specific goal of the PA

Greenways Plan is designation of 2000 miles of water trails by 2010.

The three major statewide water trail partnership tasks are:

1. Guidelines for the development and recognition of statewide water trails will be completed.
2. Technical assistance service for local groups will be expanded.
3. Information on water trails in PA will be improved and made available through a new "Paddle Pennsylvania" publication.

Why water trails?

There are many reasons to promote and develop water trails. The most compelling is that they offer several incredible benefits to local communities.

- **They encourage tourism and provide economic benefits.**

Envisioned to be part of PA's interconnected system of greenways and trails, water trails are a good way to bring people into your community to the benefit of the local economy. As both canoeing and kayaking, in particular, and boating in general increase in popularity, the demand for water trails increases.

- **They are recreational amenities.**

Water trails encourage the use of Pennsylvania's waterways for fishing, boating, wildlife watching and other family-friendly activities.

- **They encourage restoration & conservation.**

By connecting people with our natural resources water trails encourage an ethic of stewardship for our waterways.



Kiski-Conemaugh River

For More Information...

In Pennsylvania...

PFBC

- www.fish.state.pa.us

DCNR

- www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network

- www.baygateways.net

National resources...

American Canoe Association

- www.americancanoe.org

American Rivers

- www.americanrivers.org

National Park Service

- www.nps.gov/ncrc/portals/rivers/projpg/watertrails.htm
- www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/helpfultools/ht_publications.html

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