



Planning

Bronx River Blueway
Credit: Bronx River Alliance

Best Management Practice Goal: The water trail managers maintain a water trail plan that describes a vision, desired future conditions, and strategies to strengthen best management practices.

Key Questions

Planning

- Have you read “Water Trail Planning 101” (see examples below)?
- Has a water trail plan been completed?
- Have any wildlife, habitat, greenways, or open space plans been started or completed?
- Has a recreation plan been started or completed?
- Have any local, state, or other governing bodies created master plans or studies that include water trails?
- Does a sign plan, access site plan, maintenance plan, or related plan exist?
- Has a communications plan or citizen engagement plan been started or completed?
- Is there a strategic plan or financial plan for the trail, trail organization, or managing entities?

- Is the organization supporting long term sustainability (evidence of long-term commitment, leadership development, partnership agreements, etc.)?
- Is there a long term management plan for the trail?

Conservation Planning

- Have current land-use practices been mapped?
- Have current and ideal conditions of each body of water in the watershed been evaluated?
- Have best land uses been determined? Will future development enhance the watershed?

Examples

General

- Water Trail Planning 101: A brief document to help groups plan, inventory, access, implement, promote, operate, and maintain water trails.
- Developing Water Trails in Iowa: Practical guidelines and templates for planning, site design, signage, and

construction in Iowa. A useful reference for how to plan for water trails on a statewide level.

Water Trail-Specific Plans

- The 2012 Rock River WT Plan describes the vision, structure and organization of the water trail.



Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails

- The 2009 Huron River Water Trail Vision & Opportunity Plan seeks to document current conditions and identify any potential obstacles or opportunities for enhancement.
- The 2005 Vermillion Water Trail Plan includes engaging graphics, maps, and photos.

General

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Water Trail-Specific Plans

- The 2012 Rock River Water Trail Inventory, Analysis, and Plan deals with the establishment of the trail and describes the vision and organization of the water trail.
- Passaic River Canoe & Kayak Trail Action Plan: Contains specific launch site evaluations and recommendations for the trail.
- The 2009 Huron River Water Trail Vision & Opportunity Plan seeks to document current conditions along the water trail and identify any potential obstacles or opportunities for enhancement.
- The 2005 Vermillion Water Trail Plan includes engaging graphics, maps, and photos showing analyses and potential river access locations.

Conservation Plans

- The 2005 Ecological Restoration & Management Plan and the Bronx River Greenway Plan were published by the Bronx River Alliance. These describe a vision for a restored river and a continuous Bronx River Greenway in the lower Bronx River.
- The US EPA Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters handbook is intended to help groups develop and implement watershed plans to meet water quality standards and protect water resources

Maintenance and Infrastructure Plans

- A sign plan created by the Delaware River Water Trail.
- An inventory & analysis of access sites in support of a Lake Michigan Water Trail.

Local, County, and State Plans

- The North Kitsap String of Pearls Trail Plan presents a vision for North Kitsap communities to connect to each other and to parks, local businesses, schools, ferries, buses, open spaces, forest lands, and wildlife habitats through multi-use land and water trails.
- The Northeastern Watersheds Management Plan for St. Clair County, MI describes the status, sets goals, and describes actions that will be used to protect, restore, and enhance resources in the watersheds.
- The North Carolina Paddle Tourism Study was conducted by the North Carolina State Trails program as part of an ongoing effort to enhance and encourage paddling experiences in North Carolina.