Public Information

Best Management Practice Goal: The public is provided with accessible and understandable water trail information, including details for identifying access and trail routes; cultural, historic, and natural features; hazards; and water quality. The water trail is promoted to the community and broad national audience.

Key Questions

Access, Routes, and Maps

☐ Is trip planning information (directions, access, logistics) easily accessible?
☐ Is there an overview map of the entire water trail?
☐ Are there detailed segment maps for navigation?
☐ Is there an interactive online map or online application for navigation?
☐ Where are maps available? Are online maps formatted for printing and of a high enough resolution to print clearly? Are paper or waterproof copies available?
☐ Is there a guidebook and website with detailed paddling descriptions, distances, and information? Is this guidebook also online and formatted for printing?
☐ Is interpretive and wayfinding information provided on maps and on the trail?

Safety, Hazards, and Water Quality

☐ Is safety information available through a wide variety of channels including postings at access sites, on websites and social media, through a call-in recording, etc?
☐ Are regulations clearly posted and written on maps and guidebooks?
☐ Are dams and other hazards clearly and consistently signed on maps and on the water trail itself?
☐ Does safety information need to be posted in more than one language?
☐ Are current flow conditions including flood or drought information available through a wide variety of channels?
☐ Is there a way to communicate with water trail users in case of an emergency?
☐ Are boating public safety programs offered?
Examples

Access, Routes, and Maps

- The Willamette has a waterproof, bound map and an online map of the water trail with details showing access and features along the 216-mile trail.
- The Bronx River Blueway Map is a well-designed map that clearly shows access points, amenities, and detailed maps of portages.
- A map of the Missouri River National Recreational River Water Trail designed for print publication and display.
- The map of the Kitsap Peninsula Water Trail is graphically-pleasing.

Events and Festivals

- For information about events and festivals, see the Education section of the NWTS Toolbox.

Brochures/Fact Sheets

- An example of a one-page fact sheet on the Alabama Scenic River Trail.
- A brochure with historic information about the lost towns under Lake Red Rock on the Red Rock Water Trail.
- A two-page brochure about the Red Rock Water Trail.

Safety, Hazards, and Water Quality

- The Chattahoochee water trail provides flow and water quality information through model partnerships with the USGS, the upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Buford Dam flow website for Chattahoochee.