

# Public Information



Black Canyon Water Trail  
Credit: Izzy Collet, Desert Adventures

*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

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### 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?



Hudson River Greenway Water Trail  
Credit: Bob Campbell

## Examples

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### 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.