

National Water Trail System



GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION
SOURCE: WWW.NPS.GOV

National Trails Overview



- Recognizes trails of local and regional significance
- May be designated by the Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture
- Each trail is managed by a local management agency (i.e. local, state, federal government agency, nonprofit organization, interagency organization)
 - Management responsibility and associated costs are the sole responsibility of the management entity
 - ✦ Who will be the management entity?

Four Criteria for Designation



- The trail (and its access points) must be open to public use and be designed, constructed, and maintained according to best management practices
- The trail is in compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws
- The trail will be open for public use for at least 10 consecutive years after designation
- The trail designation must be supported by the landowner(s), (public or private), on which access points exist

How to Apply



- Submit a formal application and letter of support from the respective state trail administrators through an online application account
 - The account should be created by the primary contact person or manager for the water trail
 - Submit by November 1st

Review and Designation Process:



Information Needed to Apply



- **Section 1: Trail Information**
 - Water trail location information, detailed information, visitation and fee information
- **Section 2: Best Management Practices**
 - Mission Statement
 - Describe how water trail relates to seven best management policies:
 - ✦ Recreation opportunities, education, conservation, community support, public information, sustainability and trail maintenance, planning
- **Section 3: Contact Information**
 - Contact information for the agency or organization managing water trail

Information Needed to Apply



- **Section 4: Owner Consent & State Support**
 - Include statement of support from State Trails Administrator
 - All public and private property owners of trail land and waters must give written consent
- **Section 5: Photo, Map, and Logo of Water Trail**
- **Section 6: Additional Application Materials**
- **Section 7: Signature Page**

Key Information Needed



- Who is managing the waterway?
 - Contact Information
 - Do we have support from all private and public land owners?
- Does the waterway meet the 7 best management practices?
 - Helpful information can be found here:
<https://www.nps.gov/WaterTrails/Toolbox>
 - What steps can be taken to make sure waterways meet these best practices?