

Water Trail Orientation Signs

Water Trail Orientation Signs are located at water trail access points. They orient users to the water trail, providing concise information about the relevant section of the water trail, including safety and emergency information, resource regulations, recreational information, and a description of the nature of the experience, with photos. A detailed map is the focal point of the signage. Water trail orientation signs are used by multiple types of users, from novices and recreational day paddlers to experienced users on extended trips. While the signage may also note points of interest and potential wildlife sightings, they do not truly serve the interpretive or navigational functions of a printed map and guide.

Panel Specifications:

Size: 36 x 48. Unique conditions may warrant flexibility.

Orientation: Portrait or landscape for North-South or East-West water trails, respectively.

Graphic Appearance: Layout is flexible, but the information should be logically organized and meet ADA standards for readability. Text should be minimal and relevant to the immediate section of water trail. A visually-appealing balance should be struck between text, graphic content and “white” space. As with other types of Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network signage, all panels must include the signature black bar and Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network logo.

Signage WATER TRAIL ORIENTATION SIGNS

Water Trail Orientation Signs

The information below and the example on the next page indicate basic content and layout for typical water trail orientation signs. Detailed design of actual signs for an entire water trail system may vary somewhat from this template, but should include the basic elements indicated.

Header

- Trail Name and Section on solid color bar

Nature of experience

- Narrative description of water trail
- Whitewater areas and/or water class ratings
- Suggested time between access points
- Cultural and natural points of interest
- Potential wildlife encounters

Safety

- Relevant seasonal issues
- Emergency Contact Information
- Weather Contact Information
- Major Safety Concerns and hazards
- Basic Safety information such as lifejackets
- Water traffic issues
- Dam releases
- Tides
- Portages

Recreation

- Camping

Resource Issues

- Leave no trace
- Sanitation
- Sensitive resources such as seasonal nests, endangered species, etc.
- Other relevant resource regulations

Photos

- Water trail experience
- Local points of interest
- River conditions,
- Key resources

Map

- Generally consistent with NPS Wayside map standards
- Named access sites with available services
- Points of interest labeled
- Scale
- North arrow
- River miles
- Major roads
- Legend
- Fueling stations for power boaters

Context Map

- Shows water trail map in relation to the wider region
- Shows major roads and highways

Footer

- Black Bar
- Logos and Branding: Use of logos on panels should be limited to the major identity brands of the water trail, such as the water trail segment itself and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. The black bar and Gateways Network logo shall be included. To avoid visitor confusion and visual clutter, logos should not be affixed to identify organizational partners or funders (e.g. the National Park Service).

Signage WATER TRAIL ORIENTATION SIGNS

Information on panels should be relevant and may include the following*:

Header

Water Trail Name and Section

Stretching 48 miles (77 km), Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area connects a series of park units north of Atlanta.

Chattahoochee means "river of painted rocks" to the Cherokees and "red rock" to the Creek Indians. Both nations came here centuries ago for the abundant natural resources. Today, the river still attracts people—millions each year—who discover it for themselves.

Recreational opportunities abound here: Float the river, fish its waters, watch its birds, hike its trails, picnic among its trees—or simply relax as time and the river flow by. However you enjoy this park, please do it safely and be considerate of others.

Water Trail Map

Context Map

Nature of Experience

Photos

Footer

For Your Safety

- Pets must be on a leash at all times in the park.
- Glass containers are not allowed on or near the river.
- Wear appropriate footwear while hiking or floating.
- Everyone on a watercraft must have a life preserver.
- Hunting, firearms, and projectiles are prohibited.
- Watch for quickly rising water that is released from upstream dams.
- Never dive or jump into the river.

Check bulletin boards for seasonal safety information.

This area is used to display Safety, Recreation and Resource issues.

* Also reference previous page.