

What are the resources that are available to me?

When there is local interest and a local commitment to develop a water trail, there's always a need for resources to make the project a reality. There are a variety of public and private resources that may be helpful in completing a water trail. For individual contacts to any of the following resources contact the *Pennsylvania Water Trails Program* at (412) 481-9400.



Public Sources - State

❑ Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

Water trails are a key component of the State's Greenways Program. DCNR provides matching funds for planning activities as well as implementation projects. For more information check out their web site at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/. It is highly recommended that you talk to your DCNR regional recreation advisor prior to submitting an application. For local contacts check out www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/grants/regionaloffices.pdf.

❑ Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC)

The PFBC is the agency that designates official PA Water Trails. Officially designated water trails can use the statewide water trails logo plus get assistance with mapping, signage and be promoted as part of the larger statewide network. Trail developers will also benefit from technical assistance of this state agency. For more information check out their web site at www.fish.state.pa.us.

❑ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

The DEP offers grants in a variety of categories with a focus on improving the environmental condition of Pennsylvania's watersheds. For more information check out their web site at www.dep.state.pa.us/growgreen/WatershedProtection/default.htm or call your local DEP office. Contact information for local offices can be found at www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/fieldops/default.htm.

Public Sources – Federal

❑ National Park Service (NPS) – Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program

RTCA, also known as Rivers & Trails, works with community groups and local and state governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. For more information check out their web site at www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/index.html.

❑ National Park Service (NPS) – Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network provides federal matching funds for water trail development in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Projects need to be identified as a Chesapeake Bay Gateway. For more information check out their grant guidelines web page, www.baygateways.net/grantguidelines.cfm or contact the Network directly at 1-800-YOUR-BAY.

Public Sources – Local

❑ Local Municipalities

Local municipalities are key resources for water trails. Municipal leaders should be engaged in the public process of water trail development and also be used for support of the trail and individual projects. The local municipality may be a key landowner and may be able to play a key role in the implementation of projects.

❑ County Conservation Districts

County Conservation Districts were created to support grassroots conservation efforts. They can provide technical assistance to projects. The type of assistance can vary from county to county so it is important to contact your local conservation district. Contact information can be found at www.pacd.org or <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/conservation/site/default.asp>.

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Private Sources - Non-Profit

□ Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)

Technical assistance is available through PEC as part of the *Pennsylvania Water Trails Program*. This assistance can include presentations about water trails and the importance of water trails, assistance with grant programs and applications, direct contact to state agencies about projects, assistance with mapping and signage plans and other general support. Contact the program manager at 412-481-9400 or check out the web site at www.paddlepa.net.

□ North American Water Trails (NAWT)

The NAWT is nation-wide advocacy organization. Through their web site, www.watertrails.org, they provide access to a variety of web-based resources and also information about several other publications that will be helpful to developing water trails.

Private Sources

Private sources vary based on the geographic area and specific project. Many groups have been successful at involving their local business community in sponsorship of particular events and also publications. Foundations have also supported projects such as restoration projects, publishing trail map and guides and increasing access points to waterways.

