

Iowa Water Trails Statewide Plan

Iowa has more than 1,500 miles of water ways that have been designated as a water trail or are working toward that designation. As more trails are being designated, the Legislature provided Iowa's Department of Natural Resources funding to create a comprehensive plan showcasing the historic and present day importance of Iowa's navigable waters.

DNR has released the completed plan, "Iowa Water Trails: Connecting People with Water and Resources." The plan focuses on the type of activities people are participating in on Iowa's rivers along with outlining different factors to take into consideration when planning a new water trail.

The state water trails plan can be found on the DNR website: www.iowadnr.gov/riverprograms/wtplan.html.

Another aspect of the statewide plan is the water trails development manual. DNR notes that the manual is the first of its kind in the nation, blending stream ecology with stable launch and landing techniques while outlining comprehensive approaches to signage, river management, and other aspects of water trails development.

This manual contains data on how Iowa's rivers are being used, which can be helpful when planning water accesses and other aspects of water trails. The water trails development manual can also be found on the DNR website: www.iowadnr.gov/riverprograms/watertrails.html.

