

FLINT RIVER WATER TRAIL — NATIONAL WATER TRAIL DESIGNATION PLANNING PROJECT

FLINT RIVER WATER TRAIL VISION

The Flint River Water Trail provides a variety of recreational experiences by connecting river users to natural, cultural, and historic features along a safe and accessible river trail. The water trail will promote recreation, education, and economic revitalization, and increase stewardship of the Flint River and surrounding lands.

GOALS FOR THE FLINT RIVER WATER TRAIL

- Promote and improve river access sites and user experiences
- Inform and educate the public on topics related to river health and safety
- Support local and regional efforts to increase water based recreation and tourism
- Enhance partnerships among water trail landowners
- Preserve and protect river resources for future generations
- Increase connections between communities, public lands, and land trails
- Secure long-term sustainability
- Showcase positive features of the Flint River



NATIONAL WATER TRAIL CRITERIA

- The trail (and its access points) must be open to public use and be designed, constructed, and maintained according to best management practices, in keeping with the anticipated use. Water trail access points that demonstrate state-of-the-art design and management are especially encouraged to apply for national water trail designation.
- 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.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL WATER TRAIL SYSTEM

Recreation – The water trail route has established public access points that accommodate a diversity of trip lengths and provide access to a variety of opportunities for recreation and education.

Community Support – Local communities provide support and advocacy for maintenance and stewardship of the water trail.

Education – The water trail users are provided with opportunities to learn about the value of water resources, cultural heritage, boating skills, and outdoor ethics.

Trail Maintenance – There is a demonstrated ability to support routine and long-term maintenance investments on the water trail. Facilities are designed, constructed, and maintained by incorporating sustainability principles.

Public Information – 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.

Planning – Maintain a water trail plan that describes a vision, desired future conditions, and strategies to strengthen best management practices.

Conservation – The water trail provides opportunities for communities to develop and implement strategies that enhance and restore the health of local waterways and surrounding lands.

For information on the Flint River Water Trail Project, please contact: Sondra Severn, Project Coordinator
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Additional Resources can be found at: www.FlintRiver.org/blog/WaterTrail & www.nps.gov/WaterTrails/