Andrea Irland
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance
Paddle sports more popular than ever

- Accessibility
- Affordability
- Approachability
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Stand Up Paddle Boarding
- Kayak Fishing
The Concept: A water trail?

- Already exists – sort of....
- Improved facilities
- Maintenance
- Signage
- Maps
- Education
- Management
- Branding
- Integrate with other recreational activities
- Designate
Nationally

Hundreds of water trails, thousands of miles of paddling

Recreation Opportunities
Education
Conservation
Community Support
Public Information
Trail Maintenance
Planning
Ohio Water Trails Program

- East Sandusky Bay Water Trail
- Great Miami River Water Trail
- Kokosing River Water Trail
- Mad River Water Trail
- Mahoning River Water Trail
- Maumee River Water Trail
- Mohican River Water Trail
- Muskingum River Water Trail
- Olentangy River Water Trail
- Stillwater River Water Trail
- Vermilion-Lorain Water Trail
American Canoe Association
American Whitewater
City of Akron
City of Cuyahoga Falls
Cleveland Metroparks
Conservancy for CVNP
Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission
Cuyahoga River Restoration
Friends of the Crooked River
Friends of the Gorge
Geauga Park District
Keelhaulers Canoe Club
Kent Parks and Recreation
Kent State University
National Park Service RTCA
Northeast OH Regional Sewer District
ODNR Scenic Rivers Program
Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
Ohio EPA
Portage Park District
Share the River
Silver Lake Parks and Rec
Summit Metroparks
The Trust for Public Land
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Enthusiastic Citizens
Cuyahoga River Water Trail
From the river that burned to a regional recreational asset!!
Cuyahoga River
Water Trail
May 2013

Lakefront

Burning River

Cuyahoga Valley

Scenic

Cuyahoga Heritage Gorge

Document Path: I:\Multi-Jurisdictional\Water Trail\Cuyahoga\Working Map\Water Trail Regional2.mxd
Scenic
Lake Rockwell
Water Source Conservation Area

NO PADDLE ZONE!

City of Akron Water Supply
Heritage
Gorge
Cuyahoga Valley
Burning River

Rivergate Park
Cleveland, Ohio

Boat Launching Safety Tips

- Launch at your own risk.
- Avoid electronics.
- This is a no wake zone.
- Wear for this river.
- Carry a throw bag or do not engage.
- Keep water out of the boat.
- Do not feed the ducks.
- No motorized boats.
- No swimming.
- No wake zones.

Association: Members of the CLE take care of the lake.
Challenges

Dams
Portages
Access Points
Debris
Seasonal Flow
Water Quality
Safety
Boat Traffic
Partners
Cuyahoga River Water Trail

Benefits

Education and Stewardship
Increased Recreation Opportunities
Blue Green Trail Connections
White Water Paradise
Historical and Cultural Wonders
Wildlife Viewing
Economic Development
Health and Fitness
Sustainable
Our goal:
Ohio State Water Trail Designation by June 2019

- Management Structure
- Mapping/GIS
- Access
- Recreation
- Safety
- Publicity/Promotion
- Community Engagement
- Maintenance
What we will be working on...

- Creating a regional brand and identity
- Developing a strategy of implementation
- Developing best management practices
- Identifying access points and facilities
- Community meetings of stakeholders
- Identify other regional connections
- Working towards state and national designation
Cuyahoga River Water Trail

Celebration of the Cuyahoga & Northeast Ohio