

# Application for Water Trail designation



PARKERSBURG  
West Virginia

*An application for 'Water Trail' designation for the 39 miles of the Ohio River and the 18 miles of the Little Kanawha River within Wood County, WV.*

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## GOAL

To achieve 'Water Trail' designation for the 39 miles of the Ohio River and the 18 miles of the Little Kanawha River within Wood County, WV.

Document and publicize the existing boat ramp facilities along the local sections of the Ohio River and Little Kanawha Rivers, and make these two rivers more easily accessible to local residents and visitors.

## VISION

Expand the maps and awareness to include the many other paddling opportunities in the region.

Establish an Ohio River Water Trail Development and Management plan.

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### ACCESSIBILITY

This Water Trail is exceptionally accessible to residents and visitors. The Water Trail borders the cities of Marietta, OH, Williamstown, WV (a Trail co-sponsor), Vienna, WV (a Trail co-sponsor), and Parkersburg, WV (a Trail co-sponsor), and Belpre, OH. It is crossed by Interstate 77 and US Route 50.

There are multiple public trailer-ready boat ramps with ample parking along the Water Trail.

There are many hotels within 15 minutes driving distance of the Water Trail, and multiple restaurants and snack bars within a short walk.

The Marietta Adventure Company (a Trail co-sponsor) offers Kayak rentals, a shuttle service, and guided and self-guided trips.

The Water Trail is also accessible from three bike paths, in Marietta OH, Belpre OH, and Parkersburg WV. Four miles of the Little Kanawha River run alongside North Bend Rails to Trails State Park.

Half the Trail access sites have ADA compliant parking, ADA compliant restrooms and ADA compliant access to the water. There are no ADA facilities to aid getting in and out of canoes and kayaks.

### SCENIC BEAUTY

Although roads and railroads follow the river, they are generally not visible from the river below. Trees along the river bank often block out views of homes, farm fields, and industrial sites. Paddlers along the Ohio River can feel a sense of remoteness and natural beauty.

The island 'chutes' (the narrower, not commercially navigable, sections between an island and the shore) also offer remote natural settings.



*Ohio River at Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park.  
Photo Kim Coram*

The many 'backwaters' (tributary creeks, flooded by the elevated water levels caused by the Belleville Lock and Dam), offer different experiences, that of a narrow creek or perhaps a quiet pond or wetland, away from the commercial and recreational traffic of the river.

The Ohio River offers abundant wildlife to enjoy, the Water Trail is between two major bird migration routes, which results in high species diversity along the river. Nearly 200 species of birds visit the Ohio River each year, including osprey and bald eagles.

There are over 100 species of fish in the Ohio River, including spotted bass, sauger, freshwater drum, channel and flathead catfish. Both West Virginia and residential Ohio fishing licenses are honored on the Ohio River and the various backwaters (up to the first riffle), and on the Little Kanawha west of the Leachtown Lane access site.



*Little Kanawha River at Leachtown, WV. Photo Kim Coram*

There are over 25 mammal species along the Ohio River and Little Kanawha River, including white-tailed deer, raccoons, muskrats, mink, cottontail rabbit and red fox. Frogs, toads, turtles, dragonflies, damselflies, butterflies and forty species of freshwater mussels add to the astonishing bio-diversity of these rivers.

Three of the islands on the Trail are part of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge (A Trail co-sponsor). Visitors are welcome to pull their canoes and kayaks up onto the shore and explore these islands on

foot during the day. The Ohio River Islands NWR is working to protect, conserve and restore the riparian forest habitat on these island, visitors who explore these islands will find them in various stages of transition from agricultural use to restored forest.

Water trail users can get more involved in conserving and restoring natural habitats along the trail by contacting the Friends of the Ohio River Island National Wildlife Refuge (a Trail co-sponsor).

The Ohio River Island National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and Visitors Center is adjacent to the Trail and has its own put-in/take-out spot (in Williamstown, WV). It's a great place to learn more about the river ecology. They offer occasional free classes and seminars.

## HISTORY

Canoes, river transportation, and river transportation technology are integral to the history of the Mid-Ohio valley, and trail-users will have an opportunity to share the experiences of the natives, the pioneers, the settlers and even the fugitive slaves who paddled these waters in the past.

Historic sites on or near the trail include:-

- Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park (a Trail co-sponsor). The Park offers a chance to explore the tragic and incestuous love story of Harman and Margaret Blennerhassett. The Park features a re-creation of Blennerhassett Mansion, as well as a refreshment stand, horse drawn carriage rides, souvenir shop, picnic shelters, bicycle rentals, lush hardwood groves, long beaches, broad fields, a large deer herd and throngs of waterfowl and other birds. Boaters can land on Blennerhassett Island, and there is also a Sternwheeler ferry service from Parkersburg.

*When a teenage girl was kidnapped by Indians, Isaac Williams wasted no time, he picked the six best Indian fighters from all the men who had gathered and set off on a rescue mission in a large canoe.*

*They landed on the Ohio side (somewhere near Blennerhassett Island) and sank their canoe near the bank with rocks, otherwise the Indians might find out they were in the area.*

*They headed inland, until they were about nine miles from where Athens, OH is now.*

*Isaac told the men they were in a gap, and the Indians would have to come past them. They set up an ambush and waited silently for hours.*

*Ten Indians came through the gap, with the girl at the back. Isaac's men fired from both sides. All the Indians were killed.*

*The men headed back to Parkersburg. They only stopped because the girl needed to rest. When they reached the Ohio River, they waded along the side of the river, with Isaac in front.*

*Suddenly, Isaac came back from the front position, he told them not to disturb anything and hide quickly behind some overhanging willow branches. He said four canoes full of Indians were coming.*

*They tried to not even make waves as they hid under a curtain of willow branches. They could hear the dip of the Indian paddles and the water dripping off the paddles.*

*They made it safely back to Parkersburg.*

- Blennerhassett Museum of Regional History (Parkersburg, WV).
- The Oil and Gas Museum (Parkersburg, WV).
- The South East Ohio Underground Railroad Museum (Belpre, OH)
- The Blennerhassett Hotel (Parkersburg, WV), a historic 'riverboat' hotel.

*When the river flooded, the wakes of river boats damaged the wooden homes along the river. Some boats would slow down, most would not. In April 1901, every boat arriving in Pittsburgh from the Ohio River had been shot at from the banks, and crews leaving Pittsburgh were heavily armed and prepared to shoot back.*

*On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Mr. W.T. Terry, a carpenter on the steamer "Keystone State" was shot and killed while passing under the B&O bridge in Parkersburg when Ed Cole fired two shots from a window on the second floor of a Tavern.*

- The Lafayette Hotel (Marietta, OH), a historic 'riverboat' hotel.
- Buckley Island



*Wreck of the H. K. Bedford, 3 miles upstream of Marietta, Feb. 1912.*

From 1793 to the mid 1820's, Marietta and Williamstown operated a 'Pestilence House' on Buckley Island. The 'Pestilence House' was a crude shelter where people with infectious disease, such as smallpox, yellow fever, malaria, cholera, dysentery and influenza were sent to die.

For fifty years (1811-1861) 'Josephus', a slave, ferried fugitive slaves in secrecy from Waverly WV, to Buckley Island, then crossed Buckley Island on foot and ferried them across the main channel to the mouth of Duck Creek in Ohio.

- The Marietta Levee (Marietta OH) once bustled with freight and passengers travelling up and down the Ohio River. Marietta's historic shopping district is adjacent to the Levee.

The first powered ship to pass by Marietta was the 'New Orleans' in 1811, but the first Steamboat (low draft, with a paddlewheel) was 'The Washington' in 1816. While steaming past Marietta a weight fell off the boiler safety valve and the valve opened wide, exploding steam into the Engine Room. Eight people were killed immediately, and six fatally injured. Repairs were made and 'The Washington' continued on to New Orleans.



- Ohio River Museum, one mile up the Muskingum River, and on the river bank. This Museum chronicles the origins and natural history of the Ohio River and the history of steamboats on the Ohio River. There are several interesting exhibits outside the museum, including a steamboat pilothouse and a reproduction flatboat.

The first flatboat passed through this section of the Ohio in 1782, six years later, in 1788, 968 flatboats passed through, containing 18,000 people, 8,000 horses, and 165 wagons.

Native Americans would sometimes try to ambush a flatboat full of settlers by luring it closer to the shore using a horse or injured European on the river bank as bait. Prudent flatboats stayed in the middle of the river and ignored the cries and pleas of the injured on the shore.

- Campus Martius Museum, in Marietta, preserves the history of America's migration west, its earliest native inhabitants, and Marietta's pioneers.
- The Castle, in Marietta, an old Victorian home.
- Henderson Hall Plantation, preserves the heritage of a unique family, probably a 'must see' for history buffs visiting the area.

## ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

The Water Trail includes bridges and other examples of engineering and technology, including:-

- Belleville Lock and Dam, including the hydroelectric station.
- Oil and Gas Museum, Parkersburg.
- Rail Bridge at Corning Park.
- SR 47 Bridge at Corning Park.
- Blennerhassett Island Bridge. Built in 2008, a Network Tied Arches bridge, the second of this type built in the US.
- Wing dams.
- CSX Ohio River Bridge. Through truss bridge, originally built 1870. The longest bridge in the world upon completion at 1.4 miles. The current spans probably date from 1905
- Parkersburg-Belpre bridge, a four lane cantilever bridge
- Memorial Toll Bridge, a cantilevered Warren through-truss bridge built in 1955.
- Harmar Bridge. A Pratt through truss bridge with manual swing draw span over Muskingum River. Originally a Railroad bridge, now pedestrian only. Built in 1913
- Williamstown Bridge, a through truss bridge, built in 1992.
- I-77 Bridge. Through truss bridge, built in 1965.
- CSX Little Kanawha River Bridge. A Polygonal Warren through truss design
- 5th Street Bridge. Rivet connected Polygonal Warren through truss, built in 1935, and refurbished in 1998. This bridge is historically significant for its association with Roosevelt's Depression program, the Works Progress Administration. This bridge features special plaques that appear on some Depression era bridges across the country.
- Little Kanawha River Bridge, a Polygonal Warren through Truss design, built in 1995.
- The Mill Run railroad bridge, a stone arch.
- Little Kanawha River Bridge, A girder bridge, built in 1965
- Staunton Turnpike, originally built by the State of Virginia in 1825.
- Parkersburg Flood Wall, completed in 1956.



*Parkersburg Flood Wall, Ohio River. Photo John Wiseman*

## REGIONAL PADDLING OPPORTUNITIES

The region around the Water Trail offers many other paddling opportunities and experiences.

In addition to the many quiet 'backwaters' along the river, there many rivers and creeks waiting to be explored:-

- Forked Run (OH), and Forked Run State Park
- Lee Creek (WV).
- Hocking River (OH)
- Sandy Creek (WV)
- Little Hocking River (OH)

- Little Kanawha River (WV)
- Hughes River (WV)
- Muskingum River (OH) – a designated Water Trail
- Duck Creek (OH)
- Little Muskingum River (OH)
- French Creek (WV)
- Middle Island Creek (WV))
- The adjacent upstream and downstream sections of the Ohio River

Other Water Trails on the Ohio River include:-

- Ohio River Water Trail, Pittsburgh, PA (a Trail co-sponsor).
- Ohio River Water Trail, Cincinnati, OH.

## SPONSORS

### PRIMARY SPONSOR

The Primary Sponsor is the Wood County Commission. The Wood County Alternative Transportation Council is tasked with implementing and managing the Water Trail on behalf of the Commission.

### CO-SPONSORS

- Greater Parkersburg CVB
- Ohio River Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Friends of the Ohio River Island National Wildlife Refuge
- Marietta Adventure Company
- Ohio DNR
- City of Williamstown
- Ohio River Water Trail (Pittsburgh)
- City of Parkersburg
- City of Vienna
- Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park
- Washington County Commission

Local governments along the Water Trail, as well as co-sponsors will be kept informed of the proposal and trail related developments via email. An email list has been established for this purpose.



*Ohio River, Parkersburg, WV. Photo John Wiseman*



## PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

### WOOD COUNTY ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Public involvement in planning and managing this Water Trail begins with the Wood County Alternative Transportation Council (WCATC), which is made up of volunteers from across Wood County.

WCATC was founded by the Wood County Commission (WCC) in 2013 and has been tasked with developing and managing the Ohio River Water Trail in partnership with the Greater Parkersburg CVB.

WCATC's membership is comprised of:-

- Two members of the local trail user community, appointed by the WCC.
- Two members of the business community, appointed by the WCC.
- One member representing private landowners, appointed by the WCC.
- Two members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Parkersburg.
- Two members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Vienna.
- Two members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Williamstown.
- Two members appointed by the Mayor of the City of North Hills.
- One member appointed by the President of WVU-Parkersburg.
- Two members appointed by the Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council.
- One member appointed by the WV Department of Transportation.
- One member appointed by WV State Parks.
- One member appointed by WCC, representing Wood County Parks.
- One member appointed by WCC representing the Historical community.

WCATC primarily communicates with local city governments via the two representatives from each incorporated City in Wood County that are members of the WCATC. WCATC has also established an email list which is used to communicate directly with City officials and trail co-sponsors.

### EARLY MEETINGS

Early on in the planning process we held meetings with:-

- Williamstown City Council.
- The owner of Marietta Adventure Company.
- Mark Lewis, President – Greater Parkersburg CVB.
- The Executive board of the Friends of the Ohio Islands National Wildlife Refuge.
- The Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge manager.
- WCC
- David White (a County Commissioner of Washington County, Ohio).

There were also numerous phone calls and emails to others.

These early meetings helped us realize the extensive support for this type of Water Trail in our region.

### FACEBOOK PAGE

We sought public feedback on this Application by establishing a Facebook Page for the Water Trail. We shared this application with 211 local kayakers on the "MOV Kayakers" Facebook Group. We also shared with 1,563

members of the “Kayak WV” Facebook Group. Feedback from Facebook users was positive and no modifications of the application were required.

We’re also using the Facebook page to document paddle trip routes recommended by local kayakers. We use the photos they share (with permission) and their descriptions of the trip to post a ‘how to’ guides for visitors, where to put in, what to expect, duration, etc.

So far we have posted two of these paddle trips, one around Buckley Island, and another on Neal Run.

The Facebook page is also showing the synergy potential of this Water Trail (if approved). Our co-sponsors (and others) are already hosting conducting multiple river related events and activities for visitors. So there is a lot of potential to highlight these activities using the ‘Ohio River Water Trail’ brand.

Events <span style="float: right;">+ Create Event</span>		
THIS WEEK		
AUG 6	Pioneer Heritage Days Aug 6 - Aug 7 · Trish is interested	Blennerhassett Island State ... Parkersburg, WV
NEXT WEEK		
AUG 9	Junior Biologist - Orienteering Tue 1 PM · by Ohio River Water Trail - Parkersburg, WV	Ohio River Islands National ... Williamstown, WV
AUG 11	6th Annual Rivers, Trails and Ales Festival 2016 Aug 11 - Aug 14 · Ann Simonton is going	Rivers, Trails and Ales Festival Marietta, OH
AUG 13	RTA Fest Paddler's Riddle Run! - Saturday (also Friday) Sat 9 AM · Tina is interested	Rivers, Trails and Ales Festival Marietta, OH
AUG 14	RTA Wind-down at the Harmar Tavern Sun 3 PM · Ann Simonton is going	Harmar Tavern Marietta, OH
NEXT MONTH		
SEP 9	2016 Ohio River Sternwheel Festival Sep 9 - Sep 11 · Trish Caldwell Landsittel is going	Ohio Riverfront Park Marietta, OH
SEP 16	77th Annual Meeting of the Sons & Daughters of Pione... Sep 16 - Sep 17 · Trish is interested	Historic Lafayette Hotel (The ... Marietta, OH
SEP 17	3rd Annual Parkersburg Paddlefest Sat 8 AM · 51 guests	Point Park Parkersburg, WV

*Calendar of events for Aug and Sept 2016 on the Facebook Page*

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

This application was available for public comment in the Wood County Courthouse for 60 days (June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>). This public comment period was advertised in the local newspaper (Parkersburg News and Sentinel, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016). An email address was provided for comments and feedback. No comments or feedback were received.

### PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held August 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 PM in the Wood County Courtroom Annex. The meeting time was posted on Facebook and advertised in the local newspaper. WV DNR District Biologists and the WVRTAB Chair were invited to this meeting. Representatives from the City of Parkersburg, City of Williamstown, City of Vienna, City of Marietta (OH), City of Belpre (OH), Wood County Commission and Washington County Commission (OH) were invited to this meeting. All the Trail co-sponsors were invited to this meeting.

All comments were positive and no modifications to the application were required.



*Water Trail public meeting, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016*

# MAPS

## OHIO RIVER

14. Trail Access: Point Park, Parkersburg. Parking, Restrooms, Food, Bike Path.

15. Trail Access: Williamstown Boat Ramp. parking, restrooms, food, picnic tables.

16. Trail Access: Marietta Levee. Boat ramp, public dock, restrooms, bike path, food, parking.

17. Trail Access: Indian Acres. Boat Ramp, parking, restrooms, picnic tables, bike path.

18. Trail Access: Corning Park. Boat ramp, parking, restrooms, picnic tables

19. Muskingum River Water Trail

20. Trail Access: Old Lock 19

21. Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters and Visitors Center, Boat ramp, parking, restrooms. Ohio River Museum.

22. Ohio River Museum.

23. Henderson Hall.

24. Blennerhassett Museum


25. Oil and Gas Museum

26. Blennerhassett Island Bridge. Built in 2008, a Network Tied Arches bridge, the second of this type built in the US.

27. Wing dams extend only part of the way into the river. They can be used to increase the flow of the main channel, or prevent river bank erosion. They improve the local eco system.

28. CSX Ohio River Bridge. Through truss bridge, originally built 1870. The longest bridge in the world upon completion at 1.4 miles. The current spans probably date from 1905

29. Parkersburg-Belpre bridge, a four lane cantilever bridge



**PARKERSBURG**  
 West Virginia

**RESTRICTED AREA**

The section immediately above and below each lock and dam is designated as a Restricted Area. Waters in these areas are turbulent, unpredictable and descriptively dangerous. Strong currents can easily trap and drown a potential victim without warning. Signs and/or flashing red lights mark the limits of the regulated sectors at each lock and dam. No person, vessel or other floating craft shall enter any such guarded zone at any time and are subject to a summary offense and penalties. Lockmasters enforce the adherence to these laws and, if required, solicit aid from local police in the interest of public safety, please articulate to other boaters or anglers about the hazards of lock and dam structures.

30. Memorial Toll Bridge, a cantilevered Warren through-truss bridge built in 1955.

31. Harmar Bridge. A Pratt through truss bridge with manual swing draw span over Muskingum River. Originally a Railroad bridge, now pedestrian only. Built in 1913

32. Williamstown Bridge, a through truss bridge, built in 1992.

33. Parkersburg Flood Wall, completed in 1956.


34. I-77 Bridge. Through truss bridge, built in 1965.

# LITTLE KANAWHA RIVER


### LOCKING THROUGH

Locking through is recommended for experienced paddlers only!

- When heading downriver, the dam is difficult to see. Stay alert and keep track of your location (be visible and cognizant of others). Cross over to the correct side of the river that the lock is located on as much as one mile before you arrive and hug the shoreline. Keep an eye out for the "DANGER, DAM" signs and the white and orange pillar buoys (they may be taken out of the river depending on time of year and river flow).
- Let the Lock Master know you are there by ringing the bell located at the end of the storm wall, calling them on the phone or VHF radio channel. Then by sounding one long blast from a boat whistle followed by one short blast. Advance communication is advised. Check schedule for hours.
- Approach the lock and be aware of the following signals: Red means stand clear and do not enter; Yellow means approach lock under full control; and Green means proceed to enter lock directly. The Lock Master may also signal via air horn: one long blast means enter landward lock; two long blasts means enter riverward lock; one short blast means leave landward lock; and two short blasts means leave riverward lock.

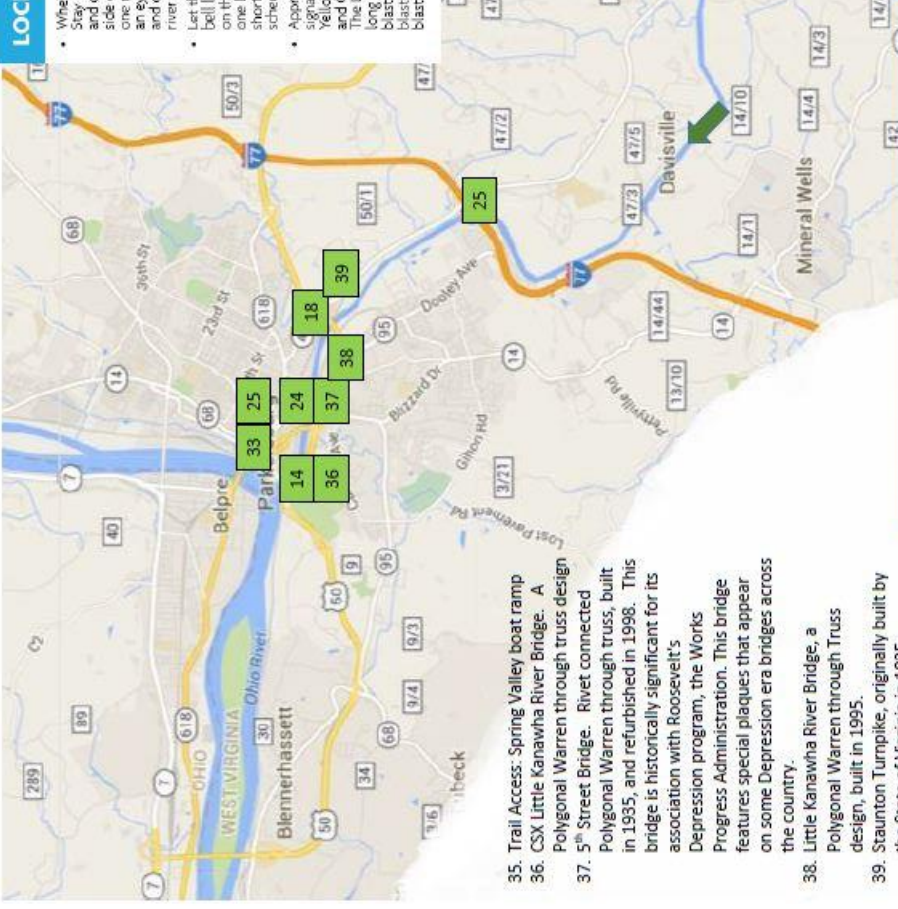


**US Army Corps of Engineers**



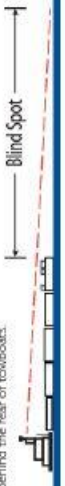
## LITTLE KANAWHA RIVER

**PRO TIP:**  
Stay out of the main navigation channel when there is fog on the river. Moving barges are extremely quiet.



### COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC

The Ohio River is classified as federal waters, and all boaters must comply with the U.S. Coast Guard requirements. These vessels are confined to a shipping channel. Recreational boaters must yield the right of way to commercial vessels. An important constraint is the pilot's "blind spot". The blind spot extends for hundreds of feet in front of the barge. Therefore, do not canoe or kayak in the path of barges; also have limited navigation due to their size and weight and therefore cannot turn or stop quickly. It can take up to three miles for a towboat to stop a string of full barges. In addition, "Wheel Wash" is a strong underwater current caused by a towboat's engines that can result in severe turbulence hundreds of yards behind a large vessel; consequently, recreational watercraft must maintain at least 1000 feet in clearance behind the rear of towboats.



- 35. Trail Access: Spring Valley boat ramp
  - 36. CSX Little Kanawha River Bridge. A Polygonal Warren through truss design
  - 37. 5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. Rivet connected Polygonal Warren through truss, built in 1935, and refurbished in 1998. This bridge is historically significant for its association with Roosevelt's Depression program, the Works Progress Administration. This bridge features special plaques that appear on some Depression era bridges across the country.
  - 38. Little Kanawha River Bridge, a Polygonal Warren through Truss design, built in 1995.
  - 39. Staunton Turnpike, originally built by the State of Virginia in 1825.
  - 40. Little Kanawha River Bridge, A girder bridge, built in 1965.
  - 41. Trail Access: Leachtown Lane.
- If you were born after 1986 you need a boating safety education certificate to operate a motorboat or motorized personal watercraft in West Virginia. You can take the training course online. Have the certificate on you when boating in West Virginia, you may be required to show it to a West Virginia Conservation Officer or other law-enforcement officer.

# ACCESS SITE INVENTORY

ACCESS SITES INVENTORY Page 1

Map tag	Name	Description	River	River mile	Lat	Long	Bank slope	Land Cover	Needs improved?	Property owner/manager	Liability Waiver required?	ADA Accessible? NOTE: No ADA facilities for entering/exiting Canoes or Kayaks	available parking spaces	Restroom	ADA Accessible restroom	Camping	Water trail sign-Highway	Water Trail sign-River	Trach receptacle
7	Blennhasset Island, BISHP	Sandy beach with steps.	Ohio	186.3	39.271799	-81.598315	developed	grass	no	Chemours/WVDNR	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes
10	Lee Creek	Carry down	Lee Creek	NA	39.149061	-81.715324	undeveloped	overgrown	yes	WV DNR	no	no	5	no	no	yes	no	no	no
12	Old lock #20	Single lane concrete ramp	Ohio	203.4	39.137733	-81.740594	developed	mowed	no	WV DNR	no	no	20	no	no	no	no	no	no
13	Belpre Access Park	Large public boat ramp	Ohio	186.4	39.275047	-81.597497	developed	asphalt	no	USA (COE)/City of Beire	no	yes	80	yes	yes	yes	not necessary, access site is easily visible from river	yes	
14	Point Park, Parkersburg	Carry down	Ohio	185	39.265542	-81.567252	developed	concrete	no	USA (COE)/City of Parkersburg	no	yes	40	yes	yes	no	no	not necessary, access site is easily visible from river	yes
15	Williamstown Boat Ramp	Large public boat ramp	Ohio	172.1	39.406995	-81.450081	developed	asphalt	no	USA (COE)/City of Williamstown	no	yes	46	yes	yes	no	no	not necessary, access site is easily visible from river	yes
16	Marietta Levee	Boat ramp, but carry down recommended	Ohio	172.1	39.410271	-81.451265	developed	cobbles	no	City of Marietta	no	yes	20	yes, at Lafayette Hotel	yes, at Lafayette Hotel	no	no	not necessary, access site is easily visible from river	yes
17	Indian Acres.	Large public boat ramp	Muskingum	2	39.432473	-81.471352	developed	asphalt	no	USA (COE)/City of Marietta	no	yes	100	yes	yes	no	yes	not necessary, access site is easily visible from river	yes
18	Coming Park.	Large public boat ramp	Little Kanawha	1.9	39.258694	-81.53552	developed	asphalt	no	USA (COE)/City of Parkersburg	no	yes	50	no, closed	no, closed	no	yes	no	yes
20	Lock 19	Single lane asphalt ramp	Ohio	198.8	39.25525	-81.691949	developed	asphalt	no	USA/WV DNR	no	no	10	no	no	no	yes	no	no
21	ORINWR HQ and Visitors Center	Carry down, Grass ramp	Ohio	169.5	39.390563	-81.417646	developed	mowed	no	USA/ORINWR	no	to river bank	13	yes	yes	no	no	no	no
35	Spring Valley (Mouth of Hughes)	Single lane concrete Ramp	Little Kanawha	18.1	39.199834	-81.395563	developed	concrete	no	WV DNR	no	no	10	no	no	no	yes	no	no
41	Leachtown Lane	Carry down	Little Kanawha	15.3	39.140011	-81.447744	undeveloped	overgrown	yes	WV DNR	no	no	5	no	no	no	yes	no	no

ACCESS SITES INVENTORY Page 2

Map tag	Name	State/local agency responsible	Nearby points of interest	Comments	
7	Blennerhassett Island. BISHP	WV DNR	Blennerhassett Island State Historical Park	Just south of sternwheeler landing area primitive camping, must book ahead of time	site may be closed during winter or high water <a href="https://www.blennerhassettislandstatepark.com/">https://www.blennerhassettislandstatepark.com/</a>
10	Lee Creek	WV DNR		Road signage missing, access needs gravelled	Follow Public Stream Access or Public Fishing signs. 4 Wheel Drive vehicle suggested <a href="https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P136">https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P136</a>
12	Old Lock #20	WV DNR		Old Lock#20 at end of County Rt-2/5 off State Rt. 68, 1/2 mi west of Belleville P.O.	<a href="https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P158">https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P158</a> site may be closed during winter or high water
13	Belpre Access Park	City of Belpre			site may be closed during winter or high water <a href="https://parkersburgwv.com/go/services-2/parks-and-recreation/point-park/">https://parkersburgwv.com/go/services-2/parks-and-recreation/point-park/</a>
14	Point Park, Parkersburg.	City of Parkersburg	Point Park, downtown parkersburg, Blennerhassett Museum, Oil and Gas Museum.		site may be closed during winter or high water <a href="https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P145">https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P145</a>
15	Williamstown Boat Ramp	City of Williamstown	Williamstown, restaurant, convenience store	Picnic tables, lighting, potable water, snack bar	site may be closed during winter or high water <a href="https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P160">https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P160</a>
16	Marietta Levee	City of Marietta	Downtown Marietta, bike path, public dock	Actually two motorized boat ramps (2nd st and Front St.). Use of boat ramps by motorized vehicles is discouraged.	
17	Indian Acres.	City of Marietta	Bike Path, skateboard park, children's playground	Picnic Tables	site may be closed during winter or high water
18	Corning Park.	City of Parkersburg		Picnic tables, shelter	site may be closed during winter or high water <a href="https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P145">https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P145</a> <a href="https://parkersburgwv.com/go/services-2/parks-and-recreation/coming-park/">https://parkersburgwv.com/go/services-2/parks-and-recreation/coming-park/</a>
20	Lock 19	WV DNR		Old Lock#19, 1 mile south of Washington at end of County Rt. 34/2	Follow Public Stream Access or Public Fishing signs. <a href="https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P159">https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P159</a>
21	ORINWR HQ and Visitors Center	ORINWR	ORINWR HQ and Visitors Center		site may be closed during winter or high water <a href="https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ohio_river_islands/">https://www.fws.gov/refuge/ohio_river_islands/</a>
35	Spring Valley (Mouth of Hughes)	WV DNR		Near mouth of Hughes River County Rt. 4/3, 1 mi west of county Rt. 6	Follow Public Stream Access or Public Fishing signs. <a href="https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P164">https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P164</a>
41	Leachtown Lane	WV DNR		Located at the end of County Rt. 47/12 off State Rt 47 near Leachtown	Follow Public Stream Access or Public Fishing signs. 4 Wheel Drive vehicle suggested <a href="https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P146">https://www.wvdnr.gov/fishing/public_access.asp?county=Wood&amp;type=PublicAccessSites&amp;point=P146</a>

# ACCESS SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Access Site Assessment  
Ohio River Water Trail (Parkersburg, WV)

<b>Name</b>	
<b>River Mile</b>	
<b>Lat/Long</b>	
<b>Description</b>	
<b>Bank Slope</b>	Developed or Undeveloped
<b>Land Cover</b>	Mowed or overgrown
<b>Needs Improved</b>	YES Or NO If Yes, Describe
<b>Property Owner/manager</b>	DOH Municipality Private
<b>Liability Waiver Required</b>	YES Or NO If Yes, copy on file Y Or N
<b>ADA Accessible</b>	YES Or NO
<b>Available Parking Spaces</b>	YES Or NO
<b>Restroom</b>	YES Or NO
<b>ADA Accessible Restroom</b>	YES Or NO
<b>Camping</b>	YES Or NO
<b>Water Trail Sign -Highway</b>	YES Or NO
<b>Water Trail Sign- River</b>	YES Or NO
<b>Trash Receptacle</b>	YES Or NO
<b>State,Local Agency or Non-Profit organization who will be Responsible for Public Access points and Amenities</b>	(Required for trail designation)
<b>Nearby Points of Interest</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	

ACCESS SITE PHOTOS



*Old Lock 20 (Map Tag 12), a single lane concrete ramp.*



*Lee Creek (Map Tag 10), carry down.*



*Lock 19 (Map Tag 20), a single lane concrete ramp*



*Belpre Access Park (Map Tag 13), a multi-lane public boat ramp.*



*Point Park (Map Tag 14), a riverfront park, carry down.*



*Williamstown Boat Ramp (Map Tag 15), multi-lane public ramp.*





*Marietta Levee (Map Tag 16), carry down.*



*Indian Acres (Map Tag 17), multi-lane public boat ramp.*



*Corning Park (Map Tag 18), multi-lane public boat ramp.*



*ORINWR HQ (Map Tag 21), carry down.*



*Spring Valley-Mouth of Hughes (Map Tag 35), a single lane concrete ramp.*



*Leachtown Lane (Map Tag 41), carry down.*

# TRIP MILEAGE CHARTS

Trip Milage Chart  
Little Kanawha River

Put-in Location (Upstrea	Map Tag	Location	Trip milage		
	18	Corning Park.	1.9		
41	Leachtown Lane	15.3	13.4		
35	Spring Valley(Mouth of Hughes)	18.1	16.2	2.8	
	Map tag 14	Map tag 18	Map tag 41		
	Point Park, Parkersburg	Corning Park.	Leachtown Lane		
Take-out location (downstream)					

Trip Milage Chart  
Ohio River

Put-in Location (Upstream)	Map Tag	Location	Trip Milage							
	10	Lee Creek	5.3							
20	Lock 19	9.6	12.1							
13	Belpre Access Park	17	19.5	7.4						
7	Blennerhassett Island. BISHP	17.1	19.6	7.5	0.1					
14	Point Park, Parkersburg.	18.4	20.9	8.8	1.4	1.3				
15	Williamstown Boat Ramp	31.3	33.8	21.7	14.3	14.2	12.9		0	
16	Marietta Levee	31.3	33.8	21.7	14.3	14.2	12.9	0		
17	Indian Acres.	33.3	35.8	23.7	16.3	16.2	14.9	2	2	
21	ORINWR HQ and Visitors Center	33.9	36.4	24.3	16.9	16.8	15.5	2.6	2.6	
	Map tag 12	Map tag 10	Map tag 20	Map tag 13	Map tag 7	Map tag 14	Map tag 15	Map tag 16		
	Old Lock #20	Lee Creek	Lock 19	Belpre Access Park	Blennerhassett Island. BISHP	Point Park, Parkersburg.	Williamstown Boat Ramp	Marietta Levee		
Take-out location (downstream)										

# SPONSORSHIP RESOLUTION

MARCH 7, 2016

IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
IN RE: THE COUNTY COMMISSION DID HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE  
COUNTY SPONSORSHIP OF A WATER TRAIL IN WOOD  
COUNTY.


## ORDER

On this date, the County Commission of Wood County, upon a motion made by David Blair Couch, seconded by Stephen E. Gainer and passed, did hereby AUTHORIZE the county sponsorship of a water trail in Wood County. Said water trail is being developed in a joint agreement between the Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Wood County Alternative Transportation Council.

APPROVED:

THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF WOOD COUNTY

  
Stephen Gainer, President

  
David Blair Couch, Commissioner

M/3323

Mark Rhodes  
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