

Building and Promoting Blue Trails



Considerations From a Design Perspective

Blue Trail Site Selection

- Water
- Context & Land Ownership
- Regional Access / Visibility
- Other Recreational Opportunities—
Connectivity
- Existing Demand
- Site Characteristics



Launch Site Assessment – Initial Items to Consider

- The Water – depth, flow rates, seasonal variability, quality
- The Land – general topography, bank, soils, vegetation, sight lines
- The People – ease of access, safety, abutting land uses, demographics
- Identify opportunities and constraints
- Budget



Launch Design Considerations – General Access to Site



Access to main routes
or highways



Parking & Walks



Direction: Signage
and/or Views of Water
from Parking



Visibility

Launch Design Considerations – Access to Water



Impromptu



Armored Bank



Stair & Slide



Floating Dock / Ramp



Floating Dock / Roller Launch

Launch Design Considerations – Universal Accessibility



Walkways / Ramps / Handrails



Launch



Parking



Design Process

- Process similar to standard design process excluding extensive permitting
 - Schematic Design, Budget Definition & Fundraising
 - **Design Development & Permitting**
 - Construction Documentation, Bidding & Construction
 - Enjoyment & Maintenance

Costs & Fundraising

- Design costs are proportional higher than normal and highly variable
- Projected cost estimates by contractors should be considered during the design process
- Fundraising, design and permitting take significant time (many months to years)

Permitting Considerations

- Permitting – local, state & federal
 - Conservation Commission – notice of intent, flood impact & compensatory storage calculations, wildlife habitat study, alternatives analysis
 - Other Local Boards (City Council, Selectmen, Planning Boards, etc)
 - Army Corps of Engineers – site specific application
 - DEP – Chapter 91 Waterway license
- ... and maybe more depending on the site and extent of work proposed

Permitting Considerations

- Drawings and applications unique to each Review Board
- Drawings revisions likely after comments from Review Boards and abutters
- Multiple meetings should be expected

Maintenance Considerations

- Prior to Final Design and Construction, identify the entity(s) responsible for maintenance
- Design project in line with ability, funding, and staffing
- Track weather events and seasonal changes to minimize use of damaged launches
- Monitor conditions of permit approvals



After all your hard work... have fun!