

PENNTAILS

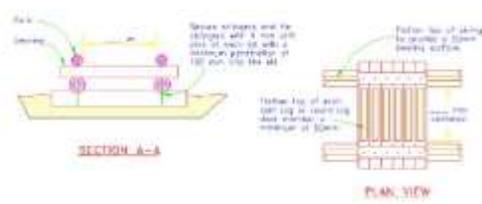
2022 Wetlands and Waterways Trails Workshop

Pedestrian trails, that provide access to wetlands, estuaries and streambanks, offer some of the most unique opportunities for people to observe and interact with nature in particularly exceptional ways. Long regarded as wastelands, wetlands are now recognized as important features in the landscape that provide numerous beneficial services for people and for fish and wildlife. Some of these services, or functions, include protecting and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitats, storing floodwaters, and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods.

These beneficial services, considered valuable to societies worldwide, are the result of the inherent and unique natural characteristics of wetlands. Wetlands filter and clean water, which decreases the costs of drinking water treatment, and they reduce the frequency and intensity of floods. They support the life cycle of 75% of the fish and shellfish commercially harvested in the U.S., and up to 90% of the recreational fish catch.¹



This unique and specialized environment demands equally specialized trails planning, design and management approaches to protect and sustain these increasingly rare environments.



For more than 14 years, Penn Trails www.penntrails.com has been involved in the assessment, planning, design and construction of hundreds of miles of recreational pedestrian trails in a number of states, from Pennsylvania to Oregon. The majority of the planning projects included interaction with wetlands and waterways.

This workshop will provide introductory information and insights to assist land trusts, conservancies and other entities managing these sensitive areas to prepare and implement pedestrian trail planning, design, construction and ongoing management to work around streams and wetlands. The focus of the workshop is to provide guidance, through both classroom and hands-on experience to properly design and implement an effective trail plan in a wetland area.



Day 1: Participants will be introduced to the process for preparing and implementing pedestrian trail planning, design, construction, and ongoing management to work around streams and wetlands. The focus of the 1.5 day workshop is to provide guidance, through both classroom and hands-on experience, to properly design and implement an effective trail plan in a wetland area.

¹ https://conservationtools.org/library_items/1038-Economic-Benefits-of-Wetlands

8:30AM | Registration and coffee

9:00AM – Noon | Morning session (includes 15-minute break)

- A. Trail Planning & Management fundamentals (TMOs)
 - 1. The Four Trail Sustainability Factors
 - 2. The Five Trail Management Objectives

Break – 15 min.

- B. Waterways – Brooks, Creeks, Streams, Rivers
- C. Wetlands – Swamps & Marshes
- D. Environmental Planning & Permitting in Pennsylvania
 - 1. Types of Permits and Related Agencies
 - 2. Outline Planning Process & Steps
- E. Wetland & Waterway Delineations
 - 1. Pre-Application considerations

Noon – 12:30PM | Lunch

12:30 – 4:30PM | Afternoon session (includes 15-minute break)

- A. Wetland & Waterway Pedestrian Trails
- B. Paths of Travel - TMOs
 - 1. Trail
 - 2. Trails Structure

Break – 15 min.

- C. Small Group Discussion of Your Project Ideas, Concepts and Questions
- D. Wetland & Waterway – Penn Trails Project Reviews & Discussion
 - 1. Small & Medium Scale Project – Irish Gap Trails
Kings Gap Environmental Education Center, Carlisle PA Irish Gap Trails
 - 2. Large Scale Project – McCormick Ravine Trail System
Lake Forest Open Lands, Lake Forest Illinois
- E. Group Discussion - Your Project Questions
- F. Wrap Up and Prepare for Day 2 at Girty's Woods

Day 2: On this half-day classroom/field session, participants will gather at the classroom site, then divide into groups before traveling to the project site at Girty's Woods. Skills learned during the classroom sessions will be put into practice on the ground as participants begin to explore and discuss design elements of new trail development in wet areas.

- 8:30AM | Registration and Coffee
- 9:00AM – Noon | Morning Session
 - Overview of Gity's Woods Project (classroom)
 - Site Visit and Review of Wetland/Waterway related project components
 - Small Group – observations, based upon Day I
- Noon – 12:30PM | Lunch
 - Small Group feedback from Girty's Woods observations