Water Trail Access Design

Access Sites that Make Sense
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October 6, 2008

1. Basic access
   a. "Soft Landings"
   b. "Hard Landings"
   c. Appearances from a map might be deceiving
   d. Paddlers might have to make a site work
2. Know before you go
   a. Useful websites
   b. Carry or cart required
   c. Whitewater launch sites
3. Access to the access site
   a. Attention to the environment
   b. Short carries
   c. Few steps
   d. Places to rest
   e. Passing zones
   f. "Safe" to people and environment
4. Types of access
   a. Stairs
   b. Stairs and slides – stone, metal, wood
   c. Modular dock systems
   d. Other floating docks
      i. Consider height off water
      ii. Stability for one/more
      iii. Material
      iv. Lifetime?
      v. Hold rings or other hold devices
   e. Tapered ramp access
5. Solo vs. multiple launch- perfection?
   a. Wide steps
   b. Multiple docking points aid speed for groups
   c. Ample parking
   d. Restrooms nearby
   e. Outdoor shower
   f. Interpretive signage
      i. Animals/plants
      ii. Area ecology
      iii. History
      iv. Other interesting tidbits
   g. Picnic tables/grills
   h. Multi-use

   i. Doggie bags available
   j. ADA accessible
   k. Outdoor shower
   l. Place to wash boats
   m. Ample turn-around for trucks pulling trailers
   n. Bus/van parking
   o. Benches
   p. Protection from wind
   q. Options for launching
   r. Playground
   s. Shoreline protection
   t. Other rec activities available
   u. Shelter
   v. Allow for water level differences

6. Last points to ponder
   a. Safety for people and environment
   b. Convenience for all abilities
   c. Fun for all

Note: National Park Service, "Logical Lasting Launches", printed Spring 2004 can be an invaluable resource.

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