

Iowa Water Trails Program Sign Manual



Iowa Department of
Natural Resources

Water Trail Sign Notes

For **state highways**, plan to work with the Iowa DOT for custom designed signs that meet specific typeface criteria. DOT will also install these signs. Both services are free, however, the signs themselves must be purchased by the water trail developer either from Prison Industries, a third-party vendor, or the Iowa DOT (~\$8.50 per square foot).

Posts should follow standards of the local public area. For example, all state parks require wooden posts. Many city parks use U-channel posts. Dam warning signs appear to be particularly prone to vandalism, and “DANGER DAM” signs should be fixed to posts a distance of 10 feet above the ground to avoid being easily scratched or marked. Purchase either 14” or 16” posts for that purpose.

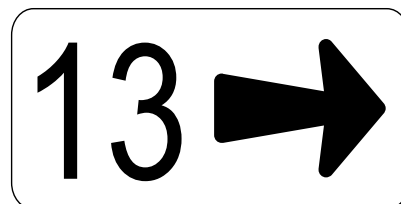
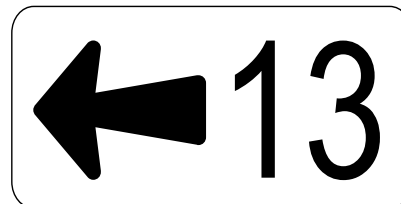
Sign placement at dams require special guidance. See illustrations on page 7.

For water trail developers, a **list of prices** is available from Prison Industries for budgeting purposes. Send an e-mail to watertrails2@dnr.state.ia.us to receive the most current version. Note that for developers using **Federal Recreational Trails** grants, Iowa DOT does not allow Prison Industries purchases and commercial sign vendors must be used.

Sign: Water Trail Name
Size: 12"x18"
Color: Blue, Pantone300C; Green, Pantone348C;
Orange, 1665C
Thickness: .080
Material: Aluminum
Reflective: Yes
Hole size: 7/16"
Centers: 6"
Placement: At launch, or at intersections sharing
post with wayfinding arrows for city/county
roads



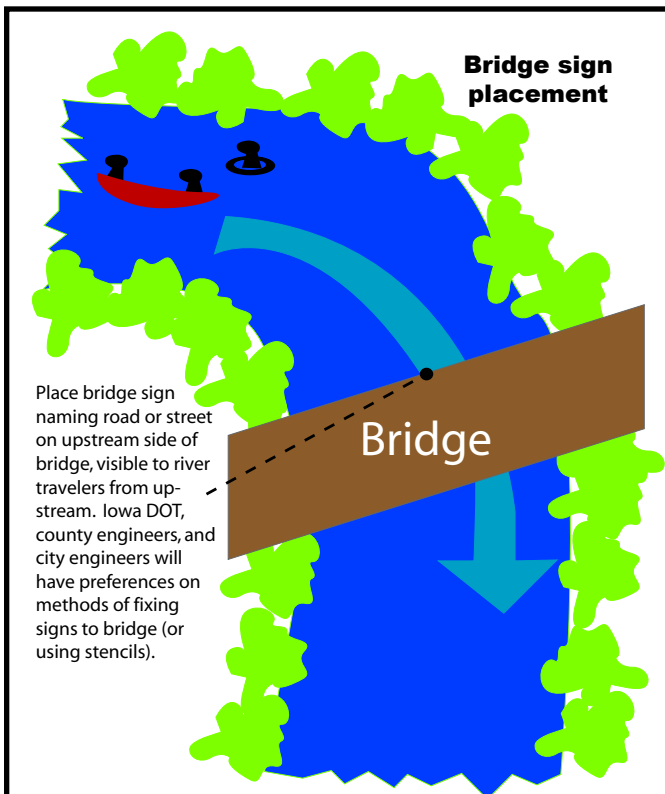
Sign: Wayfinding left and right arrows
Size: 12"x6"
Color: black on white
Thickness: .080
Material: Aluminum
Reflective: Yes
Hole size: 7/16"
Centers: 1"
Placement: at intersections sharing post below
Water Trail Name sign for county/city roads



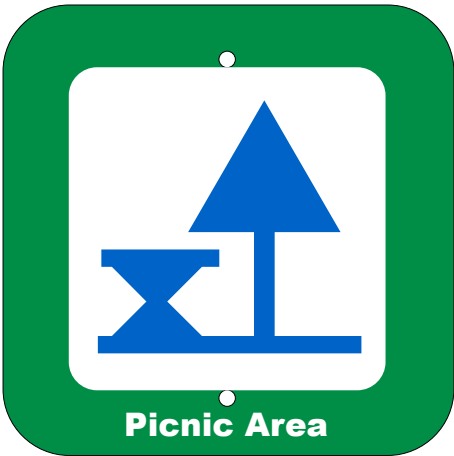


Sign: Access name/Distance to Next Access
 Size: 12"x12"
 Color: Blue, Pantone300C; Green, Pantone348C, on White
 Thickness: .080
 Material: Aluminum
 Reflective: Yes
 Hole size: 7/16"
 Centers: 6"
 Options: Canoe-only, or canoe with powerboat
 Placement: At launch, can share post with Water Trail Name sign

Martin Luther King Memorial Parkway



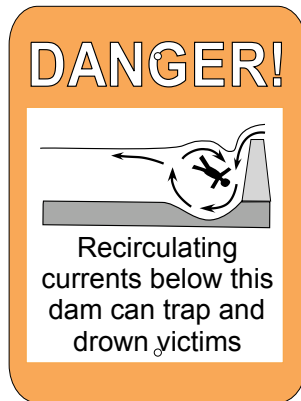
Sign: Bridge sign
 Size: 66"x20"
 Color: black on white
 Thickness: .080
 Material: Aluminum
 Reflective: Yes
 Hole size: 7/16"
 Centers: N/A
 Options: Sign size may be adjusted for less or more text; Stencils may be used in lieu of this sign;



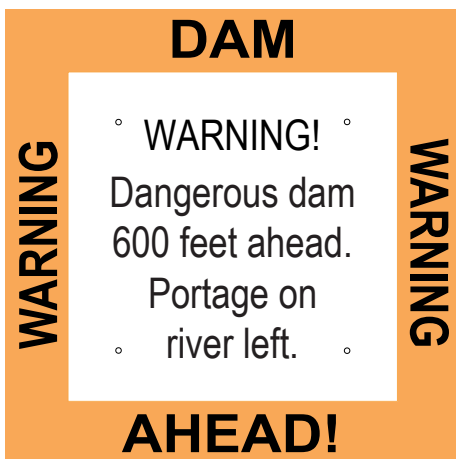
Sign: Amenities
Size: 12"x12"
Color: Blue, Pantone300C; White; (Red); on
Green, Pantone348C
Thickness: .080
Material: Aluminum
Reflective: Yes
Hole size: 7/16"
Centers: 9"
Options: Canoe-only, or canoe with powerboat
Placement: At launch, can share post with Water
Trail Name sign



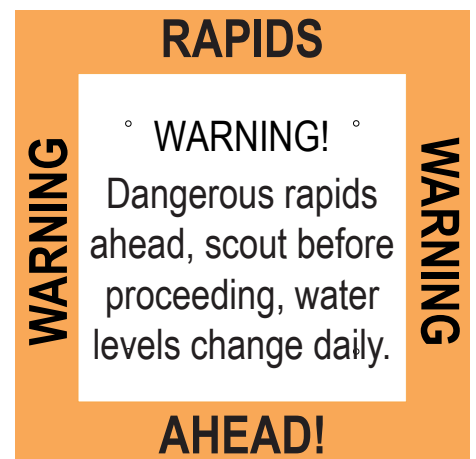
Sign: DAM
 Size: 36"X36"
 Color: Orange, Black on White
 Thickness: .080
 Material: Aluminum
 Reflective: Yes
 Hole size: 7/16"
 Centers: 9" from each side
 Placement: Place near dam to be visible a minimum of 300 feet upstream; may be placed on cables across rivers or on posts if visible



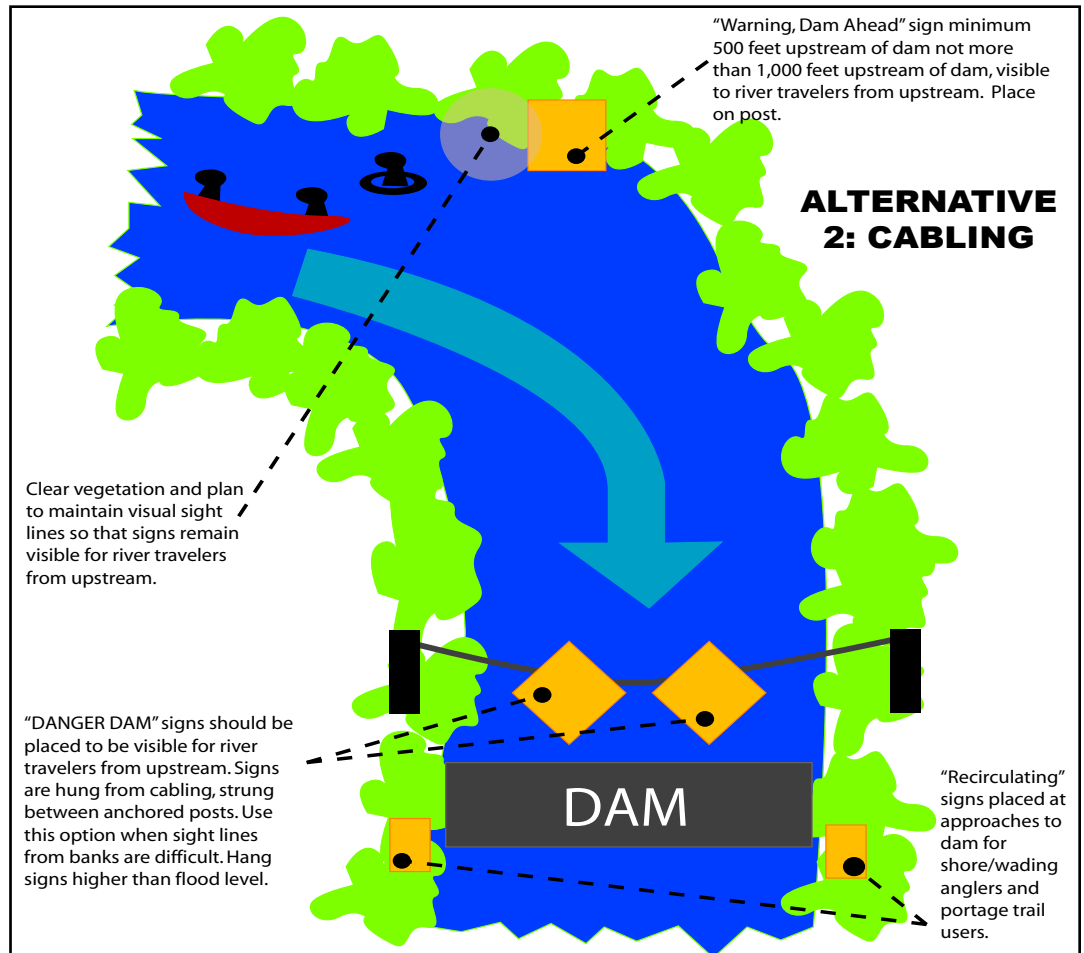
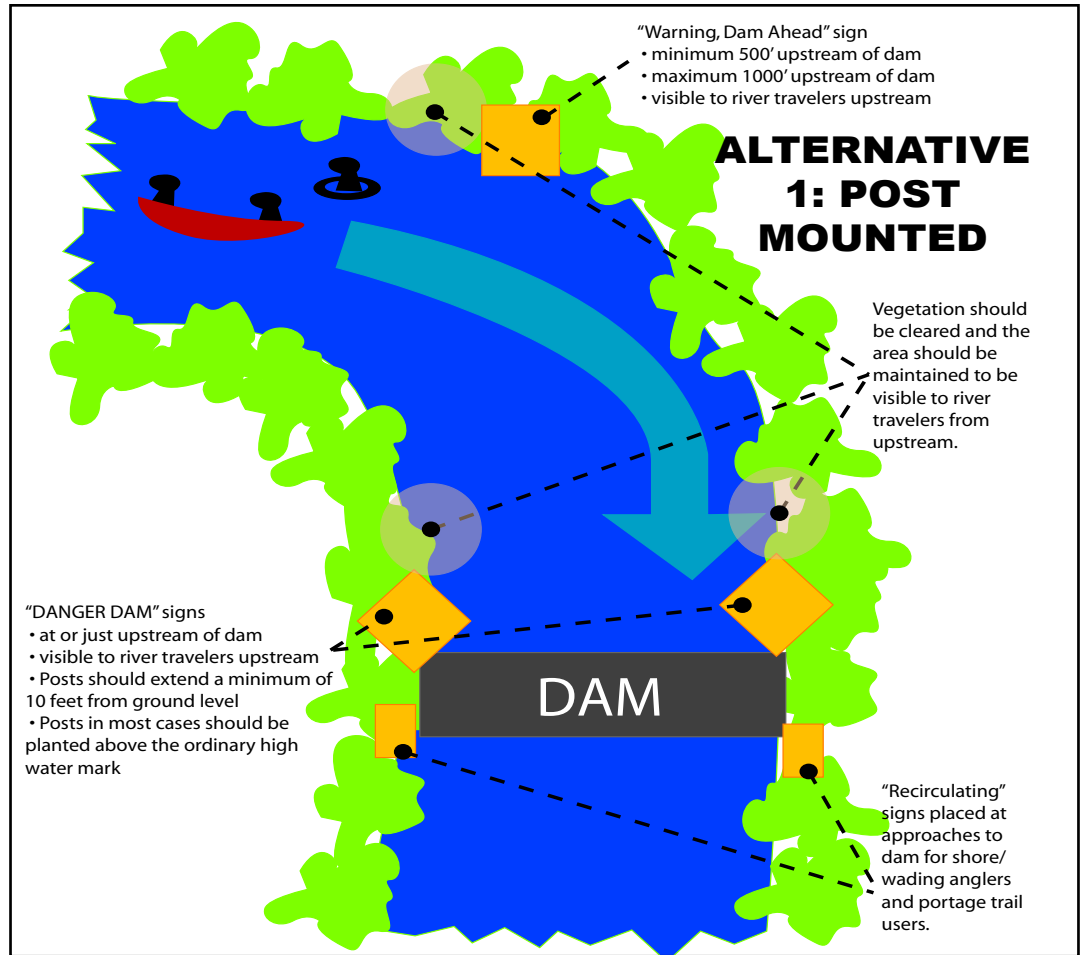
Sign: Dam, Recirculating
 Size: 18"X24"
 Color: Orange, Black on White
 Thickness: .080
 Material: Aluminum
 Reflective: Yes
 Hole size: 7/16"
 Centers: 10"
 Placement: At dam, visible from portage routes and to anglers using the dam.



Sign: Warning Rapids/Dam ahead
 Size: 36"X36"
 Color: Orange, Black on White
 Thickness: .080
 Material: Aluminum
 Reflective: Yes
 Hole size: 7/16"
 Centers: 9" from each side, 2 posts
 Options: Custom distances & messages are available from Water Trails coordinator.
 Placement: Visible from river well upstream of hazard.



DAM SAFETY SIGN PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

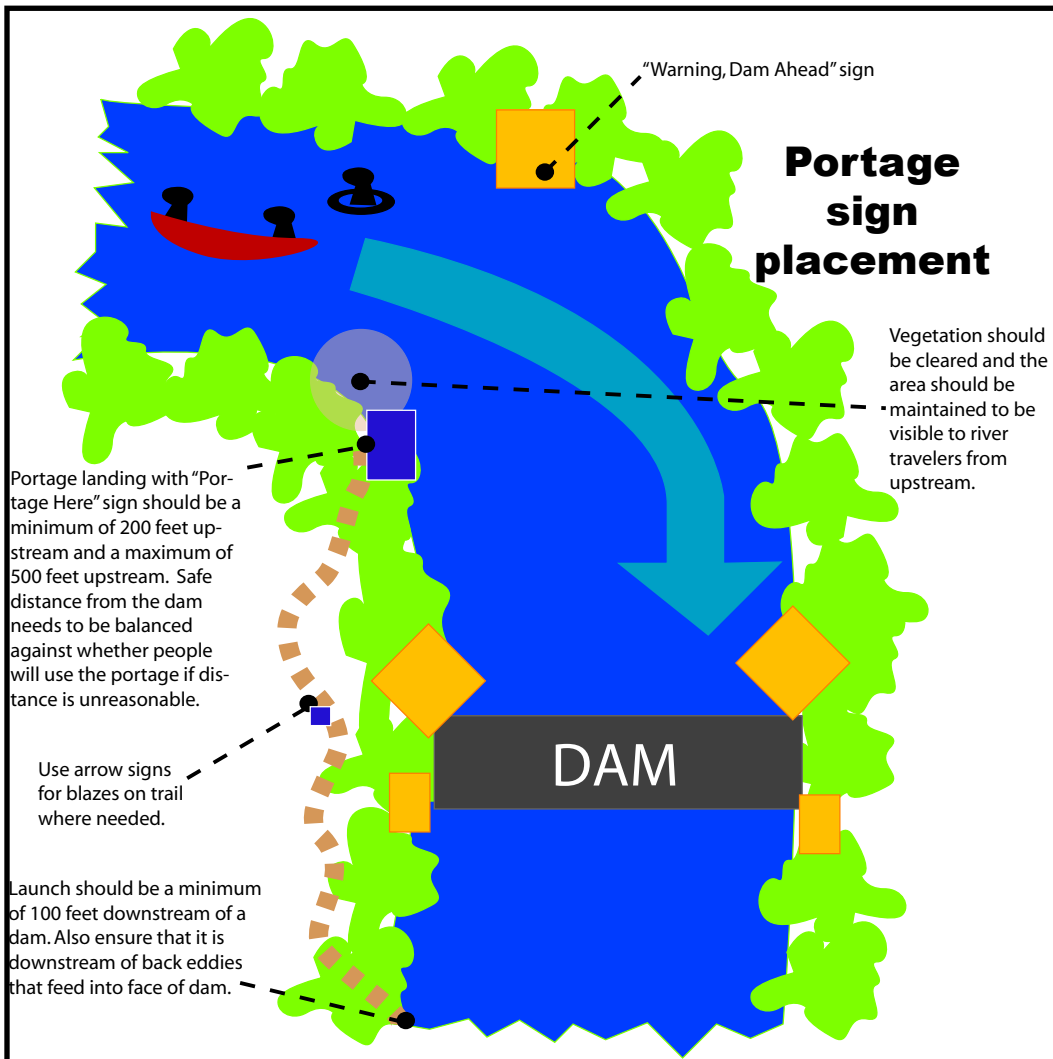




Sign: Portage
 Size: 12"x18"
 Color: White on Blue, Pantone300
 Thickness: .080
 Material: Aluminum
 Reflective: Yes
 Hole size: 7/16"
 Centers: 12"
 Placement: Visible upstream of landing, guiding users to landing for land trail. Ensure these are a reasonable distance upstream of dams or other hazards.



Sign: Portage arrows (left, right, up)
 Size: 8"x8"
 Color: White on Blue, Pantone300
 Thickness: .080
 Material: Aluminum
 Reflective: Yes
 Hole size: 7/16"
 Centers: 6"
 Placement: Use as trail blazes on the portage trail.



Water Trail Rules

Respect private property.

Much land along this waterway is private. Do not tamper with fences, livestock, or any other property. Enter private land only with permission of the landowner.

Be safe.

River users are required to have a Personal Floatation Device in the boat. Actually wearing it greatly increases your chance of survival if you capsize. River levels change and conditions change constantly. Avoid hazards such as snags, and ALWAYS portage at low-head dams.

Limit alcohol consumption.

Intoxication on waterways leads to poor judgment and increased risk of drowning.

No littering or dumping.

Leave no trace. Volunteers work to keep this river clean.

Sign: Rules

Size: 12"X12"

Color: White on Blue, Pantone300; Green, Pantone348C

Thickness: .080

Material: Aluminum

Reflective: Yes

Hole size: 7/16"

Centers: 9"

Placement: At accesses, especially where land-owner relations are sensitive, or where there have been other problems