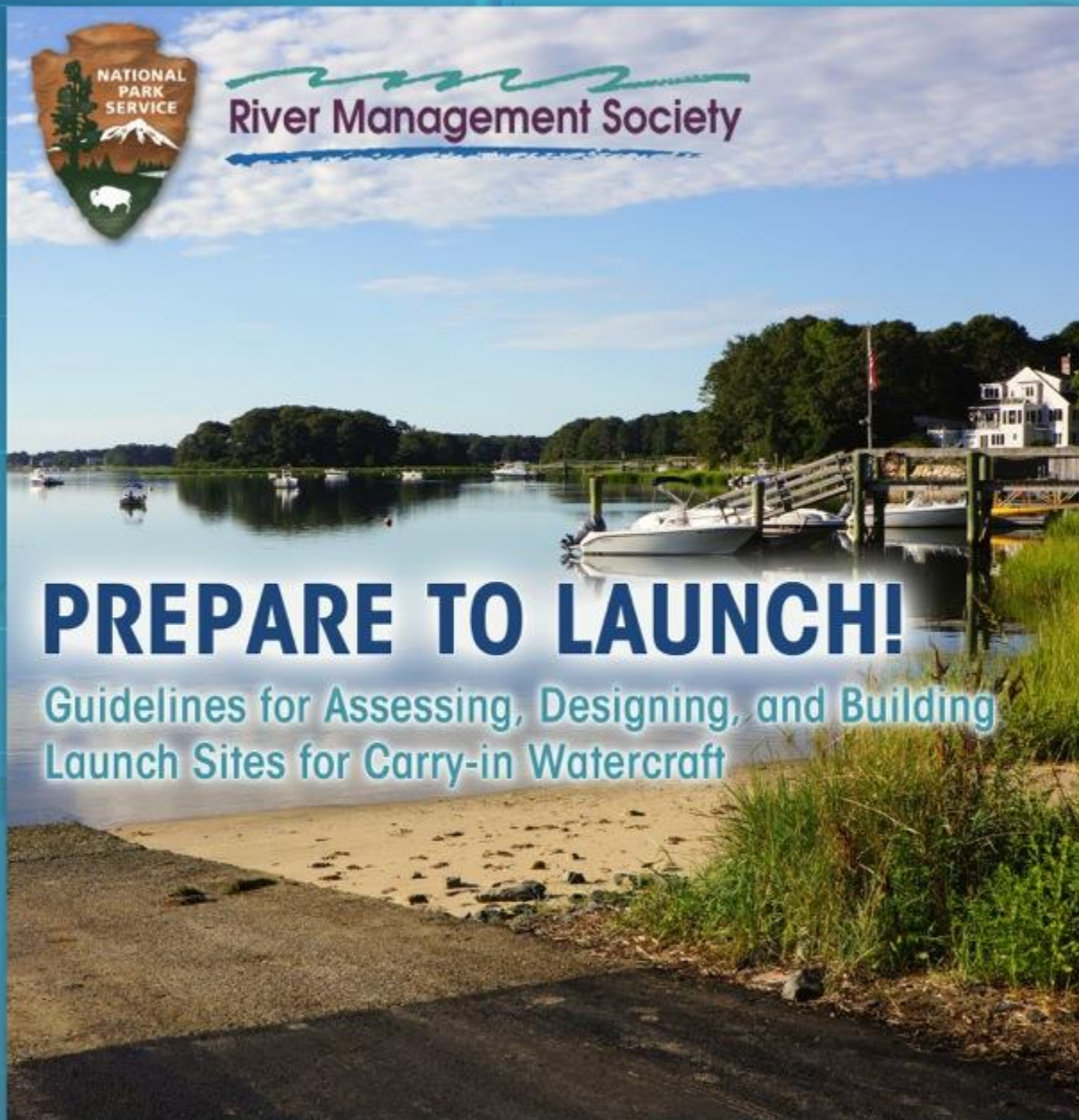




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PREPARE TO LAUNCH!

Guidelines for Assessing, Designing, and Building
Launch Sites for Carry-in Watercraft





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Prepare To Launch!

Guidelines For Assessing, Designing And Building Access Sites For Carry-In Watercraft

Are you a facility or water trail planner, or perhaps a recreation project leader planning, building, or updating access sites designed to welcome canoeists, kayakers, tubers, stand-up paddlers, rowers, or small craft sailors (referred to as “paddlers” in this document)? *Prepare to Launch!* will help you:

- **Understand Launch Attributes** by taking a look at various shoreline characteristics along rivers, lakes, and bays
- **Addressing Users’ Launch Needs** by looking at the various types of users and watercraft, amount of traffic, and accessibility needs
- **Understanding Launch Design Criteria** that can be shared with a contractor, engineer, or designer, depending on the complexity of the site
- **Promoting Your Launch Project** by offering tips to help make decisions about appropriate launch design and construction and by helping to organize examples that can then help gain community support and fundraising.



Logical Lasting Launches: Updated

Prepare to Launch! is an update to *Logical Lasting Launches*, a Material in the oriNational Park Service publication that has been a reliable resource for river managers at the federal, agency, state, local, and community level across the country since 2004. *Prepare to Launch!* utilizes material in the original document, adding decision-based links to guide you through the development process for a launch, from concept to detailed design and construction. *Prepare to Launch!* is also available online at www.River-Management.org/prepare-to-launch.

You will see what may seem to be inconsistencies in approaches and design choices illustrated here. There is no one single ‘best’ or standard for a given launch development project, for which physical space, environmental needs, technical expertise and financial resources vary . We intend for this guide to share design and construction options to help you make informed choices.

Prepare to Launch! is a joint project of the NPS Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program and the River Management Society. We are grateful for the collaboration of river users, managers, and professionals across the country for this updated resource guide.






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How To Navigate *Prepare To Launch!*

Navigation Functionality

- On every slide, there are two icons,   that allow you to navigate back to the beginning of a chapter, or return to the Table of Contents.
-  Clicking this button will take you back to the beginning of the chapter you are currently in.
-  Clicking the ‘home’ button will return you to the Table of Contents.
- The Table of Contents slide is hyperlinked to allow you to click the section you would like to navigate directly to.
-  Colored buttons like this are also clickable, taking you to the corresponding section.
- **Note:** These buttons only work when viewing the PowerPoint in ‘presentation’ mode.

Glossary Terms


- When you see a word that is colored like the following example, [cleats](#), it is a glossary term that is defined in the end of the document. On every glossary page, there is a return button,  that will take you back to the previous slide you just came from.





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