In order to move forward with the project, additional data sets must be edited and completed as the completed data sets will be used to aid a purpose.

**Purpose:**
- To expand environmental recreational opportunities through the creation of a comprehensive inventory of Northwest Indiana’s Water Trails including inventoried public access sites, feasible paddling routes, and specific resource conditions.
- To gain valuable experience extrapolating real field data into articulated environmental policy action points.

**Study Sites:**
Public access points and trail conditions were monitored along:
- Lake Michigan
- Deep River
- Wolf Lake
- Lakes of La Porte
- East Branch Little Calumet
- Kankakee River
- West Branch Little Calumet
- Trail Creek

**Background:**
This study was undertaken to expand previous efforts aimed to increase paddler’s access and familiarity with the Lake Michigan waterways and other aquatic resources.

The completed data sets will be used to aid a variety of policy initiatives centered around improving public access to water trails.

**Project Partners:**
- While the ultimate goal is to make data available to the public, potential data destinations include the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Great Lakes Sea Grant Network.
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**Techniques & Equipment:**
- Utilized GPS tracking camera to inventory essential features and amenities of public access points along each of the potential water trails.
- Documented general water trail conditions and potential obstructions including log jams, bridges, and dangerous flows.
- Video recorded unique features and wildlife of each trail.

**Data and Results:**
- The necessary field data was transposed into separate sections describing the physical conditions of the water body and existing/potential public access sites.
- Priority status was given for water trails with conveniently located access points, visually stimulating attractions, and without substantial woody debris accumulation.
- Sections of individual water trails were designated as high priority areas for both clean up and woody debris modifications.
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