

# Delaware Water Gap

National Recreation Area  
Pennsylvania/New Jersey  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Canoeing and Boating on the Delaware River



### General Information

The Delaware River is one of the most scenic and least polluted rivers in the East. Thirty-five miles of the river, from south of Port Jervis, N.Y. through the spectacular Delaware Water Gap, are included within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. This section of the river provides excellent canoeing and boating opportunities for thousands of people each year.

This folder supplements the more detailed Delaware River Recreation Maps published by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC).

The maps may be obtained at the park information station or by writing the DRBC or Eastern National Park and Monument Association, Delaware Water Gap NRA, Bushkill, PA 18324.

Boats and canoes used on the Delaware River are subject to all U.S. Coast Guard rules, regulations and safety inspections.

Public telephones are located at Milford Beach, Dingman's Access, Smithfield Beach and Kittatinny Access.

A valid Pennsylvania or New Jersey fishing

license is required to fish on the Delaware River.

Cars left at access areas should be locked with any valuables in the trunk or out of sight to minimize theft.

DRINKING WATER is available at Milford Beach, Eshback Access, Depew Access, Smithfield Beach and the Kittatinny Access. River or stream water should be boiled at least three minutes before drinking.

### Safe Boating Is No Accident

### Be River Wise

1. When planning the time it will take for your trip, take into consideration the river currents, wind conditions, your canoeing ability and whether you plan to swim or picnic along the way.
2. Check the weather forecast before starting your trip. High water or cold water are very dangerous. Take appropriate precautions and do not overestimate your abilities.
3. Never boat alone. For three or more canoes, assign a lead canoe and a sweep canoe. Keep all others between and maintain communications.
4. On overnight trips, secure boats & canoes well up from the water to guard against rising waters.

### For Your Safety

1. Plan to be off the river before dark.
2. Do not overload your canoe. Keep weight evenly distributed. Secure equipment to prevent shifting loads or loss in case of tipping. Never stand or change positions while afloat.
3. In motorboat areas, canoe near the shore and head into wakes to avoid upsetting.
4. Watch for rocks or logs. A white ripple means a rock is upriver of the ripple. Aim for the "V" of smooth water between rocks.
5. In rough water kneel for stability. Keep the bow headed downstream; if the canoe is sideways it will tip when it strikes a wave or rock.
6. Guard against sunburn.
7. Wear protective foot gear to protect against broken glass and sharp rocks.

### If You Capsize

1. Your canoe will float — stay with it.
2. KEEP ON THE UPSTREAM SIDE OF THE CANOE to avoid being pinned against a rock or obstacle.
3. Float on your back, feet together and out of the water with toes pointed downstream to fend off rocks.
4. Save people first. Rescue boats and equipment only if it can be done safely.

**SWIMMING SKILL IS THE  
BASIC INGREDIENT OF  
WATER SAFETY!**

**Drowning is for REAL —  
Avoid Tragedy  
Always Wear a Life Jacket and Follow  
All Safety Tips  
IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!!**

### Swimming

1. Swim only in authorized areas. Never swim alone.
2. Sandy beaches are available at Milford Beach and Smithfield Beach. Lifeguards are on duty July through Labor Day.
3. Do not swim in motor boats zones. Swimming across the river is especially hazardous.
4. Beware of swift currents and dropoffs. If you are diving, check for submerged logs, rocks and shallows.
5. Try swimming with your life jacket on — it's fun!



BUOYANT VEST



LIFE PRESERVER  
(Jacket Type)



SPECIAL PURPOSE  
BUOYANT DEVICE

### Motorboat Operations

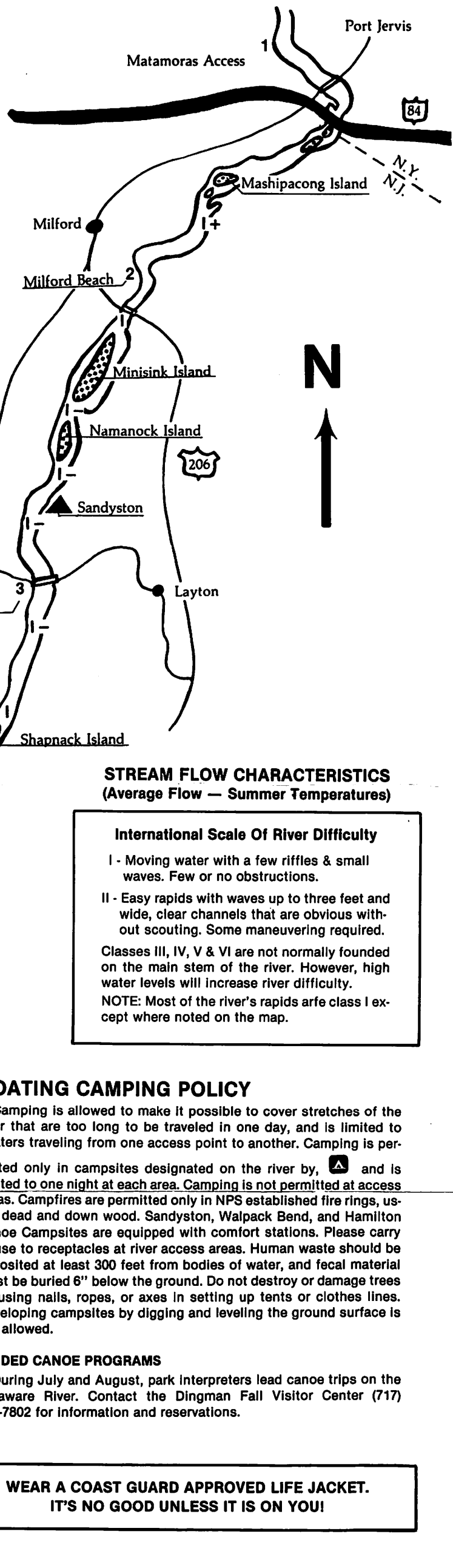
Operators of motorboats should exercise extreme caution and courtesy. The configuration of the riverbed (shallow with a few relatively deep pools) generally limits power boating to three areas: Milford Beach, Smithfield Beach, and Kittatinny Point. River fluctuations are frequent and great. The safe boater is aware of water levels and is alert to underwater hazards, even in pool areas.

1. Inspect all your boating equipment and be sure it complies with or exceeds Federal and State regulations.
2. Have a U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation device in serviceable condition for each passenger and worn when boating.
3. Boaters must have a competent observer in the boat while towing a skier. Avoid operation close to any person, boat, or object.
4. Observe restrictions at swimming areas marked by buoys.
5. Remember: You are responsible for your boat's wake.

24-HOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER: 717-588-6637

**ACCESS AREAS NORTH TO SOUTH**

1. **Matamoras Canoe Access, Pa. (0 mi.)**  
Operated by Pennsylvania Fish Commission, located north of Port Jervis Bridge. Overnight parking prohibited.
2. **Milford Beach, Pa. (9 mi.)**  
Operated by NPS, reached by paved road from Rt. 209 just south of Milford. Refuse pickup, swimming, boat ramp, picnicking, comfort stations, water, telephone, parking, motorboating.
3. **Dingmans Ferry Access, Pa. (17 mi.)**  
Operated by NPS, located 1/2 mile east of Rt. 209 off Rt. 739 at Dingmans Ferry Bridge. Boat ramp, telephone, comfort station, parking, refuse pickup.
4. **Eshback Access, Pa. (23 mi.)**  
Operated by NPS, milepost 6.5 on Rt. 209. River Access for small cartop boats and canoes; drinking water, limited parking.
5. **Bushkill Access, Pa. (27 mi.)**  
Operated by NPS, 2 miles north of Bushkill on Rt. 209. Boat ramp, limited parking.
6. **Depew Access, N.J. (33 mi.)**  
Operated by NPS, 9 miles north of I-80 off the N.J. River Road. Refuse pickup, picnicking, drinking water, comfort stations, river access for small cartop boats and canoes.
7. **Poxono Access, N.J. (35 mi.)**  
Operated by NPS, 7 1/2 miles north of I-80 off the N.J. River Road. Boat ramp, limited parking.
8. **Smithfield Beach, Pa. (36.5 mi.)**  
Operated by NPS, located 4 miles north of Shawnee off the Pa. River Road. Boat ramp, parking, picnicking, water, refuse pickup, swimming, motorboating, comfort stations, telephone.
9. **Worthington Access, N.J. (38.7 mi.)**  
Operated by N.J. Worthington State Forest, 4 miles north of I-80 off the N.J. River Road. Boat ramp.
10. **Kittatinny Access, N.J. (43 mi.)**  
Operated by NPS, on I-80 at the Delaware Water Gap National Park Service Visitor Center, boat ramp, parking, telephone, water, comfort stations, picnicking, information, refuse pickup, hiking, motorboating. NOTE: Swimming at this location, because of river conditions and heavy boat traffic, is extremely hazardous and is not recommended.



**STREAM FLOW CHARACTERISTICS**  
(Average Flow — Summer Temperatures)

**International Scale Of River Difficulty**


I - Moving water with a few riffles & small waves. Few or no obstructions.

II - Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide, clear channels that are obvious without scouting. Some maneuvering required.

Classes III, IV, V & VI are not normally founded on the main stem of the river. However, high water levels will increase river difficulty.

NOTE: Most of the river's rapids are class I except where noted on the map.

**BOATING CAMPING POLICY**

Camping is allowed to make it possible to cover stretches of the river that are too long to be traveled in one day, and is limited to boaters traveling from one access point to another. Camping is permitted only in campsites designated on the river by,  and is limited to one night at each area. Camping is not permitted at access areas. Campfires are permitted only in NPS established fire rings, using dead and down wood. Sandyston, Walpack Bend, and Hamilton Canoe Campsites are equipped with comfort stations. Please carry refuse to receptacles at river access areas. Human waste should be deposited at least 300 feet from bodies of water, and fecal material must be buried 6" below the ground. Do not destroy or damage trees by using nails, ropes, or axes in setting up tents or clothes lines. Developing campsites by digging and leveling the ground surface is not allowed.

**GUIDED CANOE PROGRAMS**

During July and August, park interpreters lead canoe trips on the Delaware River. Contact the Dingman Fall Visitor Center (717) 828-7802 for information and reservations.

**WEAR A COAST GUARD APPROVED LIFE JACKET.**  
**IT'S NO GOOD UNLESS IT IS ON YOU!**