

Delaware Water Gap

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

RIVER GUIDE

The Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service, was authorized by Congress in 1965 to preserve 70,000 acres of land for public use. The recreation area includes land in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, along a 40-mile stretch of the Delaware River. In 1978 the Delaware River within the recreation area was designated as a scenic and recreational river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, providing for the protection of the scenic, historic and natural features of the river.

Within the park boundaries, the river is a series of shallow riffles and quiet pools. There are no difficult rapids. Its shallow depth makes this section of the Delaware particularly good for canoeing. Access points every 8 to 10 miles allow for easy day trips. Primitive campsites are available for those wishing to take longer trips.

Canoeists enjoy the Delaware today in much the same way that the Lenape Indians did for thousands of years. Please respect the natural beauty of this area as much as the Lenape did. Leave the river the way you would like to find it when you return.

For boaters the Delaware River is an easy river, but do not be misled by its calm appearance. Some people who did not follow the proper safety precautions have drowned.

FOR YOUR SAFETY



WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE.

ALCOHOL AND BOATING ARE A KILLER COMBINATION. Be aware that alcoholic beverages are not permitted between Depew Island in the north and Depue Island in the south on the Pennsylvania side of the park. This includes Smithfield Beach and the Hialeah Picnic area. Don't drink while swimming or boating.

DON'T OVERESTIMATE YOUR SWIMMING ABILITY. The Delaware has strong currents, sharp drop-offs and constantly changing conditions. **DO NOT SWIM ALONE** and **NEVER TRY TO SWIM OR WADE ACROSS THE RIVER.** MOST DROWNINGS OCCUR WHEN BOATERS STOP AND SWIM.

THE DROWNING RATE, IN CANOEING ACCIDENTS, IS HIGHER than in all other kinds of boats. It can happen to you. Think safety!

PLAN TO BE OFF THE RIVER BEFORE DARK.

MOTORBOATS ALSO OPERATE ON THE RIVER. April 1 through September 30, a 10 mph speed limit is enforced on the entire river. To allow for water skiing during the summer, a 35 mph speed limit is allowed at the Smithfield Pool and Price's Landing Pool.

WEAR SHOES to protect against glass and sharp rocks.

GUARD AGAINST SUNBURN. Wear a hat and light clothing. Use a sunscreen with a high rating.

BRING AN ADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY. Drinking water is only available at sites marked with a symbol. Do not drink river or stream water unless it is boiled at least three minutes before drinking.

Tie in spare gear. **DO NOT TIE IN YOUR LIFE JACKET.**

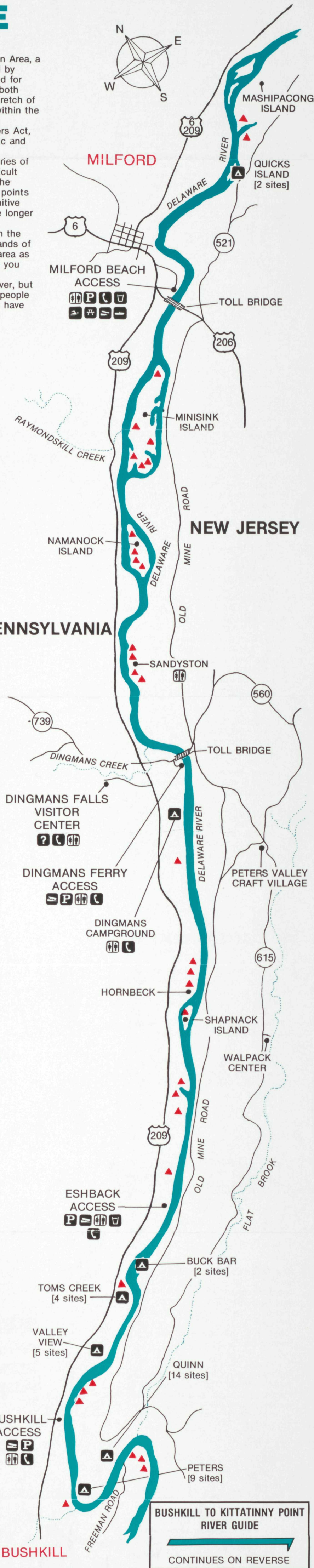
Kneel in your canoe while going through rapids for better stability. **DON'T EVER STAND IN YOUR CANOE.**



IF YOU CAPSIZE DON'T PANIC

- STAY WITH YOUR CANOE** — even a swamped canoe will support you.
- KEEP ON THE UPSTREAM SIDE OF THE CANOE**, to avoid being pinned against a rock or obstacle.
- IF YOU LOSE YOUR CANOE, FLOAT ON YOUR BACK, FEET FIRST** pointed downstream to fend off rocks. **DON'T STAND IN RAPIDS.** Your feet and legs can become trapped, allowing the current to push you under.
- SAVE PEOPLE FIRST.** Rescue boats and equipment only if it can be done safely.


FOR INFORMATION CONTACT ANY PARK RANGER OR CALL 24-HOUR PHONE NUMBER (717) 588-2435 TO REPORT A CRIME, EMERGENCY OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, ONLY 1-800-HAWK



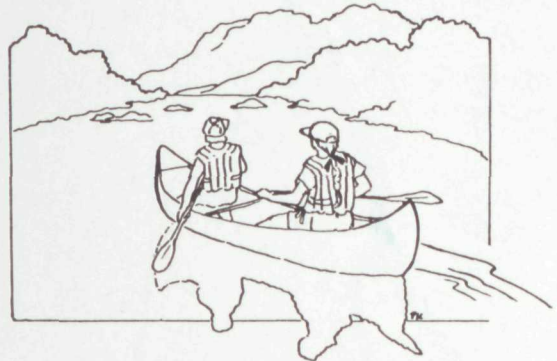
LEGEND			
	Drinking Water		Swimming
	Information		Parking
	Picnicking		Boating
	Comfort Station		Headquarters
	Boat Launch		Canoeing
	Telephone		Multiple Camp Sites
			Single Camp Sites

BUSHKILL TO KITTATINNY POINT RIVER GUIDE
CONTINUES ON REVERSE

Canoe Camping

Camping is allowed, but only under the following conditions. It is strictly limited to boaters travelling from one access point to another, when the distance between those points is too great to be covered in one day. Camping is permitted only at those sites posted with the N.P.S.  sign, and having a steel fire grate. Refer to the map for site locations. Campers are limited to a one night stay at each area.

Each year greater numbers of people come to the National Recreation Area to enjoy the beauty, tranquility and recreational features of the Delaware River. In order to preserve the area for your use and for future generations, the National Park Service enforces rules and regulations to protect the park's resources. The true responsibility, however, lies with you. You are responsible for your actions, especially those that might harm the land. Plan your activities carefully to avoid damaging your park's resources.

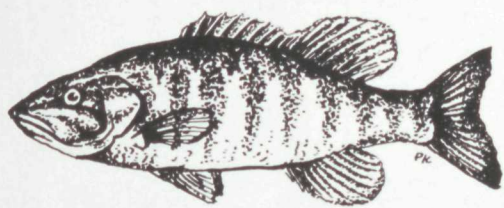


- ** **USE A CAMPSTOVE** rather than a fire. IF A FIRE IS NECESSARY, IT MUST ONLY BE BUILT IN THE STEEL FIRE GRATE provided at the site. **USE ONLY DEAD, FALLEN WOOD.** (That dead tree is part of the scenery and a home for owls.) Keep the fire small. Be sure it is out before you leave.
- ** **LEAVE ROCKS AND FLOWERS** where you find them, so others can enjoy them as you do.
- ** **CARRY OUT YOUR LITTER**, including leftover food. Pick up litter left by others; there will always be thoughtless people for us to clean up after. Leave the site as you would like to find it.
- ** **LATRINES**, if not present, **SHOULD BE DUG FIVE TO SIX INCHES DEEP AND SHOULD BE AT LEAST 300 FEET AWAY FROM WATER.** If you must bring pets, clean up after them by burying their waste in a similar manner.
- ** **WASHING SHOULD BE DONE AWAY FROM WATER SOURCES.** Soap and food particles should be dumped on well-drained soil, so that pollutants will be filtered out before reaching water. Minimize your use of soaps. Even biodegradable soaps are pollutants.
- ** **EXCESSIVE NOISE CAN RUIN A CAMPING EXPERIENCE.** Be considerate. Regulations prohibit the use of loud audio devices and fireworks. Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

CANOE RENTAL

For those who do not have their own canoes, many area liveries rent, launch and pick up canoes. Information on licensed liveries is available at National Park Service Visitor Centers. If you are renting a canoe, ask your canoe livery for additional help and instruction.

More detailed maps and books on river canoeing are available for sale at National Park Service Visitor Centers.



The Delaware River and the surrounding land has a great diversity of wildlife, including osprey, bald eagle, black bear and river otter. **ALL NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE PARK ARE PROTECTED.** "Look but do not take." Observe quietly and let others enjoy the special beauty of the park.

Visitors may try their skills at fishing the Delaware River. The river contains trout, sunfish, eel, shad, smallmouth bass, walleye, muskellunge and catfish. **APPROPRIATE STATE LICENSE IS REQUIRED.**



SCALE: 0 1 MILE 1 2 3

LEGEND	
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DISTANCE BETWEEN ACCESS POINTS (IN MILES)	Dingmans Ferry	Eshback Access	Bushkill Access	Depew Access	Poxono Access	Smithfield Beach	Worthington Access	Kittatinny Access
Milford Beach	8	14	18	24	26	28	30	34
Dingmans Ferry		6	10	16	18	20	22	26
Eshback Access			4	10	12	14	16	20
Bushkill Access				6	8	10	12	16
Depew Access					2	4	6	10
Poxono Access						2	4	8
Smithfield Beach							2	6
Worthington Access								4

PADDLING TIME AVERAGES 2 MILES PER HOUR but varies greatly — depending on river level, wind, current and paddling skill.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
BUSHKILL, PA 18324

