

Map and Guide

107 River Miles



Wild & Scenic River

2017 Pennsylvania River of the Year!

Water trails are recreational routes on a lake, large stream, or river between specific points, containing access points and day use and/or camping sites for the boating public. Typically, water trails emphasize low-impact use and promote stewardship of the resource. Explore this Pennsylvania water trail!



View of the Allegheny River in Forest County.

For Your Safety & Enjoyment

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills.
- Know fishing and boating regulations.
- Be prepared for river hazards.
- Carry proper equipment.

General Information

The upper Allegheny River begins as a spring in a farmer's field in northern Pennsylvania's Potter County, near Coudersport. The river loops north into New York state, eventually returning to Pennsylvania via the Allegheny Reservoir. The Allegheny Wild & Scenic River Water Trail is 107 river miles long, starting at Kinzua Dam above Warren and ending at the community of Emlenton. Over 300 miles from its beginning, at Pittsburgh's Point State Park the Allegheny River joins the Monongahela River forming the Ohio River.

National Wild and Scenic River

In 1992, three sections of this river, totaling 86.6 miles, were designated a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Congress. This exclusive list of rivers was established to recognize outstanding examples of the nation's free-flowing rivers and to raise public awareness of how important and fragile America's river resources are. The Allegheny was given a "recreational" classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to reflect the relatively high level of accessibility and development, when compared with other rivers in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. However, this part of the Allegheny is still considered a primitive river. Visit www.rivers.gov/rivers/allegheny.php.

Allegheny Islands Wilderness

In 1984, Congress designated seven National Forest islands between Buckaloons and Tionesta as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to preserve vestiges of unique riverine forests. The islands are mostly vegetated with Sycamore, Silver Maple, Shagbark Hickory and Green Ash.

The Allegheny River Islands Wilderness, totaling 368 acres, is one of the smallest components of the Wilderness System in the United States. The USDA Forest Service, Allegheny National Forest, is the federal agency responsible for managing both the Wild and Scenic River and Wilderness Islands. Motorized equipment and transports are not permitted in Wilderness, a "drift on drift off" method of access is suggested for power boats. Camping, hiking, fishing and nature-watching are permitted on the islands.

"Leave No Trace" minimum impact techniques should be used. Visit www.fs.usda.gov/attmain/allegheny/specialplaces.

Respect the Privacy and Rights of Landowners

Although much of the river trail has a national Wild and Scenic Rivers designation, most of the shoreline along the river trail and the islands are in private ownership. Respect the privacy and rights of landowners by obtaining permission before entering any privately owned land. Avoid making loud noise and boisterous behavior. Remember that sound carries across the water much louder than on land. Many of the landowners enjoy the peace and solitude overlooking the river from their decks and living rooms. Share the same courtesy that you would want.

Floating the River

The size of the Allegheny River and the constant release of water from Kinzua Dam make the river canoeable all year long accommodating small, shallow-draft, powered and non-powered craft. This is a good novice and family canoe and kayak river. Assume you will float approximately 2 to 3 miles per hour with leisurely paddling.

Boat only at water levels appropriate for your capabilities and never when the river is high or flooded. Trail use is not recommended when river flow levels at Kinzua Dam are more than 5,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) for canoes and kayaks, and more than 8,000 CFS or power boats, or when water temperatures are below 55 degrees. Contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Kinzua Dam outflow information.

There are a number of liveries along the river and they can also provide helpful information on current river conditions. All access points are indicated on the map. Some of these access points are "primitive", indicating they are more suitable for canoes and cartop boats.



PARTNERS

For more information... The Allegheny Wild and Scenic Water Trail fishing licenses, boat registration and boating regulations, stocked streams, and related waters, visit www.fish.state.pa.us. River levels and Kinzua Dam outflow visit these sites: <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/usar/nwis/nvz03012550>, <http://www.fpa.usace.army.mil/missions/water-management/Reservoir-Forecast/>, <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=but>. The Allegheny National Forest, Wild and Scenic River Wilderness Islands, or canoe liveries, contact the Allegheny National Forest at (814) 723-5150, email at PA Allegheny.nfs@fs.fed.us, or visit www.fs.fed.us/PAAllegheny/. Warren County attractions, contact the Northwest Pennsylvania's Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau at www.visitpa.com or call 800-348-9393. Attraction in the Oil Region National Heritage Area visit www.oilregion.org or call 800-483-6264. Cranberry Township facilities visit www.cranberrytownship.org or call (814) 676-8812. Kennerdell Tract of Clear Creek State Forest visit www.kcstateforest.pa.gov, or call (814) 226-1901.

Camping

Camping is permitted on any National Forest lands (island or shoreline), designated Cranberry Township lands, Venango County islands, at Dotter on land owned by the Allegheny Valley Conservancy, and the Kennerdell Tract of Clear Creek State Forest. Camping is not permitted on state game lands. Suitable sites might be limited at times because of wet areas or very dense vegetation.

Public lands available for camping are indicated on the map. Islands colored purple are part of the Allegheny Islands Wilderness, where the use of motorized or mechanized equipment is prohibited. When locating National Forest lands from the water, look for occasional U.S. Forest Service boundary signs on trees around the perimeter.

Wilderness Islands (Northern Segment) Kinzua Dam to Tionesta - 45 River Miles

This water trail segment begins at the developed boat access at the base of Kinzua Dam and ends at the boat access in the borough of Tionesta. It is characterized by pastoral/rural landscapes and a large number of islands. It contains 24 public islands that are part of the Allegheny National Forest (including seven federally designated Wilderness Islands), in addition to 60 islands under other ownership. All of the public islands are open for camping and recreation.

Along the Way (Northern)

Kinzua Dam and Visitor Center - Operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kinzua Dam was constructed in 1966, for flood control and river-flow augmentation. The visitor center offers exhibits and slide shows about the operation of the dam, hydroelectricity, regional attractions and the area's ecology. The top of the dam offers scenic views of the Allegheny Reservoir and the impressive dam outflows. Restrooms and telephones are available. Ample free parking is available in the visitor center parking lot. Canoes can be portaged around the dam if you wish to start on the Allegheny Reservoir, but this must be coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers. Call ahead to arrange a portage, or to verify tour availability at (814) 726-0661.

Allegheny National Fish Hatchery - Across the river and slightly upriver from the boat launch lies the Allegheny National Fish Hatchery and visitor center, operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This state-of-the-art coldwater hatchery is dedicated to the restoration of lake trout in the lower Great Lakes. However, there is no river access to this site.

United Refining Company - The United Refining Company was built in 1902 to process crude oil, and it has played a key role in Warren's history. About halfway down along the refinery there are standing waves and riffles created by shallow water and rocks. If your boat is heavily loaded, scout this area out ahead of time. Immediately below the riffles, there is a small island with a burning flare. This is part of the refinery operation. Do not trespass on the island with the flare. River Mile 193

Point Park - A public park operated by the city of Warren is located where the Conewango Creek enters the Allegheny river along the right side of the river. "Conewango" is an Iroquois word meaning "below the riffles". You'll find an undeveloped boat access site here, along with picnic tables, grills and a day-use pavilion. River Mile 191.3

Downtown Warren/Soldiers and Sailors Park - As the trail passes through downtown Warren, just above the Hickory Street Bridge, on the right side of the approach, lies Soldiers and Sailors Park. This is a small municipal park operated by the city of Warren. The natural center of the region's lumber economy, Warren was used as an early river port for rafts and boats of all descriptions. Steamboats made the difficult trip upriver from Pittsburgh starting as early as 1830. Warren has Victorian homes that are on the National Register of Historic Places, a professional summer theatre, and is the seat of government of Warren County.

Warren is a full-service community, with restaurants, lodging and stores available in town. River Mile 191

Crescent Park - This small park, located on the left bank, offers a tree-lined path along the riverbank, and a picnic shelter at the south end of the park. The Warren County General Hospital is located next to the park. River Mile 190.8

Clifford Betts Park - Undeveloped boat access, picnicking and sporting facilities, pavilions, and a short walking trail are available at this public park operated by the city of Warren along the right riverbank. Seasonal restrooms, and ample free parking are available. River Mile 189.5

Starbrick Access - The access is located on the right riverbank. Operated by the PA Fish and Boat Commission, the access has a paved ramp and a small parking area. River Mile 186.6



Go fishing on the Allegheny!



Sharing The Waterway

The River is shared by operators of jet boats, paddlers of canoes and kayaks, pontoon boats, anglers in fishing boats, and even air boats. Please be courteous and patient when sharing use of the waterway and the access ramps.



Sherman Memorial Lighthouse, Tionesta, PA

Buckaloons Recreation Area - Buckaloons lies on the site of a former Native American village, at the confluence of the Allegheny River and Brokenstraw Creek on the right riverbank. It is operated by the Allegheny National Forest, and has direct river access. The name "Buckaloons" means "broken straw" in the Seneca language, named for the tall grasses that used to prevail on fields around the village. Developed campsites, picnic areas, restrooms, an interpretive trail, and a boat launch are available at this developed boat access site. Note: Digging for or removing artifacts from National Forest or state lands is prohibited by law. Fee and site availability information is available by contacting the Allegheny National Forest. River Mile 183.6

Anders Run Natural Area - This 96-acre old-growth white pine forest offers a 1.8-mile hiking trail. The area is administered by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. You can access the area by hiking approximately a quarter-mile up Anders Run, found along the right riverbank. River Mile 182.1

Thompson's Island - This 67-acre Wilderness Island was the site of the only Revolutionary War battle fought in northwestern Pennsylvania. River Mile 181.3

Bonnie Brae Access - Located on the left riverbank this access area has a paved ramp and a small parking lot. It is operated by the PA Fish and Boat Commission. River Mile 170.8

Tidioute Borough Access - This is a developed boat access site, operated cooperatively by the PA Fish & Boat Commission and the borough of Tidioute. It is located on the rightbank. A dock, parking, and seasonal restroom facilities are available. Tidioute is a full-service community with restaurants and stores available. River Mile 168.5

West Hickory Access - Located on the left riverbank on the downstream side of the West Hickory Bridge this is a developed boat access site with ample parking, interpretive display, and picnic shelter. No restroom facilities are available. River Mile 159.9

Baker Island - This 67-acre Wilderness Island stood in the path of two tornadoes that crossed the Allegheny National Forest on May 31, 1985. Most of the larger trees blew over in the storm, with younger saplings and shrubs now filling in the island. River Mile 157.4

Tionesta Access - This is a formal, developed boat access site, operated by the PA Fish & Boat Commission, and is located on the left river bank. At the time of the printing of this edition of the guide, this access was noted as not being suitable for trailered boats. Ample free parking is available, but restroom facilities are not. This access is the end of this trail segment, and also serves as the starting point for the southern segment of the water trail. River Mile 154.7

Tionesta Fish Culture Station - Located across State Route 62 from the boat access site, this hatchery offers a visitor center. The hatchery is operated by the PA Fish & Boat Commission, and raises steel-head trout for stocking in Lake Erie, and walleye and muskellunge for stocking throughout the state. Additional information can be found at www.fishandboat.com/Fish/Stocking/StateFishHatcheries.

Tionesta - During the 1860s, Tionesta was a main assembly point for both rough-cut timber rafts, some as long as 300 feet, and loads of semi-finished lumber. This lumber was shipped downriver on shallow-draft flatboats as far as Pittsburgh and even New Orleans. Until the late 1700s, Tionesta was a Native American settlement and home of "Council Run," a stream where tribal leaders met. Eventually, Tionesta became the seat of government for Forest County. Tionesta is a small full service community offering a visitor center, restaurants, lodging, camping, and stores. Private camping is also located between Tionesta and the Hunter Bridge.

Lighthouse Island Access - This 22.5-acre island is privately owned, but offers a developed public boat launch with ample parking. There are no restrooms at this site. The island also offers a handicap-accessible fishing pier at its southern end at the mouth of Tionesta Creek where it flows into the Allegheny River. This is where you can find the remains of an 1893 timber-crib dam, built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is the last of its kind on the Allegheny River. River Mile 153



Paddler approaches the Tidioute Bridge.

This guide was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, administered by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Matching funds were provided by the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry & Tourism; Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau; and the Warren County Visitor Bureau. Technical Assistance was provided by the Venango County Regional Planning Commission.



It's Time For An Adventure On The Allegheny Wild & Scenic River!

