

# The Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area

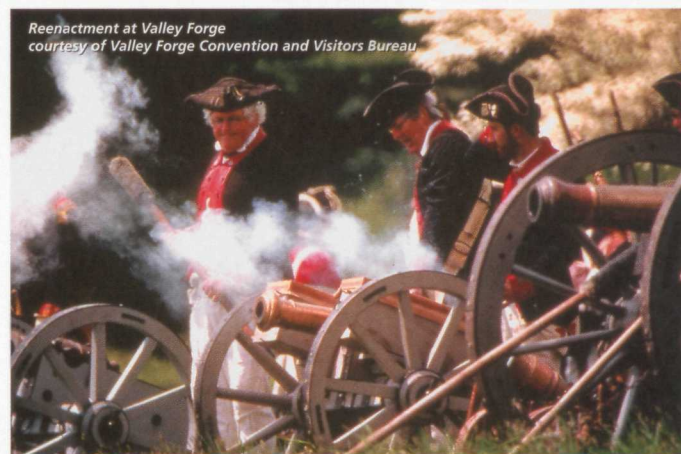
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
www.nps.gov



Aerial view of the Schuylkill River, north of Philadelphia  
photo by Gerald S. Williams, courtesy of the Conservation Fund

## A Revolutionary River Independence. Innovation. Awareness.

The Schuylkill River Heritage Area is the birthplace of several movements that shaped the nation, fueled its growth, and reclaimed its future. It was along the banks of this river and its tributaries that the American, Industrial, and Environmental Revolutions were born. Explore the stories, see the places, and experience the region's vitality by visiting the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. America's past and future starts here.



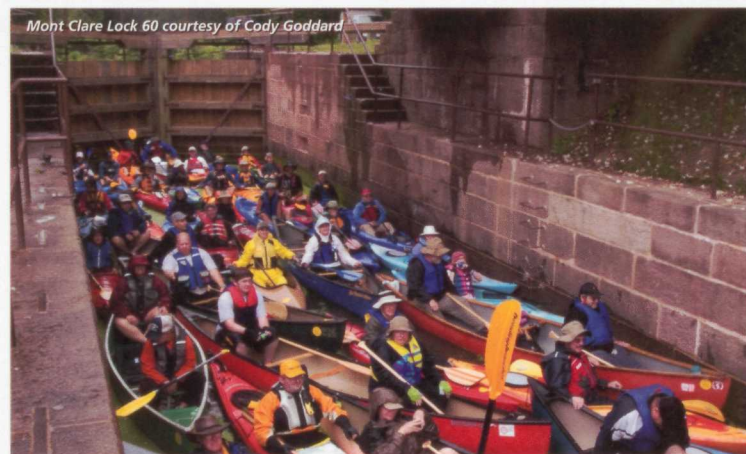
Reenactment at Valley Forge  
courtesy of Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau

### American Revolution

The battle for America's independence began and turned upon events within the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. In Philadelphia, a group of men took bold steps and declared their freedom from the most powerful nation on earth. Walk in the footsteps of the fight for freedom at Valley Forge and Independence National Historical Parks and in Germantown.



Independence Hall



Mont Clare Lock 60 courtesy of Cody Goddard

### Industrial Revolution

Industrialism took hold along the Schuylkill River and its tributaries very early in the nation's history. Mines, factories, mills and forges sprung up across the region and helped make Southeastern Pennsylvania a powerhouse and leader in the Industrial Revolution. To efficiently move materials and products between the cities and towns along the river, the Schuylkill River Navigation System was built utilizing canals and slackwater pools. The Navigation System was later supplanted by the railroads. Today visitors can explore a coal mine, restored sites of furnaces, sections of the former Schuylkill Navigation System and historic railyards and railroad museums.



Catawissa Locomotive  
courtesy of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County



Valley Forge National Historical Park  
courtesy of VFNHP



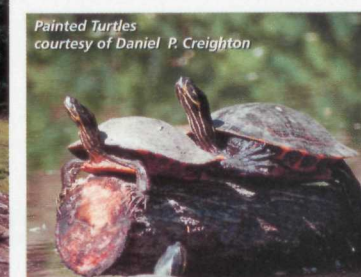
Bartram Gardens

### Environmental Revolution

The roots of the nation's environmental movement can be traced to the people, places and events in the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. In the 1940s the Schuylkill River was the site of the nation's first major environmental cleanup, removing 24.7 million cubic yards of coal silt from the river. In the Schuylkill River region naturalists like John Bartram and John James Audubon began to document their surroundings. From Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Kempton



Morris Arboretum  
courtesy of Valley Forge Convention & Visitors Bureau



Painted Turtles  
courtesy of Daniel P. Creighton

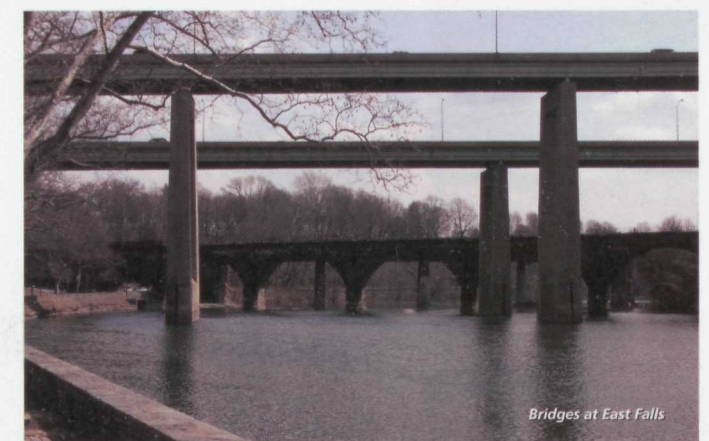
to diverse botanical gardens and arboretums, mother nature takes center stage along the Schuylkill River.



Canoes near Boathouse Row  
courtesy of Cody Goddard

### The River Today

The Schuylkill River today is a vital regional commons. Over 3.2 million people live within its watershed, and 1.75 million people get their drinking water from the river or one of its tributaries. The protection of open space and agriculture, revitalization of the river's communities and neighborhoods, the education and interpretation of this region's rich and storied past is critical to its future.



Bridges at East Falls

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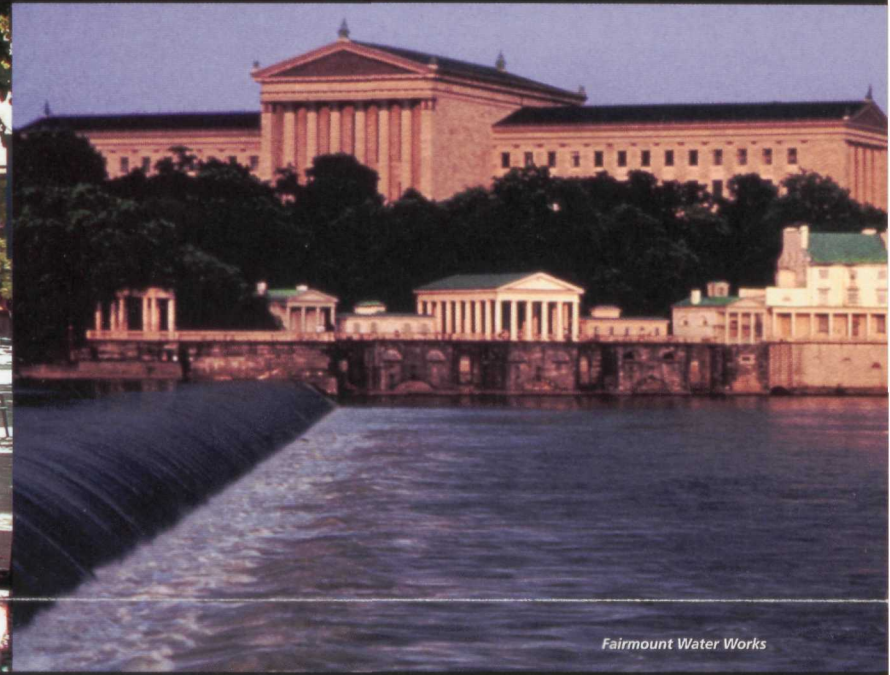
Yuengling Brewery



The Pagoda



Sidewalk in Manayunk



Fairmount Water Works

All photos above courtesy of Greg Matkosky

## Let the River be Your Guide.

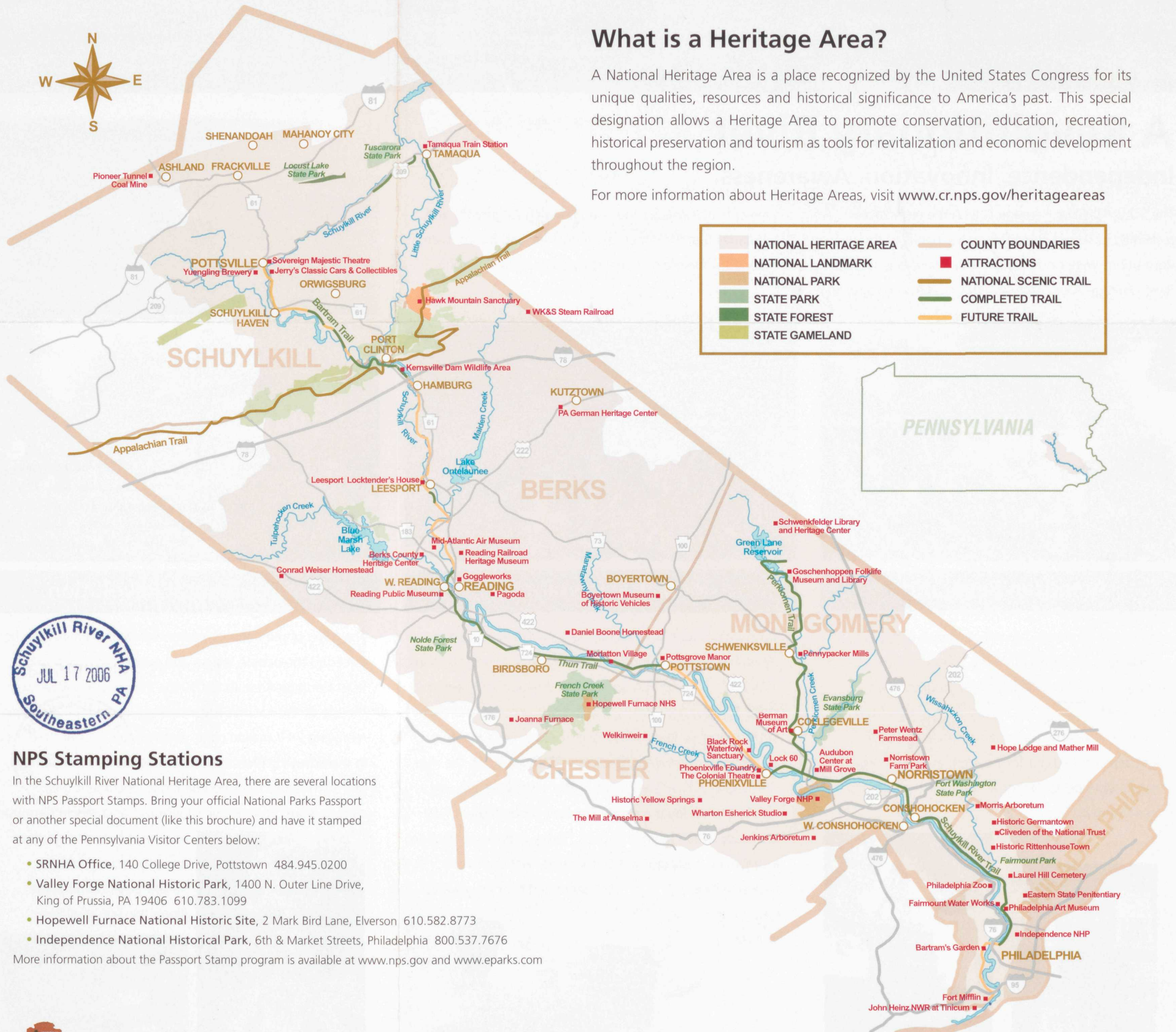
Take a trip down all, or part of, a 128-mile river. Visit one of 54 National Historic Landmarks, 3 National Parks and 6 State Parks. Tour a coal mine, a nature sanctuary or a battlefield. Bike or hike scenic trails. Spend the day in the city or in the country. It's all here in the Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area.

Visit [www.schuylkillriver.org](http://www.schuylkillriver.org) and use our trip planner to get the most out of your time in our beautiful Heritage Area. For more information contact:



**SCHUYLKILL RIVER**  
NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE AREA

140 College Drive  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
484.945.0200



### NPS Stamping Stations

In the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, there are several locations with NPS Passport Stamps. Bring your official National Parks Passport or another special document (like this brochure) and have it stamped at any of the Pennsylvania Visitor Centers below:

- SRNHA Office, 140 College Drive, Pottstown 484.945.0200
- Valley Forge National Historic Park, 1400 N. Outer Line Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406 610.783.1099
- Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, 2 Mark Bird Lane, Elverson 610.582.8773
- Independence National Historical Park, 6th & Market Streets, Philadelphia 800.537.7676

More information about the Passport Stamp program is available at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov) and [www.eparks.com](http://www.eparks.com)



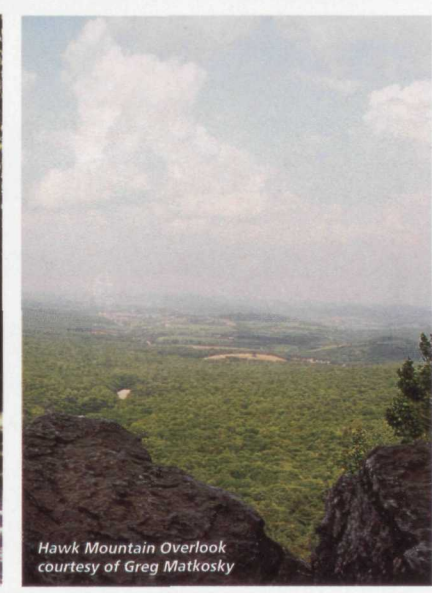
Funding assistance has been provided by the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



Downtown Phoenixville  
courtesy of Daniel P. Creighton



Schuylkill River Trail



Hawk Mountain Overlook  
courtesy of Greg Matkosky