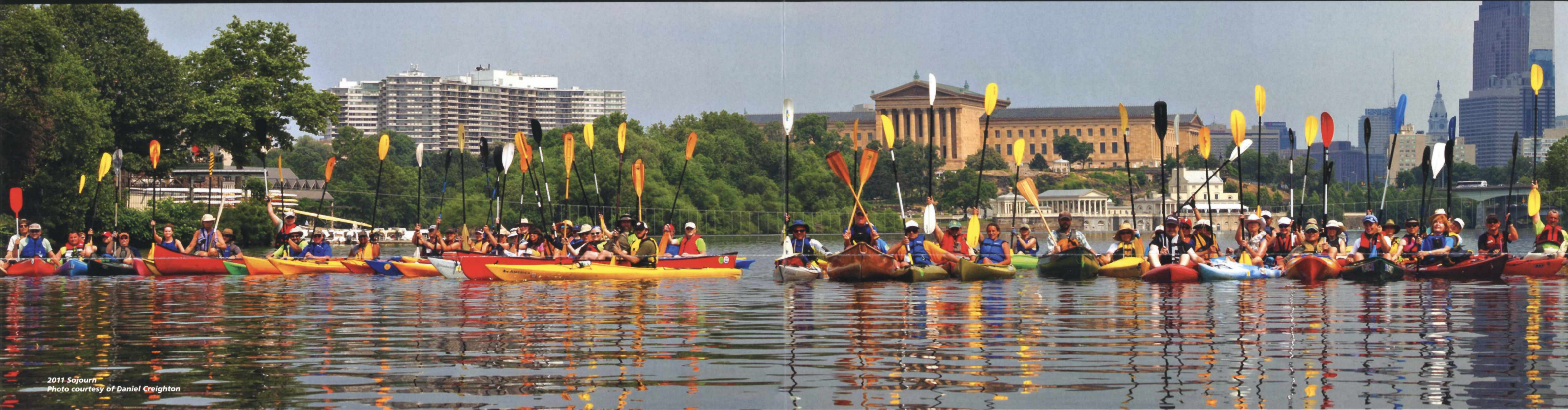


The Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area

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



2011 Sojourn
Photo courtesy of Daniel Creighton

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.

American Revolution

Within the borders of the Schuylkill River Heritage Area the Declaration of Independence was signed, the iconic winter of Valley Forge proved a pivotal point in the Revolutionary War, and the United States Constitution was drafted. Today, you can walk in the footsteps of the fight for freedom at Valley Forge and Independence National Historical Parks, and visit Germantown, Paoli and Fort Mifflin where major battles were fought.



Valley Forge National Historical Park



Reading Railroad
Heritage Museum



Canal Lock 60

Industrial Revolution

Rediscover the places that made the Schuylkill River valley a worldwide leader during the Industrial Revolution when anthracite coal from Schuylkill County fueled factories and mills along the river and across the nation. Explore the Pioneer Tunnel Coal Mine; tour Yuengling, America's oldest brewery; discover an iron plantation at Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site; or visit the Schuylkill Canal Association's restored Lock 60 or the Reading Railroad Heritage Museum to learn how coal and other goods were transported.



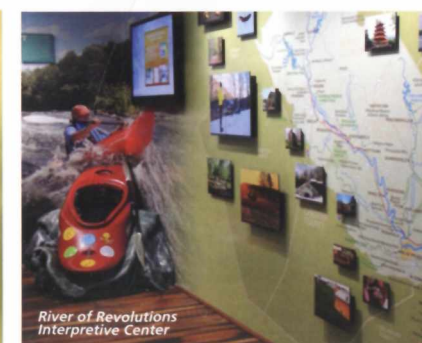
Schuylkill River Trail

Environmental Revolution

Trace the roots of the nation's environmental movement through the Schuylkill River Heritage Area. Take a trip to America's first public water system, Fairmount Water Works. Walk the land that inspired naturalists John James Audubon and John Bartram. Learn about America's first major environmental cleanup, the Schuylkill River Project of the 1940s, with a visit to the River of Revolutions Interpretive Center.



Screech Owl



River of Revolutions
Interpretive Center

The River Today Revitalizing Our Communities.

Today, the Schuylkill River is experiencing a new revolution, one of recreation and revitalization. River communities are shedding their industrial personas and reinventing their waterfronts as destinations with parks, shops and eateries. The popular Schuylkill River Trail and Water Trail has transformed the river into a premier recreational amenity. Meanwhile, the river remains this region's most valuable natural resource providing drinking water for more than 1.5 million people and supporting the economies of every community it passes through.

Our Signature Project



The Schuylkill River Trail

We are working with partners to complete a 130-mile multi-use trail along the Schuylkill River. Currently consisting of several long, completed sections, the trail traverses a variety of landscapes, from urban Philadelphia to the fields of Valley Forge in Montgomery County, and the scenic woodlands of Chester, Berks, Schuylkill Counties. www.schuylkillrivertrail.com

Our Signature Event



Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn

Since 1999, this 112-mile, weeklong guided canoe/kayak tour, held the first week of June each year, has introduced thousands of people to paddling the river. Participants discover the beauty and diversity of the "Hidden River" as they travel from rural Schuylkill Haven to Philadelphia's Boathouse Row, stopping at river towns and parks along the way. www.schuylkillriver.org/Sojourn.aspx

Our Signature Attraction



River of Revolutions Interpretive Center

Interactive exhibits, maps, videos, and family-friendly displays reveal the fascinating role the Schuylkill River region played in three revolutions: the American, Industrial and Environmental. Visit M-F 8:30am - 4pm, or on Saturdays during special events at 140 College Dr., Pottstown, PA. Free admission.

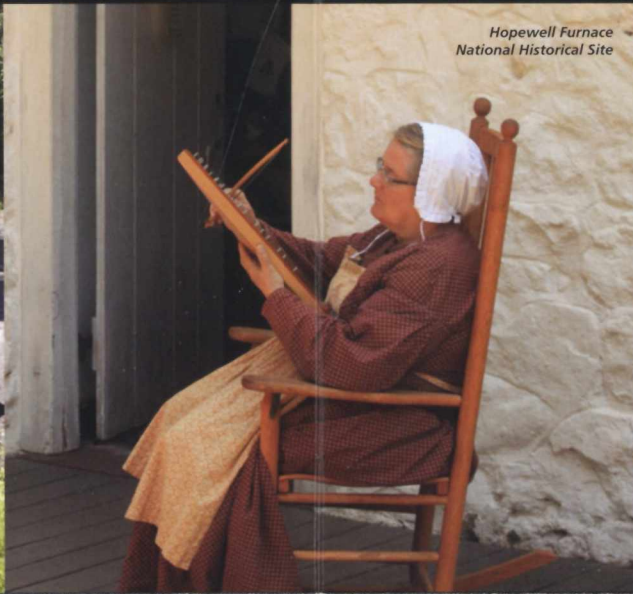
The Schuylkill River National & State Heritage Area



Hawk Mountain Sanctuary



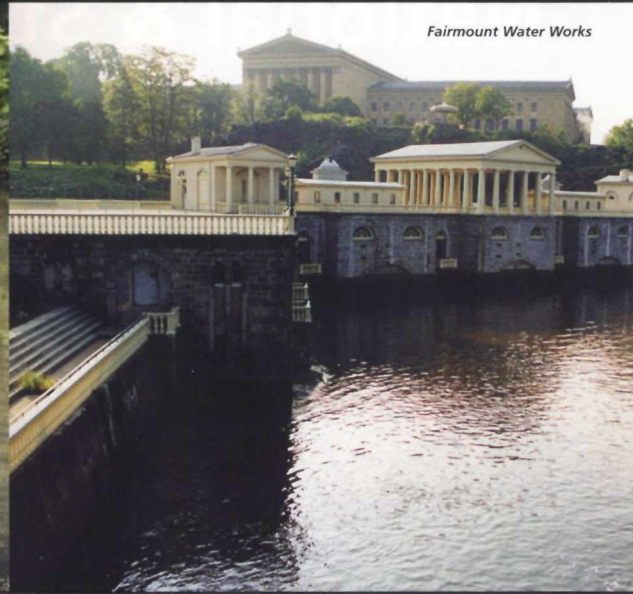
Bike Pottstown



Hopewell Furnace National Historical Site



Fishing on the Schuylkill



Fairmount Water Works



What is a Heritage Area?

A National Heritage Area is a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural and historic resources combine to form a nationally distinctive landscape. The Schuylkill River received this designation in 2000, after having been named a Pennsylvania Heritage Area by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in 1995. National Heritage Areas use conservation, recreation, education, cultural and historic preservation, and tourism as tools for community revitalization and economic development. These initiatives foster a sense of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

Let the river be your guide when planning your next trip.



Bicycling: Take a spin on a rail-trail, ride rural back roads or roll along a mountain bike trail. You can borrow a free Bike Pottstown/Bike Schuylkill bike from one of our bike share locations. Visit bikeschuylkill.org for more information.



Birding: Spy a myriad of bird species in the area's woods, fields and wildlife preserves like Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.



Cross-Country Skiing: Glide along the Schuylkill River Trail in Berks & Schuylkill Counties, where it is never plowed. Several parks & historic sites also welcome skiers.



Camping: Looking for a place to pop up your tent? Popular camping spots include French Creek, Locust Lake and Tuscarora State Parks.



Disc Golf: Try this family-friendly sport at French Creek and Fort Washington State Parks, or play competitively at Fairmount Park's Sedgely Woods Disc Golf Course.



Fishing: Reel in a school of fishing opportunities, from fly fishing on the Little Schuylkill River to 34 miles of fishable waterways in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park.



Geocaching: Seek out hundreds of geocaches along the river, on the Schuylkill River Trail and at historic sites throughout the region.



Hiking: Take a short hike on one of the area's many trail networks, or head out for a longer trek on the Appalachian Trail, the Horseshoe Trail or the Schuylkill River Trail.



Horseback Riding: Ride your favorite equine through Philadelphia's Fairmount Park, the Schuylkill River Trail's Bartram Section, or the Perkiomen Trail.



Orienteering: Hone your compass skills at popular orienteering sites, including French Creek State Park, which features a permanent, self-guided course.



Paddling: Explore an array of waterways, including the Schuylkill River Water Trail and Perkiomen Creek, or paddle the entire river during the annual Schuylkill River Sojourn.



Running and Jogging: Lace up your running shoes and join other joggers at Valley Forge National Historical Park, Schuylkill Banks, the Perkiomen Trail, and the Schuylkill Valley Heritage Trail in Tamaqua.

NPS Stamping Stations

In the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area, there are several locations with NPS Passport Stamps. Bring your official National Parks Passport, buy one at our offices, or use another special document (like this brochure) and have it stamped at any of these locations:

- Heritage Area Office, 140 College Drive, Pottstown
- Valley Forge National Historic Park, 1400 N. Outer Line Dr, King of Prussia 610.783.1099
- Hopewell Furnace National Historical 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 and www.eparks.com



SCHUYLKILL RIVER NATIONAL & STATE HERITAGE AREA

140 College Drive, Pottstown, PA 19464
484.945.0200 • www.schuylkillriver.org

For membership information, scan this QR code:



www.nps.gov



www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Alliance of National Heritage Areas website: www.nationalheritageareas.us

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

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Want to Learn More about the Heritage Area? visit these Historical Societies:

- Historical Society of Schuylkill County, Pottsville www.schuylkillhistory.org
- Historical Society of Berks County, Reading www.berkshistory.org
- Historical Society of Montgomery County, Norristown www.hsmcpa.org
- Chester County Historical Society, West Chester www.chestechohistorical.org
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia www.hsp.org
- Philadelphia History Museum www.philadelphiahistory.org