Susquehanna River Water Trail

Section 1: Sayre to Laceyville

Map & Guide

Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, river or ocean between specific locations, containing access points and day-use and/or camping sites for the boating public. Water trails emphasize low-impact use and promote stewardship of the resources. Explore this unique Pennsylvania water trail.

For your safety and enjoyment:
Always wear a life jacket.
Know proper boating tactics and boat handling skills.
Know fishing and boating regulations.
Be prepared for river hazards.
Carry proper equipment.

The Susquehanna River is an American treasure reflecting the unique places and people that comprise the Pennsylvania backcountry. Nearly 250 municipalities touch upon the river as it winds through the Commonwealth. Perhaps as many as before, the Susquehanna has the potential to shape our future prospects in ways that we can only begin to imagine.

RESPECT THE PRIVACY & RIGHTS OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

Plan and make stops on shorelines open to the public. If you are not otherwise assured, assume the land is private property.

PADDLING TIPS

- Wear your life jacket. 80% percent of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- Expect to get wet. Even the best paddling conditions may capsize or swamp your boat. Bring along a waterproof clothing kit.
- Be prepared to swap in the water. If the water looks too hazardous to paddle, be prepared to get out and walk.
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat, until it presents a life-threatening situation. If in a river environment, the best place to oppose the upstream side of the capsized boat.
- Never abandon a capsized boat. Avoid surprise.
- Be prepared for the weather. Get a forecast before you go. It is possible for snow, rain or sun to come on a turn to rip into, regardless of weather.
- Use other storms or showers with molotov, propylene glycol, or propylene gases.
- Never be on a low-head dam.
- Portage your boat around any section of water about which you are not sure.
- Never boat alone. Boating safety increases with numbers.
- Never leave your motor unattended.
- Never leave a boat unattended.
- Never leave a boat alone when the boat is unattended.
- Never sit on the edge of a low dam.
- Read to increase your stability before entering rough water. As a rule, if you are confident with the boat, you are confident with the water. This will prevent you from capsizing or flipping the boat.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

Susquehanna River North Branch

The Susquehanna River is a 406 mile long tributary of the Delaware River and is the longest river in the state of Pennsylvania. The river is a popular recreational area for fishing, boating, and other water-related activities. Here are some fishing opportunities:

- **Shad** are known to be present along the river, especially during spawning season in the spring.
- **White Bass** can also be found in the river, particularly during the summer months.
- **Channel Catfish** are common in the lower reaches of the river, especially in areas with plenty of cover.
- **Smallmouth Bass** are found throughout the river, but are particularly common in the upstream sections.
- **Walleye** are found in the river, especially in areas with clear water and good visibility.
- **Muskellunge** are found in the river, typically in larger, deeper areas.
- **Brown Trout** are found in the river, especially in areas with cool, clear water.

For more detailed information, contact the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

The Susquehanna River provides a variety of fishing opportunities for both beginner and experienced anglers. Be sure to check the local regulations and limits before fishing to ensure a sustainable and enjoyable experience.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

For your fishing opportunities, visit the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission website or contact your local fish and boat commission office for more information.

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Great Bend Access Information

Section 1

Great Bend Points of Caution

Please use caution when approaching the following features. Description and corresponding approximate river mileage is indicated.

354 Great Bend PFBC Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 57 00/Lon 76 00 13
352 Great Bend P.J.O’Hare’s Private / Primitive Lat 41 57 43/Lon 75 35 27
351 Sayre PFBC Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 57 53/Lon 75 35 27
350 Sayre PFBC Access Point
349 Sayre PFBC Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 57 53/Lon 75 35 27
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287 Great Bend Points of Caution

Acknowledgements

This guide was prepared as a joint effort by the following organizations:
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, www.fish.state.pa.us
Endless Mountains Heritage Region, www.endlessmountainsheritage.org
Endless Mountains Outfitters, www.emo444.com
Pennsylvania Environmental Council, www.pecpa.org

Your Chesapeake Connection

The Susquehanna River Water Trail - North Branch is one of many water trails and other special places in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Gateway connects you with the authentic heritage of the Chesapeake Bay area and its icons. Plan your next outdoor adventure on the Susquehanna or the Bay trails. Find detailed water trail information, and, create a free Gateway Network Map and Guide at www.susquehannawatertrails.com. The Chesapeake Bay Gateway Network is coordinated by the National Park Service.