Susquehanna River Water Trail
NORTH BRANCH
Section 2: Laceyville to Harding
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. The experience includes this unique Pennsylvania water trail.

For your safety and 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.

PADDLING SAFETY TIPS
- Wear your life jacket. Some 80 percent of boating fatalities involve people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- Stay with your group. River trips can be long trips, so don’t leave the group to explore or sweep their future. Bring extra clothing in a waterproof bag.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to paddle, it is too hazardous to swim.
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat until a life-preserver is thrown to you. If you’re on the upstream side of the capsize, always throw your life preserver downstream.
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- Never leave a paddle behind a tree. Avoid capsizing.
- Be prepared for the weather. Get a forecast before you go. Wild water and rain can turn a pleasant trip into a risky, unpleasant venture.
- Take a first-aid kit with you. If you’re swimming, you might be able to summon help.
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RESPECT THE PRIVACY & RIGHTS OF PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

The river can be paddled with a level in Towanda as low as -.5'. Paddle. If the gauges at Towanda and Wilkes-Barre are over five feet, levels at 4'–5' can be 4–6 miles per hour. The river can be paddled with a level in Towanda as low as -.5'.

FLANDING THE RIVER

Day Trips on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River Water Trail

In planning a day paddle on the North Branch of the Susquehanna, different factors should be taken into consideration. Weather conditions, river gauge height, and the experience of the paddlers should be assessed before leaving for the day. Paddlers should evaluate the risk for themselves and go paddling only if they feel comfortable.

The weather forecast should be reviewed for temperature, storms and wind conditions. The combined temperature of the water and the air should be over 100 degrees. Thunderstorms can produce violent lightning and wind and can be very dangerous. If you’re not aware of the river, even on a warm sunny day, a sudden local wind can make paddling difficult. Know the weather forecast and prepare accordingly.

The river height is provided by USGS gauges at locations along the river and feeder streams and is found at https://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/ for Pennsylvania streams.

The base level for each gauge will vary depending on location. The gauges in Towanda, Williams-Barre, and Bloomsburg will read about the same height. If these gauges are too high, the gauge at McCloud will be the best, McCloud will be fine, and Danville will be fine. The three base levels for a safe paddle. If the gauges at Towanda and Williams-Barre are over five feet and Bloomsburg is below six feet, you may not paddle if you’re a non-swimmer. Any water height with water in the trees can cause a dangerous situation for paddlers.

The paddling miles per hour will vary with the river height. The river can be paddled with a level in Towanda as low as -.5'. Levels up to 2' will be 3–5 miles per hour, levels from 2' to 4' will be 3–5 miles per hour, levels from 4' to 5' will be 4–6 miles per hour. Levels under 1' will produce class I and II waves where the river flow becomes into the river. Ease to avoid these areas or have very low water and paddle through them.

It is better to plan a short trip and enjoy the paddle by taking your time rather than to spend a long day on an unprepared headwind. An 8–10 mile paddle might be enough for novice paddlers, and 10 miles for more experienced paddlers, at the 7.5 gauged level.

Review the caution areas prior to your trip.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

The North Branch Susquehanna River supports an exceptional warmwater fishery. Some of the more popular species are smallmouth bass, walleye, muskellunge, channel catfish, rock bass, carp, chain pickerel, smelt, shad, white bass, and alewife. The river is a fishery and are abundant throughout the river. They can be caught just about any time of the year on a variety of baits and places. The bass smallmouth fishing, however, usually reach the best in late summer and fall.

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PADDLING THE RIVER

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PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS

One wearable, Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device (PFD/jacket) in serviceable condition and of the appropriate size is required for each person in your boat. If your boat is 16’ or less in length, you must have a person on board who is knowledgeable regarding personal safety and is prepared to assist an injured or disabled paddler, especially a child.

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LAKE-JOINTING THE MOUTH OF TUSCARORA CREEK

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RECLE SCORCH COUNTRY OUTSPREAD (Mile 248)

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LAUNCHYVILLE BRIDGE (Mile 243)—built in 1907, named the “Most Beautiful Bridge” (short version) by the American Institute of Steel Construction.

LAUNCHYVILLE (Mile 245)—there are access park areas level just below the bridge on the Lancashire side. This is a good stop for bait, groceries, hardware, and food with a wide variety of selection. All products plant, employing over 2,500 people. Procter & Gamble (Mile 230L)

Lauren’s Creek (Mile 248)—located on Route 6 just downstream of the Launchyville Bridge. A scenic stop for those who are interested in the history of the area.

ROCK GARDEN IN THE RIVER (Mile 215)

- One person boat is required to carry a sound-producing mechanical device audible for a half-mile. Arctic Cat requirements are met.

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Laceyville to Harding Access Information

249 English Hill Path
From English Hill Dr. to Mill St. south on Mill St. to Mill Rd. to entrance. River Left.

241 Laceyville to the Main St. north on Chestnut St. to Brandywine Rd. South on Brandywine Rd. to Church St. to Main St. to access. River Left.

233 Medadoopen Private property. River Right.


225 County Kayak Park. Public access. From Mill St. west on Beech St. to Mill St. to access. River Left.

219 Traffic Circle. Public access. From Mill St. west on Beech St. to Mill St. to access. River Left.

217 PFBC Cumberland. Public access. From Mill St. west on Beech St. to Mill St. to access. River Left.

211 PFBC Appalachian. Public access. From Mill St. west on Beech St. to Mill St. to access. River Left.

207 PFBC Black Wolf Falls. Public access. From Mill St. west on Beech St. to Mill St. to access. River Left.

202 PFBC Allegheny Trail. Public access. From Mill St. west on Beech St. to Mill St. to access. River Left.

Acknowledgements
This guide was prepared as a joint effort by the following agencies:
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership

Laceyville to Harding Points of Caution

Please be aware of the following features. Description and approximate river mileage is indicated.

Mile 249 Fast riffles.
Mile 247 Long section of fast riffles.
Mile 244 Fast riffles.
Mile 238 Fast current, hidden rocks.
Mile 234 Long section of fast water.
Mile 229 Fast riffles.
Mile 224 Long section of fast water.
Mile 218 Slow water.
Mile 214 Long section of fast riffles.
Mile 212 Long section of fast riffles.
Mile 210 Long section of fast riffles.
Mile 208 Slow water.
Mile 204 Slow water.
Mile 200 Slow water.
Mile 196 Slow water.
Mile 192 Slow water.
Mile 188 Slow water.
Mile 184 Slow water.
Mile 180 Slow water.
Mile 176 Slow water.
Mile 172 Slow water.
Mile 168 Slow water.
Mile 164 Slow water.
Mile 160 Slow water.
Mile 156 Slow water.
Mile 152 Slow water.
Mile 148 Slow water.
Mile 144 Slow water.
Mile 140 Slow water.
Mile 136 Slow water.
Mile 132 Slow water.
Mile 128 Slow water.
Mile 124 Slow water.
Mile 120 Slow water.
Mile 116 Slow water.
Mile 112 Slow water.