Susquehanna River Water Trail

Section 3: Harding to Berwick

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.
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills.
- Know fishing and boating regulations.
- Be prepared for river hazards.
- Carry proper equipment.

RESPECT THE PRIVACY & RIGHTS OF PRIVATE LANDDOWNERS

PADDLING SAFETY TIPS

- Wear your jacket. Some 80 percent of all paddling accidents happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- Be prepared, but be patient. Take your own time, but be ready to help others if they need it.
- Be courteous—do not spam the bank. Stay 100 feet from shore. If you see another paddler, never pass a traffic jam unless you’re sure your pass will be safe.
- Be prepared to self-reactivate. Be ready to change your plans if you need to. At all times, keep a rope handy. Use the rope or a self-saving throw rope to reach a fellow paddler if you think he is in trouble. Never reach over a fast-moving waterway without a rope.
- Pack a flashlight and keep a light source on a chain or other cord.
- Paddle by daylight and after dark, use lights or lanterns and, if paddling at night, use red light if possible. Be a good neighbor and courteous to other paddlers.

FLATING 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 sections of the river offer different water quality conditions, river gauge height, and the experience of the paddlers should be taken into consideration. Weather conditions, river gauge height, and the experience of the paddlers should be different factors should be taken into consideration. Water Troubles and Boating Hazards should be avoided. Review the caution areas prior to your trip.

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The North Branch Susquehanna River supports an exceptional warmwater fishery, including smallmouth bass, channel catfish, largemouth bass, walleye, muskie, eelgrass, channel catfish, nickel, bass, carp and white. The river is an important part of the migratory route for alewife and striped bass. The river supports 250 species of freshwater and anadromous fish.

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DNL National Heritage Corridor, Black Diamond Trail (Mile 164.15)—This trail is located on both sides of the river between DNL and DNL at the northern end of the river in the town of Emigsville. The trail is a 2.5-mile loop that takes you through the heart of the historical community and provides an excellent opportunity to explore the area.

Dorothy Dixson Barke Center for the Performing Arts (Mile 142.5)—The center offers a variety of performing arts events and is the home of the Berwick Area Community Band. The center is located on the riverfront and is open to the public daily.

Stewards of the Susquehanna (Mile 135.5)—This group is dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the Susquehanna River. They work to educate the public about the importance of protecting the river and its resources.

The Wyoming Valley section of the Susquehanna River is characterized by a greater diversity of species and a more diverse habitat. The river supports a diverse array of species, including smallmouth bass, striped bass, walleye, muskie, and many species of aquatic plants. The river is an important part of the migratory route for alewife and striped bass.

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Susquehanna River Access Sites Harding to Berwick

**210** PFBC Apple Tree Road Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 23 16/Lon 75 49 26
From West Pittston, take Rt. 92 north approximately 2 miles to access on your right. River Right.

**196** PFBC Hanover Township Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 14 17/Lon 75 55 50
From Plymouth, take Rt. 11 North. Right onto Carey Ave. bridge. First right onto 1st Street. 2 blocks then right onto Delaney St. Parking lot in front of you. River Left.

**188** Nesbitt Park Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 15 09/Lon 76 02 51
From Wilkes Barre, cross Pierce Street Bridge (Veterans Memorial Bridge). Take first right onto First Avenue. Go 1 block and bear right passing over Levee Trail. Follow road .25 mile to access. River Right.

**185** PFBC Union Township Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 10 40/Lon 76 06 41
From Rt. 11 and Rt. 239 in Shickshinny, turn north on Rt. 11 for approximately 2.5 miles. Just after the PennDOT storage shed turn right to launch access road. River Right.

**180** Canal Park Primitive Lat 41 13 12/Lon 76 01 07
In West Nanticoke, at the intersection of Rt. 11 and Rt. 29, turn at Sunoco Gas Station into Canal Park. Access is on gravel path to River. River Right.

**178** Hunlock Township Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 12 40/Lon 76 02 39
From West Nanticoke, travel south on Rt. 11 for approximately 1.5 miles. Turn left at the Drive-in and bear to the right. Access area will be on your left. River Right.

**174** PFBC Union Township Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 10 40/Lon 76 06 41
From Rt. 11 and Rt. 239 in Shickshinny, turn north on Rt. 11 for approximately 2.5 miles. Just after the PennDOT storage shed turn right to launch access road. River Right.

**171** Shickshinny Primitive Lat 41 09 11/Lon 76 08 50
From Rt. 11 and Rt. 239, at traffic light in Shickshinny, turn south on Union St. Go 2 blocks. Proceed into Fireman Fairgrounds. Turn left on dirt road behind pavilion. Proceed 300 feet to access on right. River Right.

**166** Wetlands Nature Area Primitive Lat 41 05 22/Lon 76 07 21
From Rt. 11, travel 1.5 miles south of Riverlands, turn left on Hicks Ferry Road at the Wetlands Nature Area sign, and bear left to the end of road. River Right.

**158** Test Track Park Paved Lat 41 02 24/Lon 76 15 40
From Rt. 11 S. (West Front St., Berwick), left onto Warren St. Turn right on Ruhmels Lane. Park on left. River Right.

**156** Mifflinville Primitive Lat 41 02 04/Lon 76 18 35
From I-80, proceed north 1 mile on Rt. 11. Turn right at light toward Mifflinville. Cross Market Street Bridge. Left after bridge to 1st St. Left into park. Proceed on road that bends left and descends steeply to river. River Left.

**147** PFBC Union Township Surfaced Ramp Lat 41 10 40/Lon 76 06 41
From Rt. 11 and Rt. 239 in Shickshinny, turn north on Rt. 11 for approximately 2.5 miles. Just after the PennDOT storage shed turn right to launch access road. River Right.

*Harding to Berwick Points of Caution*

Please use caution when approaching the following features.

- **Mile 180 Caution approximately a half-mile downstream from the Nantikoke bridge. Long class I-II rapid River right.**
- **Mile 160.5 Caution approaching Berwick-Nescopeck bridge when Bloomsburg USGS gauge is below 2’. At low flow the river drops over an exposed rock ledge. Feature smoothes out into small ripples/waves as level rises.**

**Acknowledgements**

This guide was prepared as a joint effort by the following organizations:

- Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)
- Endless Mountains Heritage Region, [www.endlessmountainsheritage.org](http://www.endlessmountainsheritage.org)
- Endless Mountains Outfitters, [www.emo444.com](http://www.emo444.com)
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council, [www.pecpa.org](http://www.pecpa.org)
- Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, [www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org)

*Source Map and Guide at [www.baygateways.net](http://www.baygateways.net).*

*The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network is coordinated by the National Park Service.*