Youghiogheny River

Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, river, or ocean between specific points, 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.

Stewardship

Help care for the land, water, and cultural resources along the Youghiogheny River by respecting wildlife, plants and other resources. It is important to keep trash free, boats and vehicles to minimize the spread of invasive species from your vehicle to another. “Leave No Trace,” a national outdoor ethics program, provides some guidelines to minimize impact. For more information, visit www.lnt.org.

For your safety and enjoyment:

- Always wear a life jacket — they’re required in Ohiopyle State Park
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills
- Know fishing and boating regulations
- Be prepared for river hazards
- Carry proper equipment

Pennsylvania Boating Regulations

Boats carrying more than 10 people must be registered in Pennsylvania. A boater license and insurance are not required. However, non-resident boaters must display a valid launch permit. Launch permits can be purchased on the Fish & Boat Commission access areas must either be registered OR display a valid launch permit. Launch permits can be purchased on the Fish & Boat Commission website.

Paddling Safety Tips

- Wear your life jacket. Some 60 percent of all boater fatalities involve boaters who are not wearing a life jacket.
- Expect to get wet. Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or overturn their boats. Bring extra clothing in a waterproof bag.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks hazardous to boaters, don’t go in it.
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat, unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in shallow water, perform the roll-up position on the upstream side of the capsized boat.
- Scout ahead whenever possible. Know the river. Avoid surprise.
- Be alert for changes in the weather. Be sure to wear sun screen and a hat, even on a cloudy day.
- Never take your boat over a low-head dam.
- Never count on the current to tell you how fast you are going when you enter the river. Remember to contact the police when you have returned safely.

Youth in the river makes it more difficult for Youghiogheny River watersports enthusiasts to see each other across the water more clearly than on land. Use the same courtesy by obtaining permission before entering any privately owned land.

Pennsylvania Boating Regulations

2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
6. Respect wildlife

Pennsylvania Boating Regulations

Youghiogheny River

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Respect the Privacy & Rights of Landowners

Please respect the privacy and rights of landowners along this trail by keeping to the designated access points. You are encouraged to use public lands, but please respect the rights of private property owners and don’t interfere with their use of the area. Please respect the privacy and rights of landowners along this trail by keeping to the designated access points. You are encouraged to use public lands, but please respect the rights of private property owners and don’t interfere with their use of the area.

A Legendary River

The Youghiogheny River is legendary. The Youth flows through Pennsylvania’s historic river gorges, an area of exceptional natural beauty and resources that has been designated an Important Bird Area, a Biological Diversity Area and Landscape Conservation Area.

When George Washington, the son of American President, reached the Falls of Ohiopyle in circa 1748, he conducted his search for water routes to the Ohio by the Ohio, an area that was strategically important that opened the French and Indian War.

The Falls, about 200 feet tall and 100 feet wide, cascade over tough Potuloon sandstone in the heart of the 20,000-acre Ohiopyle State Park, one of the most noted state parks in the Eastern United States, attracting 1.5 million visitors a year. The Youth is river-served for its whitewater, churning 100,000 bushels a year for the 10 feet that it can be at all summertime releases from Youghiogheny Lake.

The Youth river is a major angling destination. Trout are stocked year round upstream from the Youth Falls and downstream. The gorge is open for fishing year round. Expect to get wet. Keep painter lines tight. Be prepared to swim.

Respect wildlife, nature and other recreationists. For more information, visit www.Lnt.org.

National Resources

The natural resources in these waters make the Youghiogheny River one of the most ecologically rich rivers in the world. Fish and wildlife that are abundant here include brown trout, rainbow trout, white bass, carp, rock bass, golden shiners, brook trout, white perch, yellow perch, channel catfish, and several species of paddlefish. The Yough has been studied extensively for its role in the restoration of fish and wildlife populations in the northern Appalachian Region.

The Youth is famous for Class III and IV whitewater with an average gradient of 25 feet per mile. It flows from Maryland and West Virginia to the Monongahela River in the Allegheny Region. The Youth is famous for its Class III and IV whitewater with an average gradient of 25 feet per mile. It flows from Maryland and West Virginia to the Monongahela River in the Allegheny Region.

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