



THE DELAWARE RIVER WATER TRAIL

Celeste Tracy
Delaware River Greenway Partnership

What is a Water Trail?

National Park Service definition:

“A water trail, or blueway, is a stretch of river, a shoreline, or an ocean that has been mapped out with the intent to create an educational, scenic, and challenging experience for recreational canoers and kayakers.”

Focus is mostly on paddling activities (canoeing and kayaking), but also useful for boating, fishing, and tubing.



The Value of Water Trails

- ≈ **Education:** Learning first hand about the river and surrounding watershed. Information provided on websites, maps, signs, educational materials, and kiosks help educate visitors about the area.
- ≈ **Stewardship/Advocacy:** Can create a new sense of enthusiasm and appreciation for the river and its resources by paddlers and local citizens alike. Encourages volunteers to assist with river clean ups.
- ≈ **Recreation Tourism and Other Economic Benefits:** Opportunities to increase recreation and tourism in an area. Communities can benefit from increased spending in the area, new businesses.

Values of Water Trails, cont'd.

- ≈ **Healthy Lifestyles:** Provide places for people to engage in healthy physical activity and opportunities for families to live active, healthy lifestyles.
- ≈ **Safe Use of the River:** Signage, web sites and programs can help prevent accidents by warning of unsafe conditions and promote safe practices.

The Delaware River Water Trail

- ≈ Encompasses the freshwater segment of the Delaware from Hancock, NY to Trenton, NJ, for over 220 miles
- ≈ Other water trails in the region:
 - Lehigh River (75 miles)
 - Schuylkill River (147 miles)
 - Tidal Delaware (56 miles)
 - Hudson River (256 miles)
- ≈ Project is coordinated by Delaware River Greenway Partnership, with assistance from a steering committee

Most of the freshwater Delaware River is designated to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System



≈ The Upper Delaware: 73 miles from Hancock NY to Mill Rift, PA

≈ The Middle Delaware: 40 miles with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area



≈ Lower Delaware: 39 miles from the Water Gap south to Washington Crossing State Park, plus 28 miles of 3 tributaries



Delaware River Water Trail

Steering Committee of major public lands other interested organizations:

- ≈ DCNR-Delaware Canal State Park
- ≈ PA Fish and Boat Commission
- ≈ NPS-Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- ≈ NPS-Upper Delaware Wild and Scenic River
- ≈ NPS-Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- ≈ Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor
- ≈ Delaware River Basin Commission
- ≈ ACA - Delaware Valley Division
- ≈ NJ Department of Environmental Protection
- ≈ Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau

Delaware River Water Trail

What Task Force members have accomplished:

- ≈ Helped review and write concept plan
- ≈ Contributed text and photos for the trail guide
- ≈ Provided information on public river access sites
- ≈ Participated in organizing public meetings
- ≈ Supported efforts to get funding for graphic artist to do guide and technical assistance from NPS
- ≈ Organized Delaware River Day and launch event
- ≈ Developed a survey of parks' signs
- ≈ Reviewed all documents and contributed content to the web site
- ≈ In general, the eyes and ears of the project, letting us know of what's happening on the river

Challenges

- ≈ Funding: grants received from
 - ≈ National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program
 - ≈ PA DCNR
 - ≈ NJDEP
 - ≈ Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Rivers Program
 - ≈ PPL Corporation
- ≈ Dealing with the sheer size of the freshwater Delaware River- 220 MILES
- ≈ Need to rely on partners: Steering committee and other public agencies
- ≈ Being fair to all sides of the river – not forgetting one side or the other

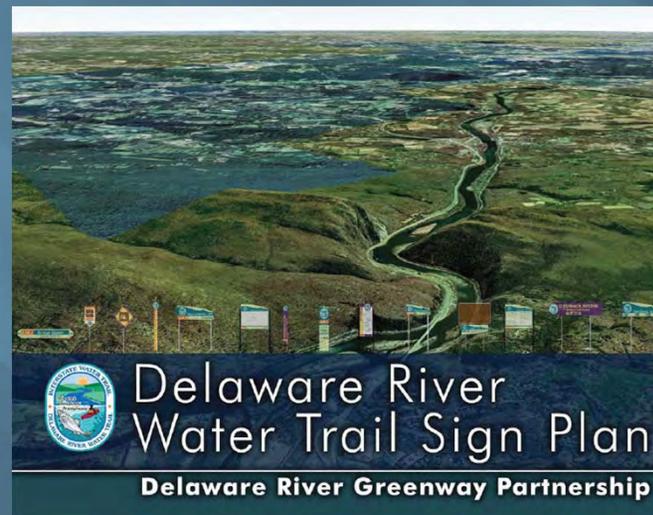
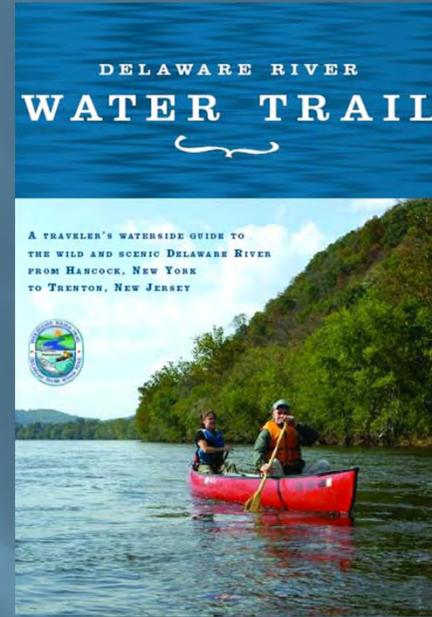
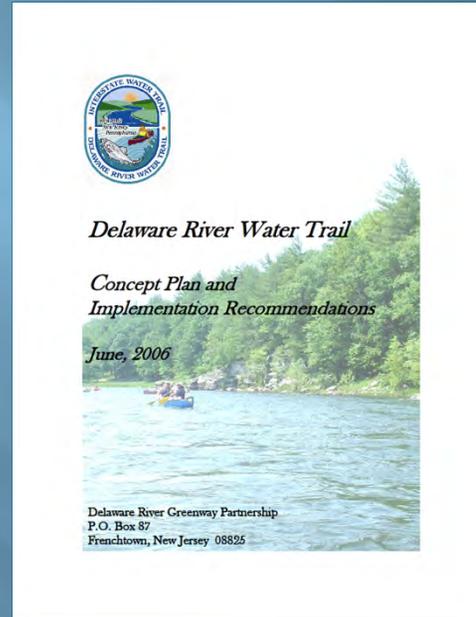
More Challenges

Dealing with Multiple state partners:

Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York

- ≈ Varying laws and regulations and different agencies
 - Environmental Protection, Parks, Maritime Police, Fish and Wildlife Division (NJ), Fish and Boat Commission (PA)
- ≈ Different grant programs which only apply to one state, even for private foundations
- ≈ Staffing and resources to do the same thing vary from state-to-state

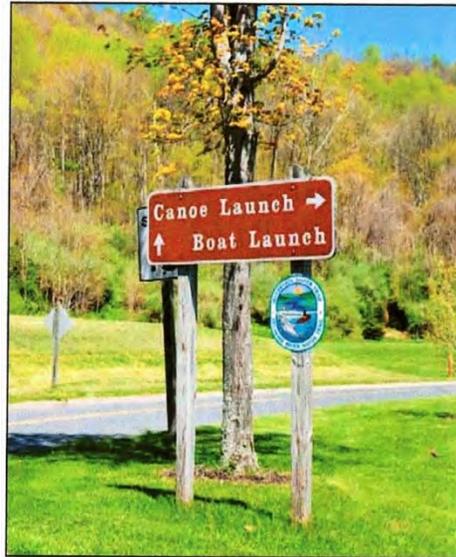
What We've Accomplished So Far:



Delaware River Water Trail Sign Plan

- ≈ Developed with our consultant Simone Collins
- ≈ Purpose was to provide consistent design guidelines for access owners for different types of signs
- ≈ Also, the plan provided information on where signs were needed after survey of public accesses
- ≈ Consultant worked with the Steering Committee and public land managers, and held 3 public meetings on the design alternatives
- ≈ Important: Signs would not replace agency's sign policies or designs

Sign Design – Blaze



This is the most cost effective sign to incorporate into the system. The sign or decal / logo can be affixed to existing signage to let the user know that they are on the water trail system without the cost of manufacturing a new sign. This symbol will be the identifying feature throughout the length of the trail and will also bring exposure to the water trail to those who travel into the area.

Sign Design - River Landing

234.1
SPARROWBUSH - LANDING
Sparrowbush, NY

Description:
The sign is double sided fabricated from aluminum sheet mounted with adhesive vinyl. Each sign should be mounted to aluminum poles that are removable from a buried sleeve.
Because of constant changes in technology, materials and finishes, the final selection of sign options will need to be reexamined at the time of ordering.

Content:
This sign is designed to let the paddler know the location with the river mile number.
Each sign should contain:
• Name of the landing
• Town / location
• State
• Water Trail logo
• River mile

Placement:
This sign should be mounted on the upstream side adjacent to the landing from a paddler's perspective. Clear obstructing vegetation to achieve maximum site distance for both upstream and downstream views.
Each site should be evaluated to determine what the ideal height should be, but a minimum 7' clearance will act as a general guideline.

Sign Design Alternative B
On River - Landing
Delaware River Water Trail Signage Plan

234.1
SPARROWBUSH - LANDING
Sparrowbush, NY

234.1
SPARROWBUSH - LANDING
Sparrowbush, NY

9'-3"

Scale: 1" = 1'-0"

Single Post

NTS

2010

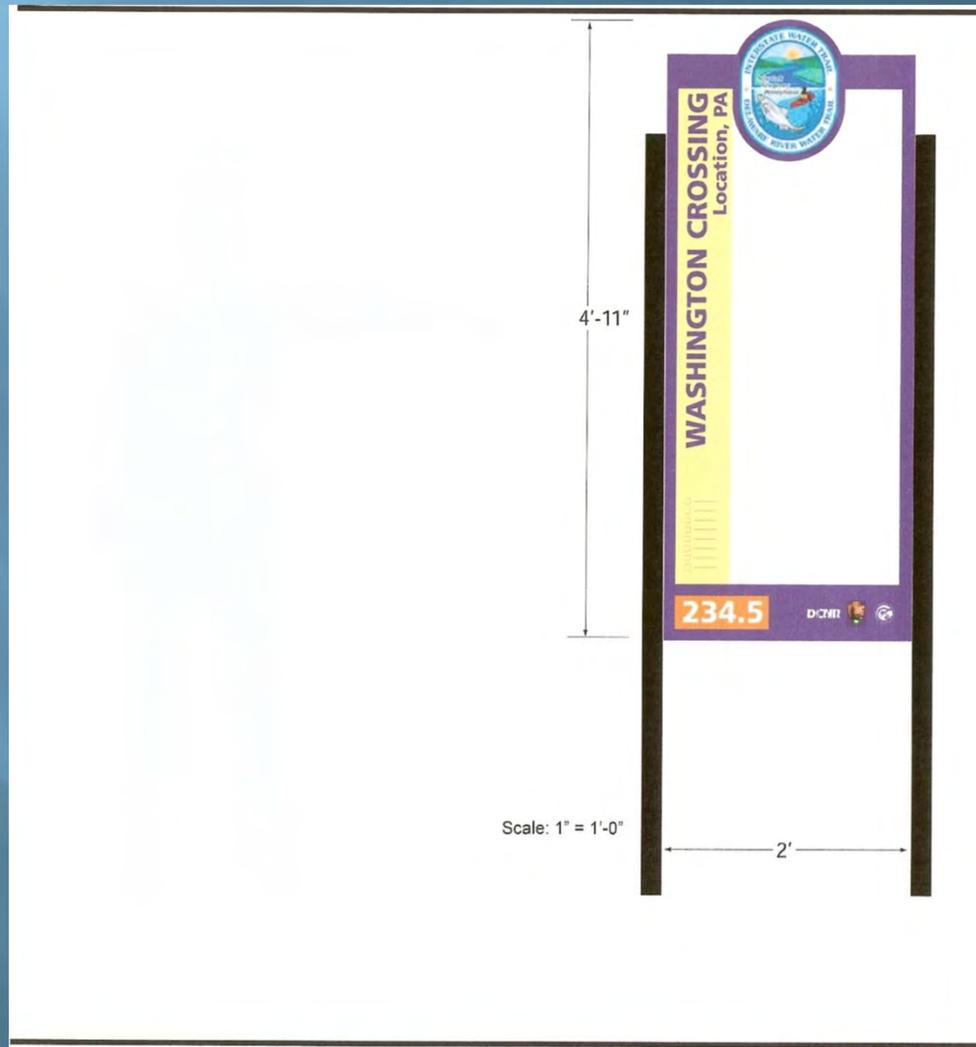
23

Think brown, not purple

Sign Design - Roadside Access



Sign Design – Interpretive



Sign Design - Kiosk



Spreading the Word: Web Site - delawareriverwatertrail.org

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Delaware River Water Trail website. The address bar shows the URL <http://delaware-river.darianscatton.com/>. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. A search bar with the Google logo and a search button is visible. The website header features the Delaware River Water Trail logo and the text "PENNSYLVANIA RIVER OF THE YEAR 2011". A navigation menu includes links for Home, About the Trail, Water Trail Map, Water Trail Guide, News, Events, Resources, Photo Gallery, and Contact Us. A large banner image shows a scenic view of the Delaware River. Below the banner, a text block describes the river's recreational opportunities. To the right, a "Water Trail Map" section highlights the Upper, Middle, and Lower sections. Further down, there are sections for "Water Trail Guide" (with a book cover image), "Event Gallery" (with a photo of a canoeist), and "Upcoming Events" (listing events like the 1st Art Show, Green Art Show, and Hidden Gardens). A "Featured Destination" section lists weather conditions for Fort Jersey, NJ; Swanton, PA; and Trenton, NJ. A "Featured Organization" section includes the logo for the Delaware River River of Life. The footer contains contact information and logos for various partner organizations.

DELWARE RIVER WATER TRAIL
PENNSYLVANIA RIVER OF THE YEAR 2011

HOME | ABOUT THE TRAIL | WATER TRAIL MAP | WATER TRAIL GUIDE | NEWS | EVENTS | RESOURCES | PHOTO GALLERY | CONTACT US

The Delaware River offers some of the finest and most accessible recreational opportunities in the northeastern United States. Popular activities include boating, fishing, swimming, camping, hunting, hiking, bird watching, sightseeing along state-designated scenic highways, and cycling along canal towpaths and bike routes of the Upper, Middle and Lower Delaware River.

WATER TRAIL MAP

UPPER
MIDDLE
LOWER

WATER TRAIL GUIDE

EVENT GALLERY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 2nd - 1st Art Show Exhibition At The
Jules & Kathleen Jones Co., Beginning At 6 PM, last
entry is: [Show Details](#)

Aug 4th - Green Art Show At Seven Creek
Opening Party, 2 pm to 6 pm, last
entry is: [Show Details](#)

Aug 10th - Hidden Gardens Of Lambertville...
Jules & Kathleen Jones Co., Beginning At 6 PM, last
entry is: [Show Details](#)

FEATURED DESTINATION

WEATHER

Fort Jersey, NJ:
Clear at 61° F. Wind: NW at 9 mph.

Swanton, PA:
Clear at 60° F. Wind: NW at 8 mph.

Trenton, NJ:
Clear at 62° F. Wind: NW at 7 mph.

FEATURED ORGANIZATION

DELAWARE RIVER RIVER OF LIFE

Delaware River Water Trail | P.O. Box 64 | Exton, PA 19341 USA | (610) 338-5544 | (Delaware) | (PA) | (NJ) | Join Mailing List | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube | Contact Us

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT | DELAWARE RIVER WATER TRAIL | PENNSYLVANIA | POCONO MOUNTAINS

Spreading the Word: Web Site



**DELAWARE RIVER
WATER TRAIL**
PENNSYLVANIA RIVER OF THE YEAR 2011

MY TRIP PLANNER

HOME | ABOUT THE TRAIL | **WATER TRAIL MAP** | WATER TRAIL GUIDE | NEWS | EVENTS | RESOURCES | PHOTO GALLERY | CONTACT US

VIEW ENTIRE MAP | **UPPER** | **MIDDLE** | **LOWER** | **LEGEND**

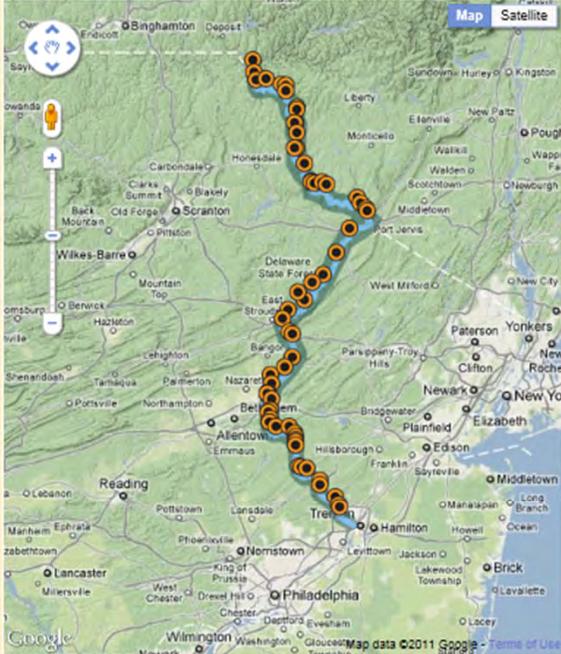
INSTRUCTIONS
Use the legend to the right to toggle the layers of the map on and off. Roll over the points on the map and click for more information. You may also click the Upper, Middle & Lower tabs at the top to focus on specific areas of the map.

NAVIGATING THE DELAWARE RIVER WATER TRAIL MAP
The head of the water trail begins in Hancock, N.Y. and flows South through Delaware Water Gap to Trenton, N.J.

UPPER
The Upper trail spans from Hancock, N.Y. to Port Jervis, N.Y.

MIDDLE
The Middle section runs from Port Jervis, N.Y. to the Delaware Water Gap.

LOWER
The Lower portion spans from the Delaware Water Gap to Trenton, N.J.



Map Satellite

- ACCESS POINTS
- WATER TRAIL
- BICYCLE TRAIL
- BOAT LAUNCH
- CAMPGROUND
- CANOE LAUNCH
- DAM
- FISHING
- HIKING
- MUSEUM
- PARKING
- PICNIC AREA
- POINT OF INTEREST
- RESTROOMS
- RIVER HAZARDS
- SWIMMING
- VISITOR INFORMATION
- PUBLIC PARK LAND
- ROADS

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Spreading the Word: Web Site



**DELAWARE RIVER
WATER TRAIL**

PENNSYLVANIA RIVER OF THE YEAR 2011

[MY TRIP PLANNER](#)

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT THE TRAIL](#) | [WATER TRAIL MAP](#) | [WATER TRAIL GUIDE](#) | [NEWS](#) | [EVENTS](#) | [RESOURCES](#) | [PHOTO GALLERY](#) | [CONTACT US](#)

VIEW ENTIRE MAP

UPPER

MIDDLE

LOWER

LEGEND

LOWER DELAWARE RIVER

The lower non-tidal Delaware River is the longest and most populated of the three sections of the trail, extending from the Water Gap to Trenton, New Jersey.

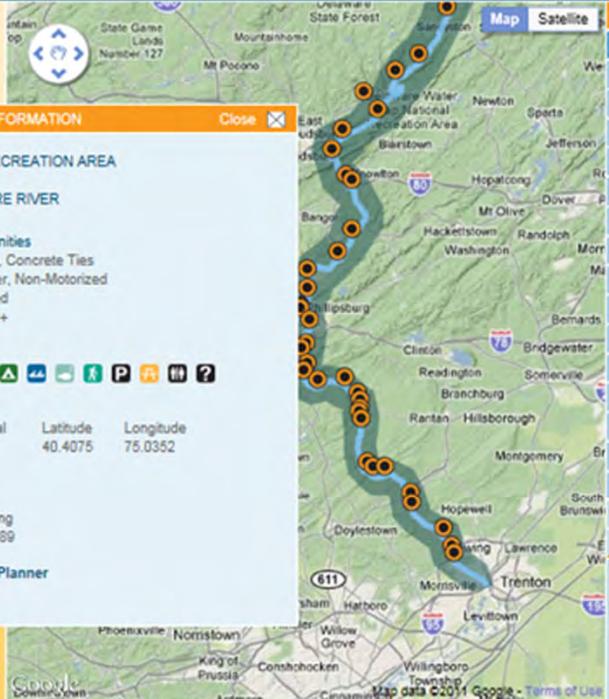
The cultural landscape is a rich tapestry of small cities, towns, and farms. There are many opportunities for shopping near Trenton, Pennsylvania. Scenic vistas, islands, and rich history greet visitors.

[More Info >>>](#)

RIVER CONDITIONS

The Lower Delaware River is a popular destination for personal watercraft. Personal watercraft are allowed, and paddlers need to be cautious. Paddlers need to be cautious of boaters and use a section of the river that is heavily used by power boaters.

[More Info >>>](#)



[Map](#) | [Satellite](#)

ACCESS POINTS

- WATER TRAIL
- BICYCLE TRAIL
- BOAT LAUNCH
- CAMPGROUND
- CANOE LAUNCH
- DAM
- FISHING
- HIKING
- MUSEUM
- PARKING
- PICNIC AREA
- POINT OF INTEREST
- RESTROOMS
- RIVER HAZARDS
- SWIMMING
- VISITOR INFORMATION
- PUBLIC PARK LAND
- ROADS

ACCESS POINT INFORMATION Close

**BULLS ISLAND RECREATION AREA
STOCKTON, NJ
LOWER DELAWARE RIVER**

Public Access Amenities
 Ramp Type: Paved, Concrete Ties
 Launch Type: Power, Non-Motorized
 Parking Type: Paved
 Parking Spaces: 50+
 Restrooms: Yes

Activities

Coordinates
 River Mile: 155.2 Interval: 0.9 Latitude: 40.4075 Longitude: 75.0352

UTM/UPS 18T
 Easting: 497016 Northing: 4472909

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MY TRIP PLANNER

HOME | ABOUT THE TRAIL | WATER TRAIL MAP | WATER TRAIL GUIDE | NEWS | EVENTS | **KNOWLEDGE** | PHOTO GALLERY | CONTACT US

- MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS
- SITES, STIGGESTE & SAFETY
- TRAVEL LINKS
- FEATURED DESTINATION
- THINGS TO DO ON THE RIVER
- MY TRIP PLANNER
- WATER TRAIL GUIDE
- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



FEATURED DESTINATION

Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
Roebling's Delaware Aqueduct is the oldest existing wire suspension bridge in the United States. It runs 322 feet (173 meters) from Slonank Point, near York to Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. It is also known as the Delaware Aqueduct or Roebling Bridge. Opening in 1847 as a proper aqueduct (carrying water), it has since been converted to carry land traffic.

Construction
The bridge was begun in 1847 as one of four suspension aqueducts on the Delaware and Hudson canal (D & H). The D & H canal was a system of transportation between coal fields of northeastern Pennsylvania and markets on the Hudson River that operated from 1822 until 1898, with enlargements after the 1840s.

The bridge was designed by and built under the supervision of John A. Roebling, who would design the Brooklyn Bridge twenty years later.

Two important local industries with conflicting needs brought about construction of Roebling's Delaware and Lock Haven Aqueducts: canal traffic and lumber rafting. Since the mid-18th century, timber from the Delaware valley had been floated down the Delaware to shipyards and industries in Trenton and Philadelphia. The D & H canal operated a rope ferry crossing of the Delaware at Lock Haven but it created a major bottleneck before the aqueduct was built, and there were numerous collisions with lumber rafts headed downstream. In 1847, to alleviate both problems, the D & H canal company approved Russell F. Lord's plan to substitute two new aqueducts in place of the rope ferry.

After evaluating several options, Lord recommended designs submitted by John A. Roebling who had already built a wire suspension aqueduct at Pittsburgh in 1845. Roebling's suspension design allowed adequate space for the passage of ice floes and river traffic. An immediate success, the \$41,700 Delaware Aqueduct, and the \$18,800 Lock Haven Aqueduct (of which only the abutments remain), reduced canal travel time by one full day, saving thousands of dollars annually.

Post-construction history
After the closing of the canal, the aqueduct was drained and converted for use as a vehicular bridge. Gradually the canal walls and longpaths (walkways for three pulley barges) were removed. It operated as a toll bridge for wagons and later motor vehicles until 1975. Portions of the D & H canal, including the Delaware Aqueduct, were designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985. The Delaware Aqueduct is also designated a National Civil Engineering Landmark.

The bridge was bought and restored by the National Park Service in 1955. In 1995, the wooden longpaths and aqueduct walls were reconstructed, restoring the bridge's original appearance as an aqueduct, while still carrying land traffic.

The bridge is now part of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River.

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HOME | ABOUT THE TRAIL | WATER TRAIL MAP | WATER TRAIL GUIDE | NEWS | EVENTS | RESOURCES | PHOTO GALLERY | CONTACT US

- MAJOR PUBLIC LANDS
- RIVER REGISTRY - SAFETY**
- RIVER SAFETY
- RIVER CONDITIONS & HAZARDS
- BOATING & FISHING REGULATIONS
- LEAVE NO TRACE
- SHARING THE RIVER
- TRAVEL LINKS
- FEATURED DESTINATION
- THINGS TO DO ON THE RIVER
- MY TRIP PLANNER
- WATER TRAIL GUIDE
- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



RIVER SAFETY

The Delaware River is a great place to relax and enjoy nature, but as with many outdoor activities there are inherent risks that can lead to injury or even death. River enthusiasts bear personal responsibility for their own safety. Always remember the ever-changing nature of the river. Pay close attention to weather conditions. Use common sense, caution, good planning and proper equipment to greatly reduce risks.

A wealth of information is available on river safety issues and techniques. One of the best ways to learn about safety and improve skills is to join a local paddling or boating club. Experienced boaters are eager to share their knowledge and demonstrate efficient, safety-minded techniques and skills. There are also some excellent books and videos available. The American Canoe Association offers paddling courses for all skill levels for both canoe and kayak, and the National Canoe Safety Patrol offers river safety and rescue courses. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers similar programs for motor boaters.

The following tips will help ensure safe and enjoyable river trips:

BE PREPARED — WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

Never enter the river without wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) or lifejacket. Always carry some form of personal identification and notation of medical conditions and allergies. Always carry water and a first-aid kit, and an extra paddle if you are in a canoe or kayak. In cool weather, dress accordingly and bring at least a complete change of warm clothing in a waterproof bag. In warmer weather take along insect repellent and sun block. Plan your trip carefully and seek out the latest information on ever-changing river conditions. Let someone know what your plans are and when you expect to be finished. Always wear protective footwear. Watch for broken glass underfoot, particularly near access.

CONSIDER YOUR SKILL LEVEL

The Delaware River's flat water stretches are perfect for beginners. Class I & II rapids are appropriate for more experienced paddlers. Class II stretches of this river are often considered "technical," which refers to the degree of boat-handling skill required to navigate rocks and boulders in swiftly moving current. Be aware that class designations are relative to changes in water levels. Make sure your paddling adventures are in sync with your skill level.

IN AN EMERGENCY

Spreading the Word: Web Site

The screenshot displays the website for the Delaware River Water Trail. At the top left is the logo for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, featuring a river, mountains, and a sun. To the right of the logo, the text reads "DELAWARE RIVER WATER TRAIL" and "PENNSYLVANIA RIVER OF THE YEAR 2011". A "MY TRIP PLANNER" button is located in the top right corner. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME | ABOUT THE TRAIL | WATER TRAIL MAP | WATER TRAIL GUIDE | NEWS | EVENTS | RESOURCES | PHOTO GALLERY | CONTACT US. Underneath the navigation menu are three tabs: "UPPER" (green), "MIDDLE" (yellow), and "LOWER" (green). The "UPPER" tab is selected, showing a grid of 13 small photos of people kayaking and rafting on the river. To the right of the grid is a large, central image of a river valley with steep, forested mountainsides, flanked by left and right arrow navigation buttons. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with contact information: "Delaware River Water Trail · P.O. Box 54 · Erwinna, PA 18920 USA | 609.239.0444 | Disclaimer | Privacy | FAQ | Join Mailing List | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube | Contact Us". Below the footer are several logos, including the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources logo and the Pocono Mountains logo.

Next Steps

- ≈ Fabricate and install signs at public accesses
- ≈ Complete a marketing plan and develop campaign
- ≈ Provide educational programs about the river and its safe use, working with groups, park rangers, and other state officials
- ≈ Incorporate information on private accesses and trail-related businesses such as rentals, lodging, restaurants, on the web site
- ≈ Maintain the web site and social media

Thank you
And enjoy yourself on the trail!

