



SWATARA
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Swatara Water Trail

Map & Guide



Do you want to combine water, good food, recreation, open space, history, culture, scenic beauty, and geology into one day trip? We have you covered. Paddling the Swatara is like exploring a wilderness. One of the only ways to tell where you are is by the bridges that cross the stream. "The Swatara is an urban/suburban wilderness less than 50 minutes from Pennsylvania's capital, Harrisburg.

The Swatara Creek

The **Swatara Water Trail** is a 60-mile segment of Swatara Creek from Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, to the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Middletown Access, in Dauphin County. You will see farms and bank barns; Union Canal locks; forested riparian buffers; the abandoned Lebanon to Tremont Railroad, which is undergoing renovation by the County of Lebanon and Lebanon Valley Rails to Trails; Harper's Tavern, limestone outcrops, and the only lava deposits in the state. If you want to stay in the area overnight, try Twin Grove Park, the Jonestown KOA Campgrounds, Hersheypark Camping Resort, or one of several hotels. Seasonal Primitive camping is found at Swatara Watershed Park. Fort Indiantown Gap, the national cemetery, and historic Lindley Murray/Conrad Mill are a great hike from the water along Indian Creek, where the Blue Eyed Six drowned Joel Raber for an insurance policy.

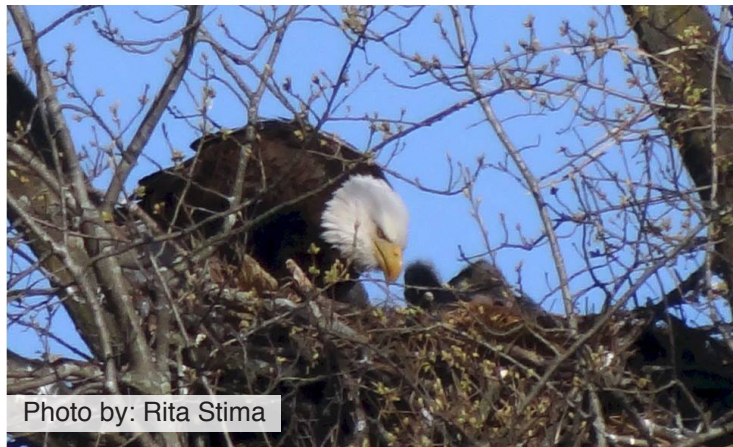


Photo by: Rita Stima

Bald eagles also frequent and nest in the Swatara Watershed.

In central Pennsylvania, the Swatara Watershed encompasses 570 square miles in Berks, Dauphin, Lebanon, and Schuylkill counties. Swatara Creek flows into the Susquehanna River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to the four counties, there are 46 municipalities in the watershed with a total population of more than 800,000 people.

Fishing Opportunities

Swatara Creek supports a diverse coolwater/warmwater fishery that includes smallmouth bass, tiger muskies, channel catfish, sunfish, and suckers. Most of these species occur in the lower portion of the creek near Middletown. The Lower Little Swatara Creek, Schuylkill County, and Quittapahilla Creek, Lebanon County, are approved trout waters. Check the current Summary of Fishing Regulation and Laws before fishing the creeks. Review the Summary online at www.fish.state.pa.us.

ALONG THE WAY

Pine Grove Historical Society (formerly Pinegrove) is located in the southwest corner of Schuylkill County, just north of Blue Mountain. Originally part of Berks County, the area was first settled by German settlers exploring Swatara Creek. The town was incorporated in 1832 and became an important transportation hub of the Union Canal, and later of the railroads. For more information, visit www.rootsweb.com/~papghs/about.htm.

Pine Grove Theater: Is a grand old theater of significant architecture.

Conrad Richter House: Author Conrad Richter wrote the novels *The Light in the Forest* and *Sea of Grass*. He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for *The Town*, and he won a National Book Award for *The Waters of Kronos*.

Nutting Hall: Is a two-and-a-half-story wood structure with a gable roof. It is five bays across by three bays deep with a large section to the rear. The house was built between 1823 and 1825 by Peter Filbert for the family of Christian Ley (1762-1832), a son of Michael Ley who built Tulpehocken Manor.

Red Lion Café: Is on PA Route 443, five minutes east of Pine Grove.

Sweet Arrow Lake: Is just east of the Red Lion Café. Originally created in 1923 as a one-million-gallon-per-day water supply for the PP&L power plant (which closed March 28, 1962) in the Pleasant Valley section of Pine Grove. The lake is Schuylkill County's first county park.

Union Canal Basin: Still exists in Pine Grove. The siding for the Union Canal Railroad was located on the west side of the basin. This was the first railroad chartered in Pennsylvania, in 1828.

Tulpehocken Trail: Indians used the Tulpehocken Trail, which followed Swatara Creek northward through Swatara Gap at Inwood to Suedburg.

1. Lower Little Swatara Creek Access off Route 645. Swatara Furnace and Manor House are located on Old Forge Road, east of Lebanon's Christian Siegrist Reservoir in Pine Grove Township, Suedburg, on 200 acres of land. Four buildings make up this significant architectural and engineering location, which was once part of a thriving industry between 1825 and 1874.

Stony Creek Trail, also called St. Anthony's Wilderness, was once a railroad, and runs eastward 20 miles from the Susquehanna River, Dauphin County, to the Lebanon Reservoir, Schuylkill County. The trail surface of crushed

stone is used for hiking, horses, and cross-country skiing.

Box Car Rocks, also known as Chinese Wall, High Rocks or Point of Rocks, is located in Stony Valley. A Pottsville Conglomerate, the rocks are steeped in Indian legend.

State Game Lands 211 stretches from the Carbon/Schuylkill County line southwest to the Susquehanna River.

Jacob's Lutheran Church is on PA Route 443 just past the Interstate 81 interchange. It is the second-oldest church in Schuylkill County, and the first to be organized in the county west of the Schuylkill River, in 1780.

Sattazahn Church and cemetery. This Lutheran church was founded by German immigrants in 1729. The church was served by traveling missionary John Casper Stover Jr. In 1756, the structure was made of logs. The current structure was built in 1872, and named in honor of Peter Sattazahn, a Revolutionary War soldier buried there.

Twin Grove Park. Camping, pool, merry-go-round. Visit www.twingrovecampground.com/ for more information. **Swatara State Park** consists of 3,520-acres of rolling fields and woodlands, and offers hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and boating on the Swatara Creek. The park also contains the historic Union Canal and locks, the Bordner Cabin, and the Swatara Rail Trail. For more information please visit: <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/SwataraStatePark/Pages/default.aspx>



2. Swopes Valley Road parking and boat access. Fossil Site in Swatara State Park contain both Tuscarora Quartzite, which is 425 million years old from the Silurian Age, and Martinsburg Formation, which is 500 million years or Ordovician, which produced 235 feet of fossiliferous beds exposed in an open pit.

3. Sand Siding is a Trailhead for Swatara Rail Trail near a footbridge in the center of Swatara State Park.

Aycrigger's Falls was an Indian lookout and smoke-signal station, and the land was later owned by Benjamin Aycrigger, an engineer on the Union Canal.



Photo by: Reading Eagle

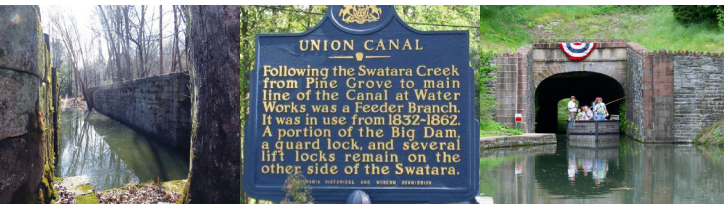
Bordner Cabin is a 1939 cabin using Rustic Architecture incorporating hand-hewn oak logs and stones found on the site, and built by Armar Bordner and his students. http://users.mbcomp.com/swatara/State%20Park/bordner_cabin.htm



4. The Appalachian Trail is 2,100 miles long, stretching through 17 states from Maine to Georgia. Hikers cross the historic iron Waterville Bridge. **Fort Swatara** was built to guard Swatara Gap. In 1756, Captain

Frederick Smith built a stockade blockhouse.

The L&T Railroad, an abandoned Lebanon and Tremont line, is now a foot and bike path through Swatara State Park, and connects to the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail.



Union Canal. Along the entire creek are remnants of the Union Canal, operated from 1828 to 1884. The canal once connected the Susquehanna River at Middletown with the Schuylkill River at Reading, following Swatara and



Tulpehocken creeks. The old towpath is still visible in many areas. Suggested by William Penn, the canal was surveyed in 1762.

5. Lickdale/Moechlin Lane Access, off Monroe Valley Drive, Jonestown, is managed by Swatara State Park, and parallels the Swatara Rail Trail leading to Lebanon Valley Rail Trail.

6. Jonestown KOA Campground. Call (800)562.2609, (717) 865-6411, or for more information, visit <http://koa.com/campgrounds/jonestown/>.

There is a low-head dam on the Swatara just east of PA Route 72 and north of Jonestown. Paddlers should avoid this area, which lacks good portage. On closer inspection, you can see remnants of the South Mountain Railroad piers. **7. Jonestown Access** managed by Jonestown Borough is next to Tony's on Market Street. From Jonestown Road, access the creek on the northeast corner of the bridge going toward Jonestown.

Frog's Hollow Complex. Located on the creek's northwest bank, near the PA Route 72 bridge. The complex sells motorcycles and hosts a flea market.

8. Water Works. Just east off of Ono Road, Water Works was a community built to support the canal. The weigh master's house was used as a headquarters for the Union Canal at Water Works. A "weigh wall" still stands where boats were tied for weighing their freight loads. An old icehouse that stored ice cut from a dam provided winter employment for canal workers.



Blue Rock. On the right bank, Blue Rock is a magnificent limestone outcrop. In early spring, wildflowers of many colors appear on the face.

Reed's Fort, the house of Adam Reed, Esquire, was turned into a fort in 1755. Here, with rangers from Hanover Township, Reed protected the people of the countryside against Indian raids.

9. Emrich Farm Accesses are east of Route 934 on the north side of the Swatara. One access, good for kayaks that can be carried in, is .15 miles east of 934; and a second access, with a gentle slope that can be used during good weather, is .36 miles east of 934.

Harper's Tavern. Near PA Route 934 north of Annville, (717) 865-2584, was an 1804 stagecoach stop on old U.S. Route 22 between Allentown and Harrisburg.

Conrad's Mill. Located just north of Harper's Tavern. On June 7, 1745, the site was the birthplace of Lindley Murray, a famous grammarian and author. Robert Murray, Lindley's father, owned the mill from 1745 to 1746. For a time, the site was known as Shuey's Mill.

Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center (FIG-NGTC) is currently the largest employer in Lebanon County. It is located just north of Swatara Creek. On April 10, 1931, Governor Gifford Pinchot ("Father of Conservation") authorized the creation of the training site for the PA National Guard. FIG-NGTC is the largest landholding in the Swatara Creek Watershed (the headwaters of Trout Run, Indiantown Run, and Manada Creek originate on the post). The PA National Guard won the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in 2001 (the first state agency) for environmental restoration and watershed management. FIG-NGTC is the only home to the regal fritillary butterfly in the state, and over 20 rare species share their habitat with PA National Guard soldiers and airmen. For more information, visit <http://www.dmv.state.pa.us/ftig/site/default.asp>.

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, operated by the U.S. Veterans Affairs, is adjacent to Fort Indiantown Gap. For more information, visit www.cem.va.gov/nchp/indiantowngap.htm.

Memorial Lake State Park was created in 1945 for Army amphibious training and is dedicated to the memory of the officers, warrant officers, noncommissioned officers, and Guardsmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard who served their state and nation during World Wars I and II. For more information, visit <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/MemorialLakeStatePark/Pages/default.aspx>

Swatara Creek Inn. To the west of Harper's Tavern on old Route 22, the Swatara Creek Inn is a three-story Victorian mansion built in 1860 for Jacob Ulrich, and once used as a boys home for Milton Hershey School.



Photo by: Ken Egge

10. Swatara Watershed Park. 1929 Black's Bridge Road, Annville PA, where you will find primitive seasonal camping, a boat access, hiking trail, pavilion.... Visit www.SwataraWatershed.com for more information, or call 717.644.4698.

Valley Glen. Until the 1930s, Valley Glen was a recreational park near Bindnagle's Church for swimming, boating and carousel rides. For more information, visit www.palmyrapa.com/history/bindnagle.shtml.

11. Camp Catherine, a Milton Hershey School Camp operated by Deb McNeal 717.926.1635; and Melanie Jarrett 717.903.9737 Call5108@gmail.com Spartan Meadows, Camp Swattee and Camp Milton also owned by Milton Hershey Schools.

12. Boat House Road Park is a public access maintained by Derry Township, owned by Milton Hershey Schools. **Approach dam about one-mile below Boat House Road Park with caution.** Long portage possible on left bank. There is a fish ladder on the right bank. **Horseshoe Trail,** reached just before Sand Beach Road, crosses the Swatara Water Trail. For more information, visit <http://n99.com/hst>.

Hersheypark and Hershey Gardens are well-known tourist attractions. For more information, visit www.hersheypa.com/attractions/hersheypark.

13. Union Deposit is an access below the Hershey Dam. Indians lived in Union Deposit until the late 1700s. Later, farmers brought their grain and other produce from the Pennsylvania Dutch areas here for shipment to the market via the Union Canal.

14. Hersheypark Camping Resort. Call (717) 566-0902 or visit www.hersheyparkcampingresort.com for more information.

15. Dock Street Access is owned by Hummelstown Borough.

16. Duke Street Bridge has Creek access.

17. Keller Ball Fields is a municipal park in Hummelstown.

18. Schiavoni Park is an access with ample parking in Swatara Township. Across the Creek in Hummelstown is Hummel Nature Trail, a municipal park with Creek access.

Indian Echo Caverns. Susquehannock Indians once lived and hunted there. For more information, visit www.indianechocaverns.com.

19. Clifton Covered Bridge Piers are across the railroad tracks off Fulming Mill Road. Piers remain from a washed-out covered bridge.

Swatara Township Park is a former amusement park. **Hoffer Park** is a municipal park in Middletown.

M&H (Middletown & Hummelstown) Railroad.

For more information, call (717) 944-4435, or visit www.mhrrailroad.com.

20. Middletown Access. The Swatara Water Trail ends at the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Middletown Access. Power boats also launch in this area. You will see the TMI towers as you near the access on the right bank. Middletown Fire Company, 660 South Union Street, Middletown, has a water rescue team. For assistance, call (717) 948-3019.

Pennsylvania Official Water Trails

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is the sole agency that designates official Pennsylvania water trails. However, individual trails and trail corridors are created and maintained by a network of volunteers, property owners, civic groups, and associations. If you or your organization would like to create a water trail, or if you'd like to nominate an existing water trail for recognition as an official Pennsylvania water trail, contact the Commission by calling 717-705-7800 or on the web at http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Fish_Boat/inform.htm. To view the Commission's water trail pages, on the left side of the Commission web site's main page, www.fish.state.pa.us, click on "Water Trails."

Managed by the **Swatara Watershed Association**, the Swatara Water Trail guide is a joint effort of the area, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, PA American Water Co., the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, and printing of this guide was made possible by First Energy Foundation.



**FirstEnergy
Foundation**

The first weekend in May each year, the Swatara Watershed Association organizes the **Swatara Sojourn** in partnership with Pa Organization of Watersheds and Rivers and DCNR. YOUR CHESAPEAKE CONNECTION

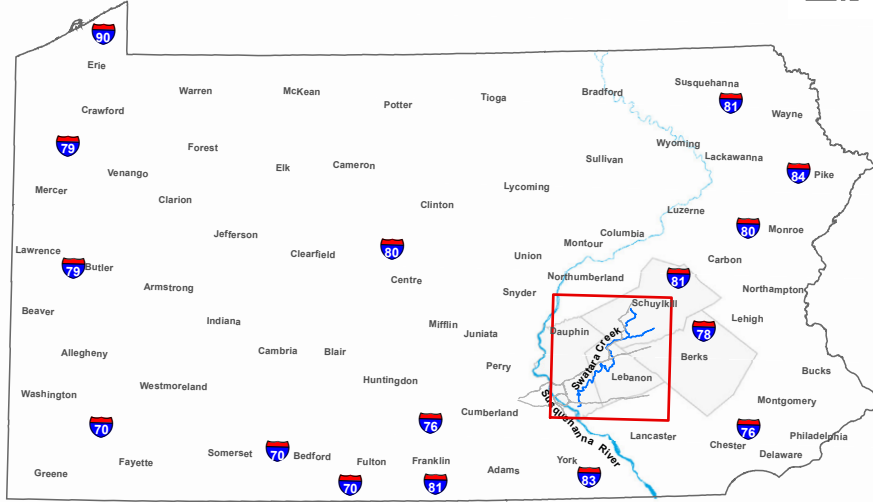


Part of the Captain John Smith Water Trail, the Swatara Creek is one of many water trails and other special places in the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. Gateways connect you with the authentic heritage of the Chesapeake and its rivers. Plan your next paddling adventure on the Swatara, the Susquehanna, or the Bay itself. Find detailed water trail information and order a free Gateways Network Map & Guide at www.baygateways.net. The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network is coordinated by the National Park Service.

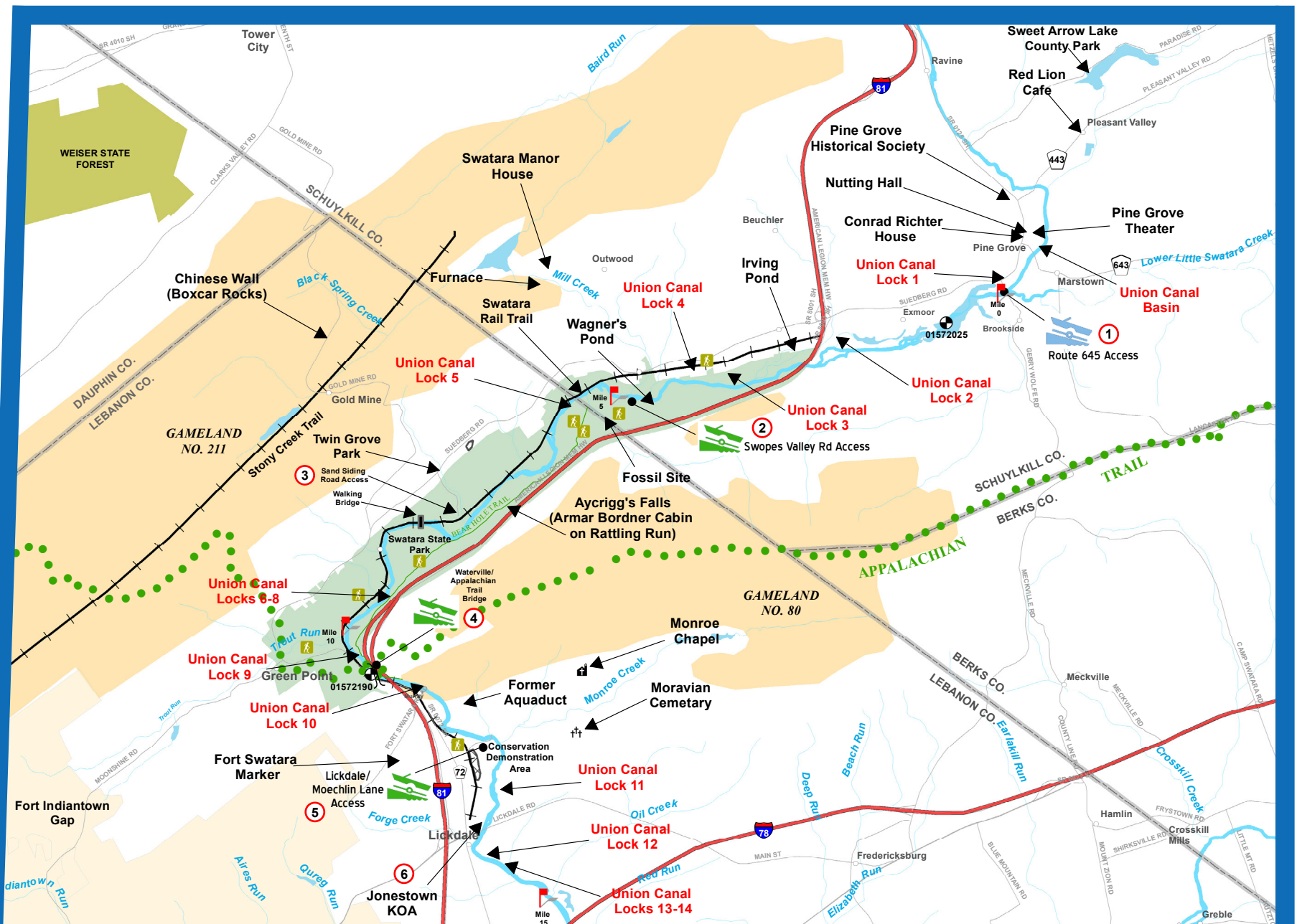
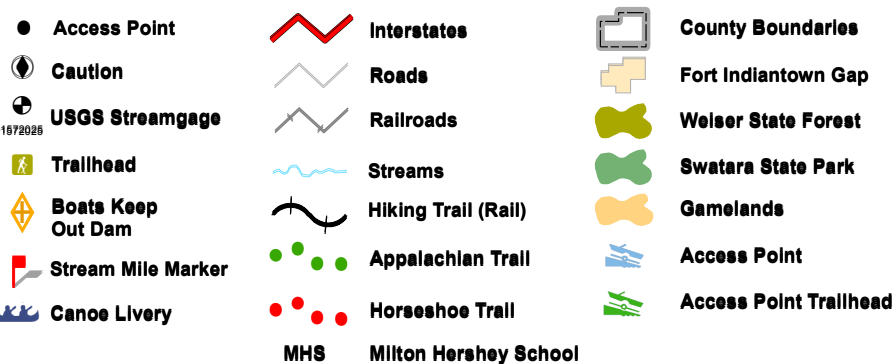
Welcome To The Swatara Water Trail



SWATARA
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

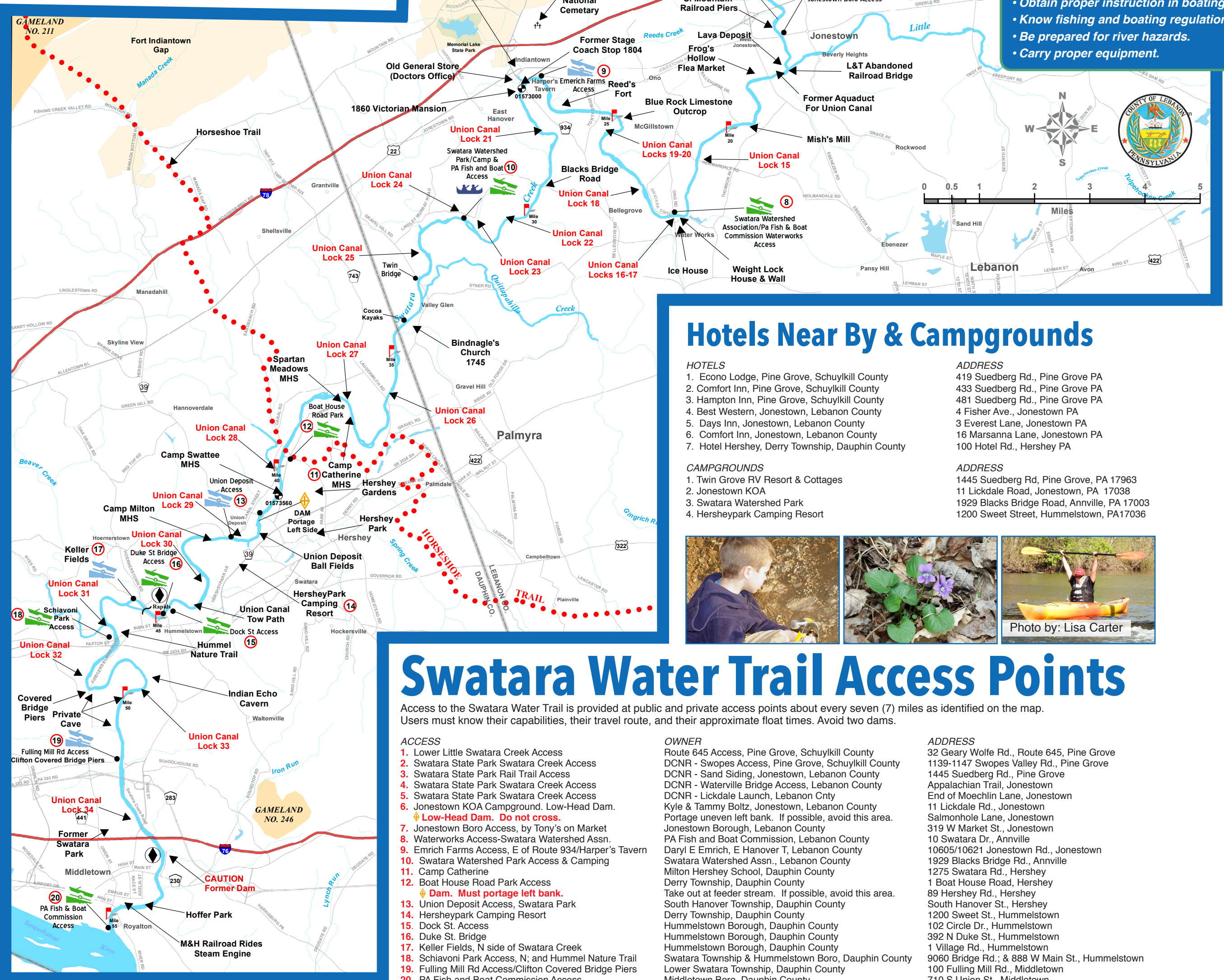


LEGEND



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.



Hotels Near By & Campgrounds

HOTELS

1. Econo Lodge, Pine Grove, Schuylkill County
2. Comfort Inn, Pine Grove, Schuylkill County
3. Hampton Inn, Pine Grove, Schuylkill County
4. Best Western, Jonestown, Lebanon County
5. Days Inn, Jonestown, Lebanon County
6. Comfort Inn, Jonestown, Lebanon County
7. Hotel Hershey, Derry Township, Dauphin County

ADDRESS

419 Suedberg Rd., Pine Grove PA
433 Suedberg Rd., Pine Grove PA
481 Suedberg Rd., Pine Grove PA
4 Fisher Ave., Jonestown PA
3 Everest Lane, Jonestown PA
16 Marsanna Lane, Jonestown PA
100 Hotel Rd., Hershey PA

CAMPGROUNDS

1. Twin Grove RV Resort & Cottages
2. Jonestown KOA
3. Swatara Watershed Park
4. Hersheypark Camping Resort

ADDRESS

1445 Suedberg Rd, Pine Grove, PA 17963
11 Lickdale Road, Jonestown, PA 17038
1929 Blacks Bridge Road, Annville, PA 17003
1200 Sweet Street, Hummelstown, PA 17036

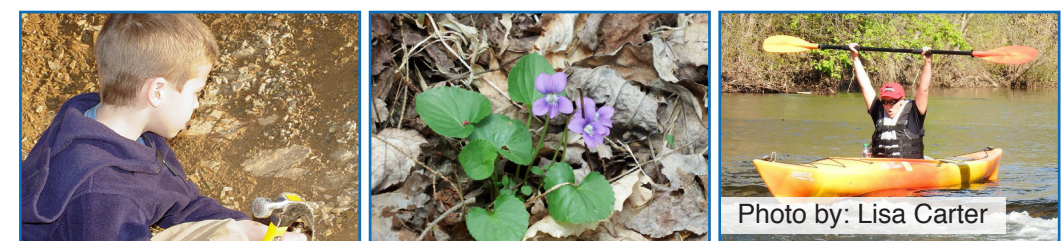


Photo by: Lisa Carter

Swatara Water Trail Access Points

Access to the Swatara Water Trail is provided at public and private access points about every seven (7) miles as identified on the map. Users must know their capabilities, their travel route, and their approximate float times. Avoid two dams.

ACCESS

1. Lower Little Swatara Creek Access
2. Swatara State Park Swatara Creek Access
3. Swatara State Park Rail Trail Access
4. Swatara State Park Swatara Creek Access
5. Swatara State Park Swatara Creek Access
6. Jonestown KOA Campground, Low-Head Dam.
7. Jonestown Boro Access, by Tony's on Market
8. Waterworks Access-Swatara Watershed Assn.
9. Emrich Farms Access, E of Route 934/Harper's Tavern
10. Swatara Watershed Park Access & Camping
11. Camp Catherine
12. Boat House Road Park Access
13. Union Deposit Access, Swatara Park
14. Hersheypark Camping Resort
15. Dock St. Access
16. Duke St. Bridge
17. Keller Fields, N side of Swatara Creek
18. Schiavoni Park Access, N, and Hummel Nature Trail
19. Fulfilling Mill Rd Access/Clifton Covered Bridge Piers
20. PA Fish and Boat Commission Access

OWNER

Route 645 Access, Pine Grove, Schuylkill County
DCNR - Swopes Access, Pine Grove, Schuylkill County
DCNR - Sand Siding, Jonestown, Lebanon County
DCNR - Waterville Bridge Access, Lebanon County
DCNR - Lickdale Launch, Lebanon Cnty
Kyle & Tammy Boltz, Jonestown, Lebanon County
Portage uneven left bank. If possible, avoid this area.
Jonestown Borough, Lebanon County
PA Fish and Boat Commission, Lebanon County
Daryl E Emrich, E Hanover T, Lebanon County
Swatara Watershed Assn., Lebanon County
Milton Hershey School, Dauphin County
Derry Township, Dauphin County
Take out at feeder stream. If possible, avoid this area.
South Hanover Township, Dauphin County
Derry Township, Dauphin County
Hummelstown Borough, Dauphin County
Hummelstown Borough, Dauphin County
Hummelstown Borough, Dauphin County
Swatara Township & Hummelstown Boro, Dauphin County
Lower Swatara Township, Dauphin County
Middletown Boro, Dauphin County

ADDRESS

32 Geary Wolfe Rd., Route 645, Pine Grove
1139-1147 Swopes Valley Rd., Pine Grove
1445 Suedberg Rd., Pine Grove
Appalachian Trail, Jonestown
End of Moechlin Lane, Jonestown
11 Lickdale Rd., Jonestown
Salmonhole Lane, Jonestown
319 W Market St., Jonestown
10 Swatara Dr., Annville
10605/10621 Jonestown Rd., Jonestown
1929 Blacks Bridge Rd., Annville
1275 Swatara Rd., Hershey
1 Boat House Road, Hershey
89 Hershey Rd., Hershey
South Hanover St., Hershey
1200 Sweet St., Hummelstown
102 Circle Dr., Hummelstown
392 N Duke St., Hummelstown
1 Village Rd., Hummelstown
9060 Bridge Rd., & 888 W Main St., Hummelstown
100 Fulfilling Mill Rd., Middletown
710 S Union St., Middletown

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911
RESPECT THE PRIVACY & RIGHTS OF LANDOWNERS

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.