

Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail Description of Access Points - Updated June 2024									
Access Point / Address	Description	Mile Marker – Distance to the Mouth of the Creek/Susquehanna River	Type of Launch Point	Parking	Overall Ease of Use	Access Improvements - Description of path to access point and launch area	Restrooms	Other Amenities	Access Point Contact Information
Trip A									
North Middleton Park 1700 Waggoners Gap Road/Rt 74 Carlisle, PA 17013	North Middleton Park is a 15-acre facility located approximately 3 miles north of downtown Carlisle. The entrance to the boat launch area is located just past the main park entrance on Waggoners Gap Road on Park Avenue.	NA for Trip A Put in Only - 2.3 miles to Cave Hill Nature Center	Concrete boat launch	Paved parking lot – 40+ spaces and trailer parking	Easy	Improved concrete boat ramp - short carry from parking to access point, shallow slope to water	Yes, Open seasonally	Fishing, Softball, Basketball, Volleyball, Playgrounds, Pavilions, Picnic Tables, Grills, Walking Path	North Middleton Township (717) 243-8550 www.nmiddleton.com
Cave Hill Nature Center 6 Cave Hill Drive Carlisle, PA 17013	Cave Hill is a 20-acre wooded and undeveloped nature preserve on the north side of Carlisle. Follow Cave Hill Drive and park at the 2 nd pull over on the right.	NA for Trip A Take Out Only due to upstream dam with no portage	Unimproved launch area	Limited informal parking along Cave Hill Drive, Walk-In access to the creek	Difficult	Unimproved launch area - carry from parking to access point is steep and rugged	No	Fishing, Hiking, Nature Exploration	Carlisle Borough (717) 243-3318 www.carlislepa.org
Trip B									
Creekview Park 2309 Douglas Drive Carlisle, PA 17013	Creekview Park is a 10-acre neighborhood park located approximately 3 miles north of downtown Carlisle.	Put In Only 36.5	Primarily unimproved launch area, rubber mat at creek edge	Street parking only, Walk-in access to the creek	Moderate	Limited access improvements - moderate carry from street parking to access point, short but steep slope to water	Yes, Open seasonally	Fishing, Multipurpose Field, Playground, Picnic Pavilion, Walking Path	North Middleton Township (717) 243-8550 www.nmiddleton.com
Letort Falls Park 99 North Middlesex Road Carlisle, PA 17013	Letort Falls Park is located approximately 4 miles northeast of downtown Carlisle, a short distance off US Route 11/Ritner Highway. This 2-acre park is located where the Letort Spring Run cascades into the Conodoguinet Creek.	33.3	Concrete boat launch	Paved parking spots – 15+ spaces and trailer parking	Easy	Improved concrete boat ramp - short carry from parking to access point, shallow slope to water	No	Fishing	Middlesex Township (717) 249-4409 www.middlesextwp.com
Scott Farm Work Center/ Appalachian Trail 301 Bernheisel Bridge Road Carlisle, PA 17015	The Scott Farm is located approximately 3 miles north of New Kingstown. The facility is a trailhead and work center for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.	28.7	Unimproved launch area on the south side of Bernheisel Bridge	Parking is limited; users must contact the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to determine availability. Parking on the grass is strict prohibited.	Moderate	Unimproved launch area - moderate carry from parking to access point, moderate slope to creek	No and users must pack out all trash	Fishing, Hiking – Appalachian Trail	Owned by the National Park Service and managed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (717) 258-1442 www.cvatclub.org
Willow Mill Park 80 Willow Mill Park Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050	Willow Mill Park is an 18-acre community park located off PA Route 114 near Hogestown. The Historic Huston Mill, located in Willow Mill Park, has been a local landmark since the late 1790s. The mill structure is named for James S. Huston, who owned and operated the gristmill from the 1880s through the early 20th century. Today, evidence of the mill race and interior machinery is gone, but the mill building survives as a reminder of past times.	23.2	Concrete boat launch	Stone parking lot - 40+ spaces	Easy	Improved concrete boat ramp - short carry from parking to access point, shallow slope to water	Portable Toilets	Fishing, Disc Golf, Picnic Tables, Playground, Pavilion, Grills, Veteran's Memorial, Historic Site (Huston Mill)	Silver Spring Township (717) 766-1657 www.sstwp.org
Vincent DiFilippo Nature Preserve 110 Sample Bridge Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050	The Preserve is a 54-acre natural area located approximately 2 miles northeast of Hogestown. The property was once a golf course and is being restored to natural wetlands and meadows. The Preserve is named for Vincent DiFilippo who initiated grassroots effort to protect and preserve land in Silver Spring Township.	18.8	Concrete boat launch	Stone parking lot – 25+ spaces	Easy	Improved concrete boat ramp - short carry from parking to access point, shallow slope to water	Portable Toilets	Nature Preserve, Fishing, Hiking, Biking, Picnic Tables, Benches	Silver Spring Township (717) 766-1657 www.sstwp.org
Hidden Creek Park 50 Millfording Rd Mechanicsburg, PA 17050	Hidden Creek Park is a 14-acre park in the Millfording Highlands development of Silver Spring Township.	16.7	Primarily unimproved launch area, aging timber steps to creek	Paved parking lot – 80+ spaces	Moderate	Limited access improvements - moderate carry from parking to access point, moderate slope to water	Portable Toilets	Fishing, Multipurpose Fields, Playground, Pavilions, Picnic Tables, Grill	Silver Spring Township (717) 766-1657 www.sstwp.org
Good Hope Access 700 block Good Hope Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050	Good Hope is owned and maintained by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. This 1-acre site provides convenient creek access for unpowered boats and shore fishing. A PA DCNR launch permit or PFBC use permit is required.	13.6	Shallow earthen ramp with matting	Stone parking lot – 10+ spaces	Easy	Launch area improved with matting - short carry from park to access point, shallow slope to water	No	Fishing	PA Fish & Boat Commission (717) 486-7078 SC PA Law Enforcement www.fishandboat.com
Srouji Park 301 Good Hope Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050	Srouji Park is a 3-acre passive park located in Hampden Township just north of Good Hope Road bridge and across from Indian Creek development.	12.5	Geocell/gravel launch	Stone parking lot – 50+ spaces	Easy	Launch area improved with geocell and gravel - short carry from parking to access point, moderate slope to water	No	Fishing, Walking Path	Hampden Township (717) 761-4951 www.hampdentownship.us
Conodoguinet Youth Park 515 Orrs Bridge Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050	The Conodoguinet Youth Park is an 8-acre passive park. The Mechanicsburg North Rotary Club have worked cooperatively to plan, develop and construct the improvements at this creekside facility.	9.9	Articulated concrete launch area	Stone parking lot – 50+ spaces	Easy	Improved concrete boat launch - short carry from parking to access point, shallow slope to water	Yes, Open seasonally	Fishing, Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Bench, Walking Path, Overnight camping with permission	Hampden Township (717) 761-4951 www.hampdentownship.us
Acri Meadow Park 55 Acri Meadow Drive Enola, PA 17025	Acri Meadow is a 4-acre municipal park	5.8	Unimproved launch area	Paved parking lot – 20+ spaces	Moderate	Unimproved launch area - short carry from parking to access point, short but steep slope to water	Portable Toilets	Fishing, Playground, Pavilion, Electricity, Basketball Court, Baseball Field	East Pennsboro Township (717) 732-0711 www.eastpennsboro.net
Oyster Mill Park 1150 Oyster Mill Road Camp Hill, PA 17011	Oyster Mill Park is a 1-acre park	5	Unimproved launch area	Limited paved parking – 4 spaces	Moderate	Unimproved launch area - short carry from parking to access point, short but steep slope to water	No	Fishing	East Pennsboro Township (717) 732-0711 www.eastpennsboro.net
Adams-Ricci Community Park 100 East Penn Drive Enola, PA 17025	Adams-Ricci is 130-acre regional park facility situated between Enola and Camp Hill.	4.7	Unimproved launch area	Paved parking lot – 50+ spaces Recommended parking for creek access is near the West Enola Pavilion or the Keystone Pavilion. Walk-in access to the creek	Difficult	Unimproved launch area - long carry from parking to access point via a steep nature trail, steep slope to water	Yes, Open seasonally	Fishing, Playgrounds, Pavilions, Electricity, Water, Tennis, Volleyball, Basketball, Bocce Ball, Pickelball, Cornhole, Picnic Tables, Nature Trail, Seasonal Farmers Market	East Pennsboro Township (717) 732-0711 www.eastpennsboro.net
Seibert Park 2414 Cumberland Boulevard (Main Entrance) Creek Road (Launch) Camp Hill, PA 17011	Seibert Park is a 60-acre regional park facility in the Borough of Camp Hill. The main entrance to the park is accessed from Cumberland Boulevard/US Route 11/15 and features a variety of park amenities. Access to the creek is along Creek Road at the lower end of the park.	2.9	Construction of canoe/kayak launch coming soon	Stone parking lot – 20+ spaces in lower park area near launch point	Moderate	Unimproved launch area - short carry from creek to access point, moderate slope to water	None at launch area, restrooms available in main park area	Launch Area - Bike Rack, Butterfly garden, Picnic Table, Bench Main Park Area - Swimming Pool, Tennis, Playground Equipment, Walking Path, Basketball, Volleyball, Community Room	Camp Hill Borough (717) 737-4548 www.camphillborough.com
Pine Hill Arboretum 100 Block Creekside Drive (Launch) Humer Street (Upper Entrance) Enola, PA 17025	Pine Hill is a 15-acre arboretum which extends from the bank of the Conodoguinet Creek across Creekside Drive and up the hill to Humer Street. Pine Hill was originally the summer home of local medical doctor Harvey B. Bashore. Dr. Bashore was a noted naturalist and wrote a number of books and articles on health, sanitation and local history. Many species of wild flowers, trees and ferns as well as birds and mammals have been identified and documented at the arboretum.	1.5	Unimproved launch area	Limited gravel parking – 4 spaces	Moderate	Unimproved launch area - short carry from parking to access point, short but steep slope to water	No	Fishing, Nature Preserve, Hiking, Bird Watching	East Pennsboro Township 717-732-0711 www.eastpennsboro.net
Ridley Park 1625 Matthew Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011	Ridley park is a 16-acre neighborhood park located at the terminus of Matthew Road.	.5	Unimproved launch area	Paved parking lot – 20+ spaces	Easy	Unimproved launch area - short carry from parking to access point, shallow slope to water	Portable Toilets	Fishing, Walking Path, Playground, Pavilion, Disc Golf, Baseball	East Pennsboro Township 717-732-0711 www.eastpennsboro.net
Rupley Memorial Park 401 West Crestwood Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011	Rupley Park is an 11-acre neighborhood park. Upper Rupley Park contains active recreational amenities while lower Rupley Park is more primitive and provides opportunities for passive recreation.	.2	Steps to a gravel shoal launch area	Limited street parking only, Walk-in access to the launch area	Difficult	Unimproved launch area - long carry over moderate slope, short parking to access point, steep slope/stairs to water	No	Upper Park Area - Basketball, Playground, Softball, Public Table Lower Park Area- Fishing, Hiking	Wormleysburg Borough (717) 763-4483 www.wormleysburgpa.org
West Fairview Point 50 Front Street West Fairview, PA 17025	This West Fairview boat launch is situated just off US Route 11/15 with a view of City of Harrisburg. Known by the locals as "The Point," this site is located at the confluence of the Conodoguinet Creek and the Susquehanna River.	0	Concrete boat launch	Paved parking lot – 18 spaces	Easy	Improved concrete boat ramp - short carry from parking to access point, shallow slope to water	Portable Toilets	Fishing, Picnic Tables, Bird Watching	East Pennsboro Township 717-732-0711 www.eastpennsboro.net



Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail

A PADDLERS MAP & GUIDE TO BOATING



- Never boat alone. Boating safety increases with numbers.
- Keep painter lines (ropes tied to the bow) and any other ropes coiled and secured.
- Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler, especially a child.
- Knee to increase your stability before entering rougher water, like a rapid.
- If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it. This will usually prevent capsizing or flooding the boat.
- File a float plan with a reliable person, indicating where you are going and when you will return. Remember to contact the person when you have returned safely.

FISHING THE CONODOGUINET

Each year the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission publishes the Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws. Before planning a fishing outing, refer to this guide. The summary is available online at www.fishandboat.com or at local license-issuing agents.

All persons age 16 and over must obtain a license to fish or angle for any fish species and to take fishbait, baitfish frogs and turtles from Commonwealth waters. Casting and/or retrieving, whether by rod, reel and line, or by handline, for oneself or another person, requires a current license unless specifically exempted by law. While fishing, the license must be clearly displayed to allow waterways conservation officers to verify quickly and easily that anglers are legally licensed. Anglers are also required to carry another means of positive identification, such as a valid driver's license, to establish their identity if requested by a waterways conservation officer.

Fishing the Conodoguinet Creek between Carlisle and Harrisburg offers a wide variety of opportunities. Smallmouth bass, rock bass and sunfish are the most common gamefish found in the creek. Avoid the streams shallow, flat sections with little overhead cover. These areas will offer few legal-sized fish. Deeper pools and glides are more conducive to larger fish, and smallmouth bass of 16 or 18 inches may occasionally be found in these types of areas. The more debris and structure you find in the creek, the better your odds are for good fishing. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission also stocks tiger muskellunge fingerlings in the creek. Muskellunge, known as the "fish of a thousand casts," may not be plentiful, but anglers targeting cold tributary mouths during the summer may hook a big one if they are lucky. During cold periods, anglers who drift large minnows below a bobber in deep pools have better odds of hooking a musky than do those casting artificial lures.

"LEAVE NO TRACE" PRINCIPLES

Pennsylvania water trails embrace the "Leave No Trace" code of outdoor ethics that promotes the responsible use and enjoyment of the outdoors.

Plan and prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint or flagging.

Dispose of waste properly

- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.

Leave what you find

- Preserve the past: Examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures or furniture, and do not dig trenches.

Respect wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach wildlife.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: when they are mating, nesting or raising young or during winter.

Be considerate of other visitors & respect private property

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and music.

For more information about the "Leave No Trace" principles, visit www.LNT.org or call 1-800-332-4100. The "Leave No Trace" Center for Outdoor Ethics is a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and inspiring responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships.

HAZARDS ON THE WATER

Dams: Water going over a dam creates a back current, or underflow, that can pull a boat into the turbulence and capsize it. This hydraulic can often trap and hold a person or a boat. Hazards include the areas above and below the dam. Paddlers can spot dams by looking downstream for a horizontal line across the water.

Strainers: Trees are typical strainers that can trap and flood boats. Waterflows through these obstructions, but solid objects do not. Strainers can pin victims underwater.

Current: Never underestimate the power of moving water. Boaters who are not sure that their boat or their ability is up to the prevailing conditions should stay off the water.

Cold water: Sudden immersion in cold water can lead to cardiac arrest or can cause a person to inhale water. If you fall into cold water, immediately cover your mouth and nose with your hands. Dress properly for the cold by wearing a hat, several layers of clothing and warm boots. Wool, pile and polypropylene provide warmth even when wet, avoid cotton.

Hypothermia: Hypothermia is the lowering of the body's core temperature. It begins with shivering. Judgment then becomes clouded and unconsciousness sets in. Death can occur if hypothermia is not treated. Remove a hypothermic person from the water and replace wet clothes with warm, dry clothing and/or a blanket. Do not massage the extremities or give the victim alcohol or caffeine.

Heat exhaustion and sunburn: When it's hot, wear sunglasses, a hat, and lightweight, light-colored clothing. Apply sunblock with a high SPF rating and drink lots of fluids.

Other boaters: Be aware of other boaters. Keep a sharp lookout to prevent collisions and conflicts.

STEWARDSHIP



Photo Donald Seiple

Interested in becoming more involved in environmental issues that confront the Conodoguinet Creek watershed? The Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association (CCWA) is a non-profit, environmentally concerned citizens group created to take appropriate action on matters that affect the creek watershed. The CCWA wishes to protect the historical significance and natural character of its 90-mile (144 km) length at this time of a changing environment and of development pressures. The association realizes that what happens on the 540-square-mile watershed of the creek affects the creek itself.

CCWA works with and supports federal, state and local authorities in developing programs for the protection and enhancement of the watershed. The CCWA is concerned with the well-being of the land and the people living on it, as well as the flora and fauna that depend on the Conodoguinet Creek. To learn more about Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association, visit the association online at www.conocreek.org.

STREAM CONDITIONS

The Conodoguinet Creek is designated a Class 1 stream on the International Whitewater Rating System. A Class 1 stream is characterized by easy moving water with a few riffles and small waves, suitable for a beginner.

Be sure to check stream conditions just before embarking on a float trip. Water levels change frequently, sometimes drastically! The U.S. Geological Survey monitors current water conditions from selected surface water sites and publishes the data for the public.

To check water levels on the Conodoguinet Creek, visit the U.S. Geological Survey online for real-time data at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/LV01570000>. For forecasted water levels, visit the National Weather Service online at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=ctpg&gage=HGSF1>.

The U.S. Geological Survey gauge height near Hogshead should read over 1.7 feet to navigate the stream successfully. The best stream flow conditions generally occur between November and April. The Conodoguinet Creek is usually canoeable throughout March and April and into mid-May. In a wet year, stream conditions may remain favorable through July. Flood stage on the Conodoguinet Creek is 8 feet.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Fire, Police & Medical Assistance
Emergency Dial 911

Non-Emergency Calls
Carlisle Area (717) 243-4121
West Shore Area (717) 238-9676
York County (717) 840-2971

UPMC Pinnacle Carlisle
361 Alexander Spring Road, Carlisle, PA 17015
(717) 249-1122
Geisinger Holy Spirit
503 North 21st Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 763-2100

TOURISM INFORMATION

Where "face time" doesn't require batteries.

Explore trip ideas for hiking, biking, birdwatching, kayaking and fishing. Find your next journey at: VisitCumberlandValley.com/Outdoors

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Great effort was expended collecting and verifying the information in this publication. However, we realize that conditions change on our waterways, and that some of the information may not be accurate. Users noting errors or omissions on this map are urged to report them. Questions, comments or errors regarding the trail guide should be directed to:

Cumberland County Planning Department
310 Allen Road, Carlisle, PA 17013
www.ccpa.net/planning; planning@ccpa.net
(717) 240-5362



Photo Eric Forbenger

PENNSYLVANIA WATER TRAIL PROGRAM

Long before airports, highways or even trains, Pennsylvania's streams, rivers and lakes provided a means of transportation for native inhabitants. As European explorers ventured into Penn's Woods, these waters became important trading routes. Later, as demand for logs, coal and other goods soared, the Commonwealth's waterways became commercial highways. Today, you can travel these same routes, enjoying the state's natural resources while getting glimpses of rich history and tradition on an official Pennsylvania water trail.



In 2004, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission designated the Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail an official Pennsylvania water trail. The goal of the Conodoguinet Creek Water Trail is to highlight existing public recreation facilities and to encourage stewardship and recreation of the creek.

CONODOGUINET CREEK WATER TRAIL

The Conodoguinet Creek originates in Horse Valley, Franklin County, next to Kittittiny Mountain at an elevation of 1,680 feet. From there, the Conodoguinet flows through the fertile Cumberland Valley and joins the Susquehanna River near Camp Hill.

The Conodoguinet Creek is approximately 90 miles long and drains 540 square miles of diverse lands. Forested areas cover the upland basin, giving way to intense agriculture throughout the valley. Much of the Conodoguinet Creek watershed still has a strong agricultural flavor, including numerous cozy villages and small towns. While farming remains a prominent land use in the western part of the valley, dramatic growth in the Carlisle to Camp Hill area has converted much agricultural land to residential and commercial uses. The Conodoguinet meanders toward the suburban west shore of Harrisburg through a series of elaborate bends and loops. "Conodoguinet" comes from an Indian word meaning "a long way with many bends."

HERITAGE OF THE CONODOGUINET

Early pioneers envisioned the waters of the Conodoguinet as an avenue of commerce linking the Susquehanna and Potomac rivers. Plans for a canal joining the headwaters of the Conodoguinet with the headwaters of the Conococheague Creek never materialized. However, the Conodoguinet was far from abandoned.



West Fairview Park

The power for more than 140 mills throughout the county, but by 1909, only 13 mills remained, and today the industry is largely forgotten.

Today, the Conodoguinet Creek is most valued for its water resources and recreational opportunities. Communities in the eastern part of the Cumberland Valley pump millions of gallons per day from the creek to meet residential, commercial and industrial water demand. Much of the water returns to the stream, but not before passing through one of several treatment plants in the basin.

On a typical summer day, one can also find avid canoeists and anglers enjoying the creek's ribbon of greenery, alive with herons, kingfishers and other streamside creatures. Osprey and eagles may also be seen over the stream. In winter, after prolonged periods of cold, the creek's waters freeze and give the Conodoguinet an idyllic Currier-and-Ives picture-postcard beauty.

PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills.
- Know fishing and boating regulations.
- Be prepared for river hazards.
- Carry proper equipment.



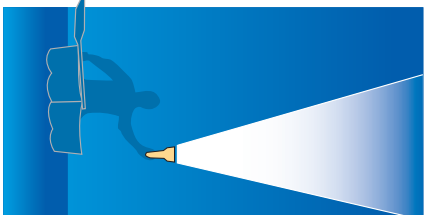
- From November 1 through April 30, boaters must wear a life jacket on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak during these cold weather months.
- Life jackets must be the appropriate size for the person intended and must be in good, serviceable condition.

- Life jackets must be worn by all children 12 years old and younger on all boats 20 feet or less in length while under way, and on all canoes and kayaks. Others are strongly encouraged to wear a PFD at all times on the water.

- All boats must display an anchor light (a white light visible 360 degrees) when at anchor between sunset and sunrise. Boats can use a lantern or clip-on battery-powered unit to meet this requirement.

- Unpowered boats must carry a white light, either hand-held or installed, to be displayed in time to avoid a collision between sunset and sunrise and during restricted visibility.

- All powered boats must show running lights between sunset and sunrise. All boats are required to carry a sound-producing device. Motorboats less than 40 feet in length must carry some mechanical means of making a sound signal. This device may be hand-, mouth- or power-operated. An athletic coach's whistle is an acceptable device. Operators of unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards) are required to carry a device capable of sounding a prolonged blast for 4-6 seconds that can be heard by another boat operator in time to avoid a collision. An athletic coach's whistle is acceptable.



- All motorboats must be registered, regardless of where they launch.
- Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats) using Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission or State Park or Forest access areas must either be registered OR display a valid launch permit. Launch permits can be purchased through the Commission's website at www.fishandboat.com (click the "Outdoor Shop" icon) or at many state park offices.
- Operating watercraft, including canoes and kayaks, under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. This law is strongly enforced for user safety. For further information on boating regulations, contact the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission at www.fishandboat.com.

PADDLING SAFETY TIPS

- Wear your life jacket. Approximately 80% of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- Expect to get wet. Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or swamp their boats. Bring extra clothing in a waterproof bag.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don't go paddling.
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat, unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.
- Be courteous to other boaters and fishermen on the stream.
- Scout ahead whenever possible. Know the river. Avoid surprises.
- Be prepared for the weather. Get a forecast before you go. Sudden winds and rain are common and can turn a pleasant trip into a risky, unpleasant venture.
- Wear wading shoes or tennis shoes with wool, polypropylene, pile or neoprene socks.
- Never take your boat over a low-head dam.
- Portage (carry) your boat around any section of water about which you feel uncertain.

