

Found it.

Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail

MAP & GUIDE



cumberland valley pa

Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, stream 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 resource stewardship. 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 stream hazards.
- Carry proper equipment.
- Use public access points designated on this map.



Photo Jim Leslie

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 "Penns 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.

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

YELLOW BREECHES CREEK WATER TRAIL

The Yellow Breeches Creek originates on South Mountain, in Michaux State Forest, Cumberland County, near Walnut Bottom. From there, the Yellow Breeches flows through the limestone-rich Cumberland Valley and joins the Susquehanna River near New Cumberland.

The main stem of the Yellow Breeches is some 49 miles long and drains 219 square miles of forested areas, farmland and suburbs. Most of the developed land is currently congregated in the lower watershed, with forested areas in the headwaters and on the hillslopes. Agriculture dominates the fertile valley areas, lending a pastoral setting to the middle reach of the stream. In 1992, the Yellow Breeches was designated as a "Pennsylvania Scenic River." The portion of the main stem encompassed by this water trail is characterized mainly by long, shady pools with occasional dams and riffle areas.

HERITAGE



Like much of the lower Susquehanna River, the Susquehannock and Shawnee Indians were the first known inhabitants of the Yellow Breeches Watershed. In the mid-1730s, the area was legally opened to settlers who focused on agriculture and operating as many as 60 grist (grain) and saw (lumber) mills along the banks of the Yellow Breeches. Many of these mills were associated with dams to improve water flow through the mill. Several of these dams are still in use, although several more are slated for removal. Many of the old mill buildings are currently used as residences or warehouses.

The Yellow Breeches Watershed was also used as an important shelter and checkpoint on the Underground Railroad, in particular the Boiling Springs area, as well as serving as an essential source of water, food and lumber for the early settlers. Today many water suppliers, including two large ones in the lower portion of the watershed, use the abundant water resources of the Yellow Breeches.

Recreation opportunities abound throughout the stream system. Several lakes and ponds are used for boating, fishing, swimming and ice-skating; the famous Appalachian Trail traverses part of the watershed; the Yellow Breeches itself is the focus for bird-watching, fishing, paddling, tubing and sightseeing; while various other state, county, and municipal parks and nature preserves also provide ample recreation opportunities.

WILDLIFE

The Yellow Breeches Watershed is world-famous for its trout fishing opportunities, attracting local and state residents, as well as fishermen from throughout the surrounding states. Most of the stream and its tributaries are designated as Cold-Water or High-Quality Cold-Water Fisheries. Trout thrive in its cool, limestone waters. Brown and rainbow trout are more prevalent in the lower portion of the basin, while brook trout



can be found in the smaller, headwater areas and tributaries around South Mountain. Trout are stocked extensively in the Yellow Breeches, both by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission and local fishing clubs. Fly-fishing, in particular, is very popular, and a portion of the stream near Boiling Springs is regulated as a year-round "Catch-and-Release" Area.

Bass also can be found in the stream's lower reaches. Hopefully, in the future, because of restoration efforts throughout the Susquehanna River Watershed, American shad and American eels will become a part of the fishery resources of the Yellow Breeches Watershed.

Several threatened and endangered species occur in the watershed. Endangered bog turtles make their home in several wetlands in the Yellow Breeches, while the eastern mud salamander has been found in Michaux State Forest on South Mountain, Cumberland County. Threatened sedge wrens also live and potentially breed in the watershed's wet meadows and marshes. Portions of the Michaux State Forest have been designated as Important Bird Areas, providing critical habitat for interior bird species, while the abundant water resources harbor many species of water fowl.

PENNSYLVANIA FISHING REGULATIONS



Photo Stuart Leask

Each year the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission publishes the Pennsylvania Fishing Summary. 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 angler for any fish species and to take fishbaic 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.

STEWARDSHIP

The Yellow Breeches Watershed Association (YBWA), formed in 2001, is committed to cooperatively foster public understanding and sound management of environmental resources in the Yellow Breeches Watershed. The YBWA is a solution-oriented organization, providing technically sound information, education, leadership and coordination in the field of watershed management. The YBWA advances environmental stewardship through support of practical management of watershed resources for the protection and enhancement of environmental quality. The YBWA has completed a Watershed Assessment and Rivers Conservation Plan to more effectively manage the water resources of the Yellow Breeches. The Yellow Breeches Creek is also listed on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry. To learn more about YBWA or to join the organization, visit the Association online at www.ybwa.org.

"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.
- Observe and leave flowers; they contain seeds for future flowers.
- 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 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.
- Respect private property.
- Most of the land adjacent to the creek is private property.
- Approved public access points are designated on the map.

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.

PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS

- A U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) is required for each person on board. In addition, one throwable device (seat cushion or ring buoy) is required on boats 16 feet in length or longer. Canoes and kayaks, regardless of length, are not required to carry a throwable device.
- 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.
- 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.
- Unpowered boats 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.
- The Yellow Breeches Creek is unsuitable for power boating.



PADDLING SAFETY TIPS

- Wear your life jacket. Some 80 percent 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 stream. 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 near, or go over, a low-head dam. Dams are drowning machines and are dangerous to approach from upstream and downstream.
- Portage (carry) your boat around any section of water about which you feel uncertain.
- 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.
- Kneel 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.

HAZARDS ON THE WATER



Photo Jim Leslie

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. Water flows 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.

Flooding: Beware of changing hazards after flood events.

STREAM CONDITIONS



Photo Stuart Leask

The Yellow Breeches Creek is designated a Class II stream on the International Whitewater Rating System. A Class I stream is characterized by easy moving water with few riffles and/or small waves while a Class II stream contains some obvious obstacles to maneuver around. These stream classes are great for beginners or for more experienced paddlers who would like a relaxing trip.

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

To check water levels on the Yellow Breeches near Camp Hill, visit the USGS online for real-time data at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/lv/01517500>. The USGS gauge height near Camp Hill should read at least 1.4 feet to navigate the stream successfully. Flood stage on the Yellow Breeches near Camp Hill is 7 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

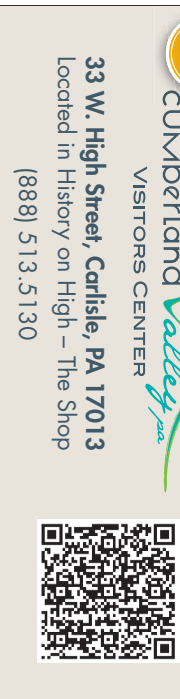
Carlisle Regional Medical Center

361 Alexander Spring Road, Carlisle, PA 17015
(717) 249-1212

Holy Spirit Hospital

503 North 21st Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 763-2100

TOURISM INFORMATION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Preparation of this guide was a collaborative effort involving public, private and non-profit partners. Cumberland County coordinated the development and design of the publication in partnership with the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association. Financial support to print the guide was provided by the Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau, American Rivers, The Orvis Company, Boiling Springs Tavern and Giant Food. Additional assistance was provided by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, local municipalities and private facilities highlighted in the publication.

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
18 North Hanover Street, 3rd Floor, Carlisle, PA 17013
www.ccpa.net/planning planning@ccpa.net
(717) 240-5362

TRIP A

A1 - South Middleton Township Park: This 40-acre park, located at 534 Park Drive, Boiling Springs, is owned by South Middleton Township. The site provides creek access for boating and fishing with ample parking. Other amenities at this park include nature trails, picnicking, restrooms, benches, baseball/softball, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball and playground equipment. For more information, contact South Middleton Township Parks and Recreation at (717) 258-4441, or visit www.smiddleton.com.

Wittlinger Nature Preserve: The Donald L. Wittlinger Nature Preserve is a 50-acre nature preserve owned by South Middleton Township that features creek access, opportunities for nature exploration and hiking trails. Access to the Preserve can be obtained from the Boiling Springs Pool or from Tanger Road. For more information, contact South Middleton Township Parks and Recreation at (717) 258-4441, or visit www.smiddleton.com.

A2 - Boiling Springs: TAKE-OUT ONLY. Boiling Springs is the end point of Trip A. All boaters should exit the creek on the left before the stone bridge near the swimming pool. Parking is available behind the Boiling Springs Pool at Race Street. Additional parking is available at Children's Lake (Front Street) and the Historic Iron Works Park (Bucher Hill Road). For more information, contact Boiling Springs Pool at (717) 258-4121, or visit www.bs pool.com.

TRIP B

B1 - Messiah College: Messiah College is a privately owned educational facility in Grantham and is the starting point of Trip B. The public may access the creek at the historic covered bridge on campus. Parking is available at Starry Field. For more information on the college, visit www.messiah.edu.

B2 - Simpson Park: Simpson Park is a 20-acre park owned by Upper Allen Township and is located at 2701 South Market Street (Route 114), Bowmansdale. The park features creek access for boating and fishing with ample parking and restrooms. The park also features a nature trail, sand volleyball, picnic tables, grills and pavilions. For more information, contact Upper Allen Township at (717) 766-0756.

B3 - McCormick Park: McCormick Park is a linear park owned by Upper Allen Township and located at 500 McCormick Road, Mechanicsburg. The site provides creek access for fishing and boating. Limited parking is available along the road. For more information, contact Upper Allen Township at (717) 766-0756.

B4 - Lower Allen Community Park: Lower Allen Community Park is a 110-acre park owned by Lower Allen Township. This facility is located at 4075 Lisburn Road, Mechanicsburg. The park provides creek access for boating and fishing with ample parking and restrooms. The park also features nature trails, a dog park, picnic tables/pavilions, baseball/softball, soccer, basketball, tennis, playground equipment, volleyball and a driving range. Camping is available by reservation. For more information, contact Lower Allen Township at (717) 975-7575, or visit www.latwp.org.

B5 - Liberty Forge: Liberty Forge is a golf resort located at 3804 Lisburn Road, Mechanicsburg, that features an 18-hole public golf course, lighted golf practice range and miniature golf course. The Creek Side Café, located at the miniature golf course, is open seasonally and sells snacks, ice cream, sandwiches and drinks. The public may access the creek for boating at the bridge at Old Forge Road and fishing along the miniature golf course. Parking is available at the miniature golf course along the White Barn near Old Forge Road. Please limit parking to individuals and small groups only. Parking may be limited on occasion because of large events held at Liberty Forge. Please observe and follow access rules on all posted signs. For more information, contact Liberty Forge at (717) 795-9880 or visit www.LibertyForge.net.

B6 - Yellow Breeches Park: Yellow Breeches Park, located at 2050 Sheepford Road, Mechanicsburg, is a 14-acre undeveloped park owned by Lower Allen Township. The park provides creek access for boating and fishing. Informal parking is available along the road. For more information, contact Lower Allen Township at (717) 975-7575, or visit www.latwp.org.

B7 - United Water Pennsylvania, Inc. (UWPA): UWPA provides water service to a population of approximately 166,000 people in portions of eight counties encompassing 40 municipalities in southcentral and northcentral Pennsylvania. Environmental preservation is at the heart of UWPA's business philosophy. UWPA has facilitated environmental preservation projects within each of the company's four operating regions and supports human service organizations that provide flood recovery assistance. Employees also work with at-risk youths in partnership with youth development organizations.

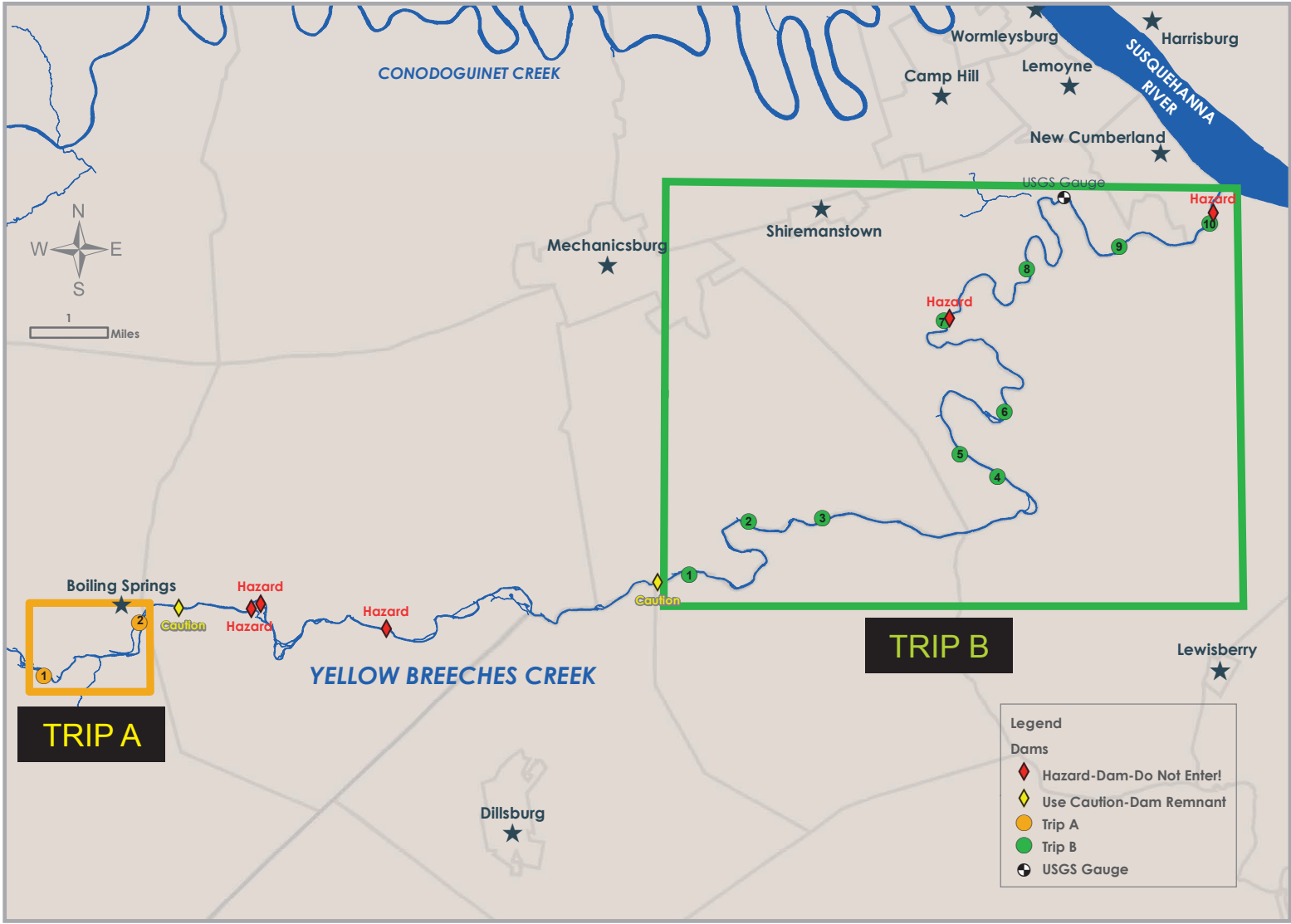
UWPA operates its Rabold Water Treatment Plant at 1081 Limekiln Road, New Cumberland. UWPA company has granted water trail access to the general public for the purposes of portaging around its dam structure and to put-in below or take-out above the dam. All access and parking is located on, and restricted to the Lower Allen Township portion of the property, which is marked with water trail signs. Access to portions of the UWPA property not designated for water trail use will be considered trespassing, which is subject to prosecution.

The public is cautioned to strictly obey access, use and dam safety regulations posted on the property. Camping, grilling and campfires are not permitted. Visitors must stay off the dam, and must remove any canoe, boat, kayak or floating device from the creek and carry it around the dam. When traveling downstream, approach the dam from the left bank, where take-out signage is posted, and follow the posted trail to Valley Road, where a small gravel parking lot is provided. Put-in below the dam where water trail signage is posted at the Slate Hill Road parking lot. For more information, contact (717) 737-1475.

B8 - Spangler's Mill: Spangler's Mill access is owned by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (PFBC). The site is located in the 1400 block of Spangler's Mill Road, Camp Hill, and provides creek access for boating and shore fishing, including handicapped fishing access. Boating is limited to unpowered boats and users must obtain a launch permit or boat registration from the PFBC. For more boating and fishing information, or to obtain a PFBC launch permit or boat registration, visit www.fishandboat.com.

B9 - Creekwood Park: Creekwood Park is a 12-acre undeveloped park owned by Lower Allen Township. The site is located at 150 Creekwood Drive, Camp Hill. The location provides creek access for boating and fishing, limited parking and several picnic tables. For more information, contact Lower Allen Township at (717) 975-7575, or visit www.latwp.org.

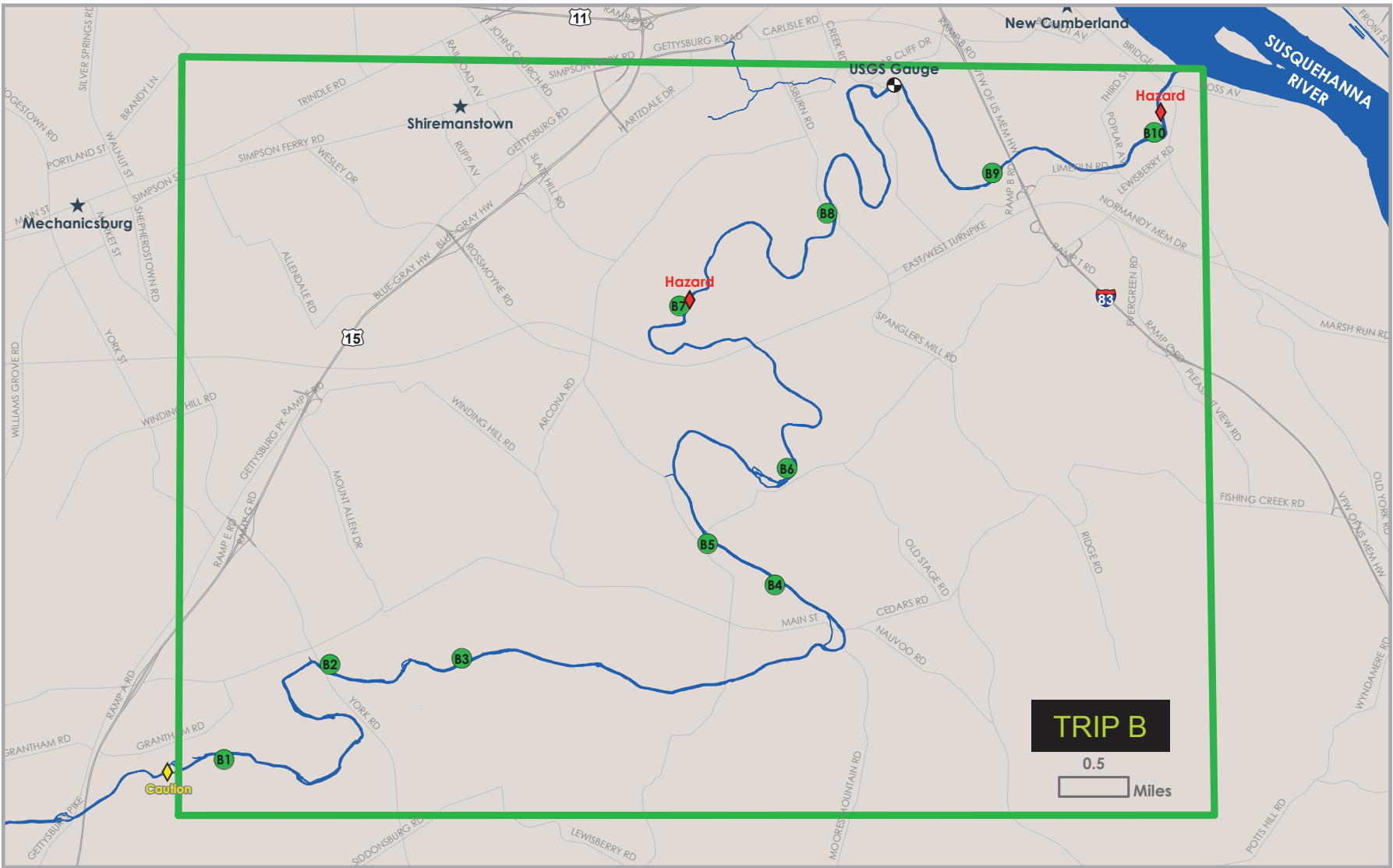
B10 - New Cumberland Borough Park & Dam: TAKE-OUT ONLY. New Cumberland Borough Park is the end point of Trip B. All boaters should exit the creek on the left immediately on entering the park. Do not attempt to navigate over the dam! This 29-acre park is owned by New Cumberland Borough. The entrance to the site is located on Front Street. Amenities at the park include creek access for fishing and take-out only, baseball/softball, playground equipment, restrooms, picnic tables/pavilions, benches and a drinking fountain. Camping and boat mooring are strictly prohibited. For more information, contact New Cumberland Borough at (717) 774-0404.



Access

The Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Map & Guide provides boating and recreation information for approximately 22 miles of the Yellow Breeches Creek. This guide outlines two float trips: Trip A – Upper stretch (~1.8 miles) and Trip B – Lower stretch (~19.6 miles). The guide is divided into two trips because of the existence of several hazardous dams and the lack of approved access and/or portage. Do not attempt to navigate over these dams! You may choose any of the access points listed for your trip depending on amenities needed and time desired on the water. Please respect private property rights. Do not enter property not designated for public use. Camping is prohibited at all access points with the exception of Lower Allen Community Park (B4). Trail use is limited to daylight hours.

Label	Access Points	Distance to Next Access Point (miles)	Latitude / Longitude
A1	South Middleton Township Park	1.3	40.136765,-77.147445
NA	Wittlinger Preserve	0.5	40.140026,-77.127641
A2	Boiling Springs	Take-out only	40.146954,-77.123939
B1	Messiah College	2.5	40.154706,-76.99012
B2	Simpson Park	1.1	40.164576,-76.975579
B3	McCormick Park	3.6	40.165067,-76.957636
B4	Lower Allen Community Park	0.5	40.172466,-76.914861
B5	Liberty Forge	1.9	40.176809,-76.924002
B6	Yellow Breeches Park	2.8	40.184621,-76.913048
B7	United Water Pennsylvania, Inc.	2.2	40.201712,-76.927511
B8	Spangler's Mill	3.6	40.211256,-76.907236
B9	Creekwood Park	1.5	40.215305,-76.884684
B10	New Cumberland Borough Park & Dam	Take-out only	40.219395,-76.862528



PROJECT PARTNERS & SPONSORS



DAM REMOVAL ON THE YELLOW BREECHES

Generous funding from The Orvis Company to American Rivers allowed for the removal of the Rosegarden Dam and the redesign and printing of the Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Map and Guide. American Rivers is working to remove deteriorated and obsolete dams along the Yellow Breeches to restore wetlands and riparian habitat, increase spawning habitat, restore trout populations, and improve water quality. In recent years, American Rivers has worked with partners to remove nine obsolete dams from the Yellow Breeches.