

Juniata River **Water Trail**

Raystown Branch

Map & Guide

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



For your safety and enjoyment:

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills.

PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS

or life jacket) in serviceable condition and of the

appropriate size is required for each person in

your boat. If your boat is 16 feet or longer, one

throwable device (seat cushion or ring buoy) is

required. Canoes and kayaks, regardless of length,

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

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.

All powered boats must show running lights be-

tween sunset and sunrise. Between sunset and

sunrise, unpowered boats must carry a white light (visible 360 degrees), installed or portable, ready

All motorboats are required to carry a sound-pro-

ducing mechanical device audible for a half-mile.

tact the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission at

Wear your life jacket. Some 80 percent of all

recreational boating fatalities happen to people

to be displayed in time to avoid a collision.

Athletic whistles meet this requirement.

on the web at www.fish.state.pa.us.

PADDLING SAFETY TIPS

who are not wearing a life jacket.

the upstream side of the capsized boat.

Never take your boat over a low-head dam.

prevent your capsizing or flooding the boat.

RESPECT THE PRIVACY & RIGHTS

when you have returned safely.

OF LANDOWNERS

www.fish.state.pa.us.

don't go paddling.

unpleasant venture.

or neoprene socks.

you feel uncertain.

and secured.

a rapid.

are not required to carry a throwable device.

times on the water.

One wearable, Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD

kayaks. Others are strongly encouraged to wear a life jacket at all

All motorboats must be registered regardless of where they

Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, rafts) using Pennsylva-

nia Fish & Boat Commission access areas must either be registered

OR display a valid launch permit. Launch permits can be purchased

Operating watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, and rafts, under the

influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. The law is strongly enforced

for user safety. For further information on boating regulations, con-

Expect to get wet. Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or

Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim in,

If you capsize, hold on to your boat, unless it presents a life-

threatening situation. If floating in current, position yourself on

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,

Wear wading shoes or tennis shoes with wool, polypropylene, pile,

Portage (carry) your boat around any section of water about which

Keep painter lines (ropes tied to the bow) and any other ropes coiled

Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler, especially a

Kneel to increase your stability before entering rougher water, like

If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it. This will usually

File a float plan with a reliable person indicating where you are

going and when you will return. Remember to contact the person

Please respect the privacy and rights of landowners along this trail by

obtaining permission before entering any privately owned land. Unless you

are otherwise certain, assume the land is private property. In any case,

avoid loud noises and boisterous behavior. Remember that sound carries

across water much more clearly than on land. Use the same courtesy that

you would want. A friendly wave or quiet greeting is always welcome.

Never boat alone. Boating safety increases with numbers.

swamp their boats. Bring extra clothing in a waterproof bag.

- Know fishing and boating regulations.
- Be prepared for river hazards.
- Carry proper equipment.



THE JUNIATA RIVER

The Juniata River's headwaters originate on the eastern slopes of the Allegheny Front, part of the eastern Continental Divide, at an elevation of ~3,000 feet above sea level. From there the waters cut through the Ridge and Valley Province for more than 150 miles, dropping to 340 feet above sea level at its confluence with the Susquehanna River. The Juniata River Watershed is comprised of more than 6,500 miles of streams, together draining 3,400 square miles of land in southcentral Pennsylvania. The river's three main tributaries are the Little Juniata, the Frankstown Branch, and the Raystown Branch.

This region reflects the orientation of the underlying bedrock and is characterized by northeast-southwest trending long, narrow ridges and broad to narrow valleys with relief of several hundred feet. Tuscarora Sandstone (lowermost Silurian) is the major ridge former in the higher mountains. Lower ridges can be formed by Bald Eagle Formation sandstones (Upper Ordovician), Ridgeley Sandstone (Lower Devonian), and other more resistant rock formations. The valley bottoms of this region are limestone, soft siltstone, and shale.

FLOATING THE RIVER

The Raystown Branch of the Juniata River is a good novice and family canoe and kayak river. Please note that the upper section from Herline Bridge mile 99 to Old Bedford Village mile 92 is for experienced paddlers only. There are several dangerous features in that stretch. Float speed on the Raystown Branch is approximately 2 to 3 miles per hour with leisurely paddling. Remember to boat only at water levels appropriate for your capabilities and never when the river is high or flooded. The USGS stream flow gauge for the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River at Saxton (gauge number 1562000) should be over 2.0 feet for the stretch above Bedford (river mile 91), and over 1.7 feet for the stretch below Bedford. The latest information can be found at www.erh.noaa.gov/er/marfc/juniata.htm. Planning a paddle is essential on the Raystown Branch. Accesses and shuttles should be planned ahead as the stretch from Everett (river mile 81) to Saxton (river mile 39.5) is remote. Some of the access points (including Juniata Crossing mile 73, Ritchey Bridge mile 60, Cypher Roller Rink mile 54, and Cypher Bridge mile 53) are primitive, and more suitable for canoes, kayaks, and car-top boats to be carried to the water from a parking area.



fish throughout. Smallmouth bass are the principal sport fish in the Raystown. Locally known as a "bronzeback," smallmouth bass can be found between the low-head dams in Bedford (river mile 90) to Raystown Lake. Experts recommend using hellgrammites, crayfish, and minnows for bait or similar artificial lures. Summertime "popper" fishing can elicit vicious strikes and make for great top-water action.



Trout are also present in many of the streams that flow into the Raystown Branch. The mainstem is a trout fishery from the Allegheny Front in western Bedford County into the town of Bedford (river mile 91). Bob's Creek (a tributary of Dunning Creek at river mile 90) and Yellow Creek (river mile 48.7) are also excellent trout fisheries in the basin. Bait, small spinners, and flies are the primary methods of taking trout in the drainage.

Panfish are abundant in the Raystown Branch with rock bass and river sunnies as the predominant fish that occupy many an angler's focus. There are also large carp throughout the river. Also known as "freshwater bonefish," these are not fished heavily in the Raystown. Muskies are also present in the longer, deeper holes.

Raystown Lake starting at river mile 30 is a large impoundment that has all the fish species found in the river plus largemouth bass, walleye, and the highly prized striped bass. Most fish caught in the lake are in the 20- to-30-pound range, but the largest caught was the state-record 53- pound, 12-ounce striped bass. The 451-acre Shawnee Lake in Shawnee State Park, located in the upper Raystown Branch above river mile 101, is also an excellent fishing spot stocked with warmwater sport fish. Common fish are smallmouth and largemouth bass, northern pike, walleye, pickerel, catfish, crappie, yellow perch, bluegill, sunfish, sucker, bullhead catfish, and carp. Check the current fishing regulations and seasons before fishing the watershed. Review this year's fishing summary from the Fish & Boat Commission at: www.fish.state.pa.us.

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

STEWARDSHIP

Help care for the land, water, and cultural resources along the Juniata River by respecting wildlife, nature, and other recreationists. It is important to wash footwear, boats, and vehicles to minimize the spread of invasive species from one place to another. "Leave No Trace," a national outdoor ethics program, provides some quidelines to minimize your impact. For more information about "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics, visit www.Lnt.org.

Leave no trace for camping and day use:

- Plan and prepare.
- Dispose of waste properly. 4. Leave what you find.
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
- 5. Minimize campfires. 6. Respect wildlife.
- 7. Be considerate of other visitors.



ALONG THE WAY— RAYSTOWN BRANCH JUNIATA RIVER WATER TRAIL

RIVER MILEAGE ON MAP

This river corridor is rich in history. As you paddle down the river, you're paddling through history! "Juniata" is Native American for "standing stone" or "people of the standing stone," "Raystown" is derived from Robert MacRay, a settler who established a trading post in 1750 at present-day Bedford. Prior to this, the valley was inhabitated by many peoples.

While many are familiar with the Native Americans who resided in the valley, including the Shawnee, Tuscarora, Delaware (Lenape), and the valley's namesake – the Juniata (Ona Jutta Hage), earlier prehistoric peoples inhabited the area over 10,000 years ago. Decades ago, a site known as Sheep Rock Shelter was discovered in Huntingdon County and is classified as one of the oldest human habitation sites in eastern North America. Local archaeologist Paul Heberling excavated this site many years ago and helped bring to light these paleo-peoples. Unfortunately, one cannot visit this important site, as it is 80 feet under the waters of Raystown Lake. So as one paddles the trail, one is paddling through history from some of the earliest known human habitation in North America right through important events that have shaped our nation. The Native American paths gave way to early settler routes and paths. These evolved into roads and America's first super highway. A 27-mile stretch of the Raystown Branch, from Shawnee Lake down to the US Route 30 Bridge (at river mile 73) reflects America's birth

Mile 99, Choice Camping Court (river right)- A privately owned camping area. There is no public access at this point.

Mile 93, Friendship Village Campground and RV Park (river right)-Year-round river access. Seasonal amenities include: A camp store, fishing, restrooms, showers, drinking water, and telephone. Located two miles upstream of the town of Bedford. www.bedfordcounty. net/camping/friendship.

Mile 92, Claycomb Bridge and Old Bedford Village (river right)-Amenities (water, restrooms, and phone) are located inside Old Bedford Village during the summer months. The Claycomb (aka Reynoldsdale) Covered Bridge was built in 1880 and moved to its current location in 1975. At this time a covered pedestrian walkway was added. Measuring 126 feet long x 13 feet, 10 inches wide, the bridge features a burr arch truss, a medium gable wood-shingled roof, and clapboard siding. www.oldbedfordvillage.com

Mile 91, Fort Bedford Museum and Historic Bedford (1750s - river right)- Seasonal museum amenities include restrooms and telephone. Food and supplies are located a short walk to historic downtown. One of the forts along the famous "Forbes Road," named for Lord Bedford, and measuring 7,000 square yards in size, Fort Bedford was used to quarter and supply troops during the French and Indian War. The town of Bedford grew up around the fort and was the site of George Washington's encampment during the Whiskey Rebellion. www.bedfordcounty.net.

Mile 91 and 90, Two low-head dams in Bedford borough- The first is at Fort Bedford Museum and the second is downstream. They are safety hazards. Do not pass over the dams. The first dam has an obvious portage river right. The second (downstream) dam portage is very primitive and less obvious on river left.

Mile 85, Juniata Woolen Mill (1805-1910 - river left) - This historic mill is a two-and-a-half story building that stands along the Raystown Branch. Three of the four limestone walls still stand today, the east wall was destroyed in the flood of 1936. The Mill is associated with Newry Manor, an 1803 German colonial manor house located across the road. It was the first woolen mill west of the Susquehanna River and was originally called the Lutz Woolen Factory. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

Mile 81, Mid-State Hiking Trail- This blazed hiking trail, which runs from the Mason-Dixon Line to the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, traverses Bedford County north and south along the Tussey Mountain Ridge. It crosses the Raystown Branch at Weicht Bridge in Everett (the West End Bridge) and runs east 150 yards along the river levee. www.

Mile 81 thru 80, Historic Everett (1700s - river left) - Once named "Bloody Run" after an 18th century massacre of settlers, the town boasts its own park with a nature trail, a historic train station, and a self-quided walking tour. The town has two river accesses, restaurants, grocery stores, and other supply stores. www.everettpa.net.

Mile 78, Suspension Bridge- A private single-lane suspension bridge located two miles east of Everett.

Topography/Geology

The headwaters of the Raystown Branch originate along the Allegheny Front (elevations 2,500+ feet) and from Blue Knob (elevation 3,146 feet). The course of the river drops to 795 feet at the Saxton USGS monitoring well. The river's drop of approximately five feet per mile makes for a nice paddle.

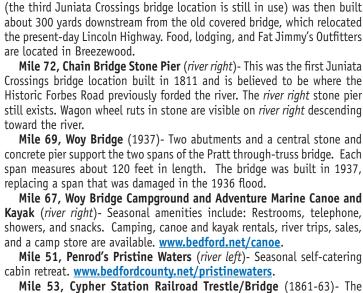
The entire length of the Raystown Branch resides in the Ridge and Valley province. Long, parallel ridges and valleys of folded Paleozoic sedimentary rock that eroded give the landscape its unique beauty. This province extends 900 miles (1500km) from New York to Alabama. The Raystown Branch flows into the Juniata River, on into the Susquehanna River, and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay.



Wildlife

Given the diversity of the fishery and landscape, it is no surprise that there are exceptional plant and animal species in this watershed. Paddlers will notice that the heavily forested slopes contain black cherry, oak, maple, hemlock, and sycamore trees. Animals common to the river are black bears, whitetail deer, muskrats, chipmunks, fox, and gray squirrels. River otters (Lutra canadensis) that were once throughout Pennsylvania have returned to the Raystown Branch. Over 30 otters were released in 2002 and 2003 along the Raystown Branch and in

the lake. These nocturnal animals are hard to see, but an observant paddler may see footprints in muddy areas and along the shores. The hearty paddler who stays out on a day of drizzle may also stand a chance of seeing this 3- to-4-foot long and 15- to 25-pound playful hunter.



Mile 73.5, Juniata Crossings Lodge and Bridge Piers- The stone lodge

built in 1812, about one mile west of present day Breezewood on river left,

is on the National Register of Historic Sites. Overnight guests included

Abraham Lincoln and Zachary Taylor. Nearby stone piers once supported a

two-lane covered bridge built in 1816 (the second Juniata Crossings historic bridge location) and was destroyed in the flood of 1936. A concrete bridge

Huntingdon & Broad Top Mountain Railroad spans the Raystown Branch at Cypher Station with a single-track, three-span, modified Warren Deck Truss bridge. Each span measures about 110 feet in length. Resting on ashlar sandstone abutments and piers, the bridge has been abandoned since the 1950s and the rails have been removed, but it is in fair condition. Mile 49, Keystone Foundry Museum at Hopewell (river right)- The

Keystone Foundry and Machine Shop, also known as the Hopewell Foundry, was built by C.S. Ashcomb in 1857. Initially, it operated chiefly as a repair shop for the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad. In later years the foundry produced various castings and manufactured and repaired mining equipment used in the Broad Top coalfields. The foundry and pattern shop are remarkably intact. These structures and the equipment constitute one of the best preserved early foundries in Pennsylvania. When approaching Hopewell, go through the first ripple at the edge of town at mile 49.5 and pull over river-right along PA Rt. 915 and walk upstream to the foundry. Hours of operation are June through September, Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. For more information call 814-928-5322. www.saxtononline.com.

Mile 46, Riddlesburg Coke Ovens (river right) - These 48 preserved brick beehive coke ovens encased in mountain stone were built in 1868 to support iron-making in Riddlesburg. The ovens are located close to the river along the right side of SR 1036. You can exit the river at the Riddlesburg Bridge. Be aware of the class I-II rapid below the bridge.

Mile 42, Warriors Path State Park (river right)- Seasonal day-use amenities include: Restrooms, telephone, and drinking water. The 349-acre Warriors Path State Park lies near the famous path used by the Iroquois in raids and wars with the Cherokees and other Native Americans in southern Pennsylvania. No overnight camping allowed at this time. www.dcnr.state. pa.us/stateparks.

Mile 38, Saxton (river right) - Amenities include: Food, water, restrooms, and supplies that are located in town. Once the operating heart of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad, Saxton was the location of the machine shops, repair shops, round-house, and yards. Today very little remains of this once-bustling operation. One structure, the old paint shop, houses the Martin General Store along Main Street. www.saxtononline.

Mile 36, Heritage Cove Resort (river left) - Amenities include: Restrooms, showers, drinking water, telephone, and food. Located at the southern end of Raystown Lake, the resort's quests can enjoy swimming in the pool, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hiking, biking, bird-watching, horseshoes, shuffleboard, and volleyball. Please call ahead for reservations. 814-635-3386. www.heritagecoveresort.com.

Mile 35, Weaver Falls (river left) - Amenities include: Restrooms, picnic shelter, and a playground. Owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this site is the southernmost launch on Raystown Lake. http:// raystown.nab.usace.army.mil.



Four-footed residents are not the only inhabitants along the Raystown; the feathered inhabitants can be just as amazing. Blue herons, mallards, and Canada geese are along and on the water. They complement the grouse,

> woodcock, and migrating warblers (primarily in May) on the slopes. Two species, however, draw the most attention- the bald eagle at 30-to-37-inches tall with a wingspan between 72 to 90 inches, and the osprey at 21 to 25 inches tall and wingspans around 54 inches They are both impressive raptors. The lake has supported as many as 12 wintering bald eagles that are dispersed throughout the lake and the length of the river from December through February.

With some assistance, the ospreys are trying to make a comeback. Juniata College and the Pennsylvania Game Commission are working to bring back this magnificent fish-eating bird of prey. For more information, check: http://services.juniata.edu/station/osprey.html.

Visitor Information Each of these bureaus will have different river guides and outdoor activi-

ties information for the region: **Bedford Visitors Bureau**

1-800-765-3331, www.bedfordcounty.net **Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau**

1-888-RAYSTOWN, www.raystown.org Allegheny Mountains Convention and Visitors Bureau 1-800-ALTOONA, www.amcvb.com

In case of emergency, call 911 or

Bedford County UPMC Hospital- 814-623-6162 or 814-652-2111 Juniata Co. Blair Memorial Hospital (Huntingdon)- 814-643-2290 Nason Hospital (Roaring Springs)- 814-224-2141 or 866-695-4140

PA State Police- *814-623-6733* PA River Sojourns

Check out sojourns for this trail and others at: www.pawatersheds.org.

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