

# Bureau of Recreation and Conservation Rivers Program

## Program Overview:

The BRC Rivers Program includes a series of smaller programs and initiatives with the common aim to protect and enhance the conservation and recreational value of Pennsylvania's waterways. Although the program name emphasizes rivers work, the program supports initiatives that benefit all types of waterways and significant water resources.

## Contact Information

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## Scenic Rivers Program

In Pennsylvania, there are 6 federally-designated and 13 state-designated scenic rivers. Scenic river designation is intended to preserve the natural and aesthetic values of a waterway to protect the quality and character of the waterway and surrounding environment. This protection is largely carried out through a partnership between DCNR and other state agencies, whereby construction projects in the vicinity of a designated scenic river are required to undergo a more rigorous permitting process and may be required to adjust the project design and/or construction practices to ensure that the natural and aesthetic values of the waterway are maintained during and after construction. [>>>Click here for information on the Scenic Rivers Program](#)

## Vote for the 2016 River of the Year

Since 1983, DCNR has designated a River of the Year to elevate public awareness of specific rivers and recognize important conservation needs and achievements. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR), DCNR accepted nominations for the 2016 River of the Year from nonprofit organizations during October. Selected nominations will soon be featured online and open for public voting from mid-November until December 14, 2015.

In 2015, the program celebrated the Conewango Creek, in Warren County PA, as the River of the Year. This waterway is rich in biodiversity and a local destination for outdoor recreation year-round.



## Rivers Program Webpage

The Rivers Program webpage provides information on the diverse initiatives managed by BRC that connect Pennsylvanians to their water resources. Programs range from conservation-based efforts such as Scenic Rivers and the Rivers Registry, to outdoor recreation elements like sojourns, as well as funding opportunities available through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program. [Visit the webpage](#) to learn more about BRC's developing Rivers Program.

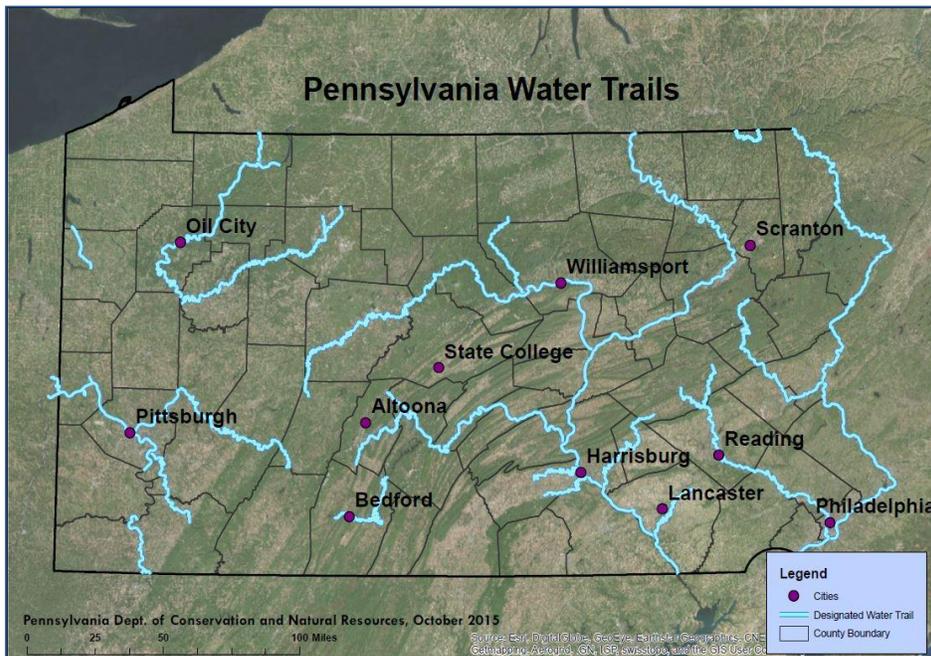
## Pennsylvania Water Trails

There are 27 designated water trails across Pennsylvania. Much like land trails, these water recreation paths include formalized access points, and provide information to connect citizens and visitors alike to Pennsylvania's unique history, ecology, geology, heritage, and wildlife. The Water Trails Partnership is active in promoting the 2,135 river trail miles through a comprehensive signage program, river sojourns, the River of the Year contest, and other programs and events.

[>> Click here for PA's Water Trails](#)

## River Sojourns

The sojourn program offers funding assistance to local organizations to provide guided paddling trips along their waterway. Sojourns take place over the summer months, from May to September, and often include meals, camping, and educational speakers covering topics such as ecosystem stewardship, historic or cultural significance or conservation practices. The Sojourn program is managed in partnership with POWR, with funding provided by DCNR and the American Canoe Association (ACA).



## Community Conservation Partnership Grant Program (C2P2)

BRC's C2P2 program provides grants to local communities and organizations to fund a variety of waterway-related conservation and recreation projects and activities. Project types range from acquisition, planning, development, to partnerships; which allows for a diversity of initiatives to be supported by the Department. Grants are available for both municipal entities and non-profit organizations; however, non-profits are encouraged to partner with a civic entity to take advantage of the most funding sources possible.

## Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2014-2019)

The Recreation Plan calls for partnerships *"to update and implement 25 River conservation Plans, with a particular focus on restoring rivers for public recreation"*. This action item is currently being implemented through a variety of approaches, partnerships, and program updates, including **prioritization of related C2P2 funding applications**. If your community would like to assist DCNR in reaching this goal by updating or implementing your River Conservation Plan, please contact us!

[>>Click here to learn more about River Conservation Plans](#)



## Coldwater Heritage Partnership Program

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership Program (CHP) provides leadership, coordination, technical assistance, and funding support to conserve and protect Pennsylvania's coldwater streams. The CHP, comprised of PA Trout Unlimited, DCNR, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, administers a grant program to develop assessment and conservation plans and implement plan recommendations to further protect and enhance coldwater streams. PA Trout Unlimited also organizes the bi-annual Keystone Coldwater Conference (February 26-27, 2016 at the Ramada in State College) to provide local conservation organizations, professionals, and stakeholders an opportunity to share ideas and concepts to protect, conserve, and restore Pennsylvania's coldwater resources. More information can be found on [CHP's webpage](#).