

Ligonier to Saltsburg

Map & Guide

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.

Loyalhanna Gorge



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.

On-water activities are inherently dangerous. Loyalhanna Creek Water Trail users are advised to follow recommended routes and be informed that river conditions vary and can change rapidly based on weather events. Trail users are reminded that they are responsible for their own safety and must follow Pennsylvania boating regulations.

Access Areas: Loyalhanna Watershed Association sponsors Loyalhanna Water Trail. LWA can inform the owners of access areas about maintenance, litter or other issues. Please call (724) 238-7560 to report such issues.

FLOATING THE LOYALHANNA

Loyalhanna Creek offers a surprising variety of paddling experiences: whitewater and moving flatwater through scenic ravines, including Chestnut Ridge, and still water on Loyalhanna Lake with open views of birds and wildlife.

The Loyalhanna is best paddled in spring or after rain with at least 250 cubic feet per second of flow (see box).

The stream is a coldwater fishery above Kingston Dam and a warm-water fishery below the small, hazardous dam.

Above Ligonier and through Loyalhanna Gorge, the stream is Class I and II whitewater. Boaters can run 5 or 6 miles (best at 300 cfs) and take out at Kingston. Except in high flow, Kingston Dam can be portaged to go another 2.5 miles to Mission Road (Murphy's) Bridge access.

Below Mission Road, the moving flatwater has few riffles. Float Mission Road through Latrobe to Sanderson Cartop access (6 miles) or Latrobe to New Alexandria (9 or 11 miles).

The Loyalhanna is a lake below Inflow access. At high water levels, the lake extends well up stream. Lake paddling is a bit more work than going with the flow, but Loyalhanna Lake can be explored in low flow, as can the lake in nearby Keystone State Park, where boats can be rented.

The stream below the dam is isolated and scenic. Call the Army Corps of Engineers to have a gate opened to the tailrace access area or carry boats down a long hill to put in. Paddle 5 miles and work upstream a short distance to take out on the Conemaugh River's far shore in Saltsburg, or paddle another 5 miles down the Kiski River from Saltsburg to Avonmore.

Stream Gauge Readings

Generally the Loyalhanna should be at least 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) to be a fun paddle. Only highly skilled paddlers should run it at 500 cfs. To check the USGS gauge: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?03045000.

Outfitters Serving the Loyalhanna Creek Area

Saltsburg River & Trail

Northwest Boat Rentals, Keystone State Park

(724) 639-1314

www.rivtrail.com

(724) 668-0044 www.northwestkayakandcanoe.com

NATURE AND HISTORY IN AND ALONG THE LOYALHANNA CREEK

The name Loyalhanna comes from the Delaware Indian village of Layalhanning, which was settled in 1727. It means "middle stream," an apparent reference to the fact that Conemaugh Gorge is to the north and Youghiogheny Gorge is to the south of Loyalhanna Gorge.

When white men first crossed the Alleghenies, they found chestnut and oak forests, and lots of game and fish. Few people settled here before 1769. By 1800, the surrounding area was farms with a few grist mills and saw mills.

Loyalhanna Creek originates on Laurel and Chestnut ridges near Donegal, flowing north toward Ligonier. Below Ligonier, the stream passes Idlewild Park and Soak Zone, cuts a beautiful, deep gorge through Chestnut Ridge and passes through the City of Latrobe. Then it passes Keystone State Park and enters Loyalhanna Lake, a large flood-control reservoir that, like Keystone, offers boating, camping and hiking. It meets the Conemaugh River at Saltsburg to form the Kiskminetas River, which flows into the Allegheny River north of Pittsburgh.

The 298 square-mile watershed has 2,500 miles of stream with tributaries of various size and quality. It has mostly forested headwaters and natural areas throughout its middle section, but is impacted by abandoned mine drainage

(AMD), sedimentation from erosion, acid precipitation, and nutrient loading. Historic coal mining, farming, and development threaten the water quality. Loyalhanna Watershed Association was founded in 1971 to address these pollution impacts and preserve natural areas.

Loyalhanna Creek offers an exceptional array of fishing opportunities. Some headwaters streams flowing off the ridges contain native brook, brown and rainbow trout. Feeders include Linn Run flowing from a state park of the same name, and Powdermill Run, around which Powermill Nature Reserve conducts research and provides education on wildlife, espe-

cially birds and bird migration, as an arm of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

The upper end of Loyalhanna Creek is too small for boating as it flows north along Route 381 toward Laughlintown, but anglers are attracted by the delayed-harvest, artificial-lures only section from Route 711 near Ligonier downstream to just above Two Mile Run Road Bridge. Mill Creek enters here. Anglers report occasionally catching tiger trout, which were bred for a country club upstream or stocked by a local group. The lower

reaches offer pike and muskie, which migrate from Donegal, Keystone or Loyalhanna Lake.

The stream is heavily stocked with trout from Ligonier to Latrobe and heavily fished through the Gorge as the divided section of Route 30 provides access to both sides of the water. This area is also fun for whitewater boaters and extremely scenic.

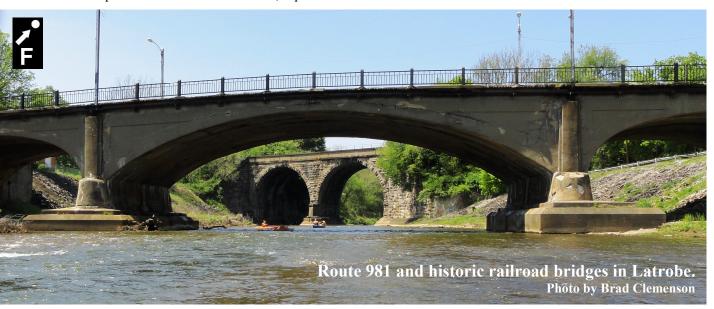
Kayaking and trout fishing decline by mid-summer as water levels drop and temperature rise, but smallmouth bass and other warm-water species keep anglers active. Boulders and long riffles occasionally give way to surprisingly deep pools, which are popular for swimming on hot summer days.

In Latrobe, the stream corridor is surprisingly green. Latrobe Hospital, a

brewery and other buildings add interest, although aesthetics deteriorate in spots where little grows on earthen flood-control channels.

At the end of Latrobe, Saxman Run enters with water turned orange from abandoned-mine drainage, and the highly oxygenated outflow from the sewage-treatment plant makes the water murky, so it is difficult to see the bottom and the fish. That's not to say there are no fish, because the presence of great blue herons and word from anglers indicate it's still a viable fishery. In addition, red tail hawks and snapping turtles are often spotted in this corridor.





A stone pier remains from Carr Road Bridge. which carried an electric railway and then cars. Its location is marked on the map with this icon:





ALONG THE WAY: WHAT TO SEE ALONG THE LOYALHANNA

Ligonier, RM 36-34: Fort Ligonier, built on a Native American village, supplied British and Colonial troops in 1758 seeking to force the French from the strategic Forks of the Ohio, now Pittsburgh. The fort held off two attacks. The town was bypassed by the Pennsylvania Railroad but connected in 1877 by Ligonier Valley Railroad, which survives as a museum near Idlewild Park. The timber-hauling Pittsburgh, Westmoreland and Somerset Railroad survives as trails in Forbes State Forest and Linn Run State Park. Loyalhanna Watershed Association maintains a 1-mile nature trail with boat access along Route 30.

Idlewild Park and Soak Zone, RM 33: Olde Idlewild includes a merry-go-round listed on the National Register of Historic Places, a wooden roller-coaster and other rides. Mister Rogers' Neighborhood of Make Believe, Story Book Forest and SoakZone are major attractions. See www.idlewild.com.

Buttermilk Falls, RM 32: Kayakers call this pretty little waterfall a Class II rapid just below Darlington.

Loyalhanna Gorge, RM 32-29: This beautiful gorge through Chestnut Ridge is 900 feet deep. The river gradient drops 100 feet in 3 miles. Ledges and boulders offer highly

For More Information

lakes/loyalhan.htm

www.loyalhannawatershed.org

stateparks/findapark/keystone/

www.laurelhighlands.org

pecpa.org/Laurel Highlands

Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau:

Loyalhanna Watershed Association: http://

Loyalhanna Lake: http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/

Keystone State Park: http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/

Lincoln Highway Experience: www.LHHC.org

Communities: Ligonier: http://ligonier.com/

Latrobe: http://www.citvoflatrobe.com/

Saltsburg: http://www.visitsaltsburg.com

Laurel Highlands Trout Trail: www.lhtrouttrail.com

Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape: www/

New Alexandria: http://www.newalexpa.com/

oxygenated water that fish like and Class I and II whitewater for boating when flow is sufficient. Massive sandstone and limestone lavers form the gorge's rim. Sandy shales are exposed at the base, where the geologic record of hundreds of millions of years is recorded in the rocks.

Causeway and Kingston Dam, RM 30-29: two hazardous features must be avoided in high flows and can be portaged with prior scouting in low or moderate flow.

Lincoln Highway Experience, RM 29: This center in an old stone mansion on

Route 30 interprets the historic Lincoln Highway, the nation's first coast-to-coast highway.

Latrobe, RM 26-21: Latrobe was incorporated in 1854. Pennsylvania Railroad and the creek spawned a paper mill, tanneries and breweries. Coal brought more industry.

Steel and immigrants followed. Constructed wetlands treat old mine discharges at Saint Vincent College and in the heart of the city, improving the water quality.

Keystone State Park, RM 15: The park is not accessible from the stream, but its lake is another place to paddle. Boats can be rented here. The 78-acre lake is stocked all season with trout and holds bass, muskie, pike and other warm-water fish. The park has camping, cabins, yurts, trails and wildlife. Executives of Keystone Coal & Coke Co. enjoyed the company-built lake and stone lodge that now are central to the park. Treatment of mine drainage restores life to McCune Run before it enters Loyalhanna Creek; a self-guided tour explains how it works.

New Alexandria, RM 14-13:

Trappers and traders settled here before 1760 and fought in the Revolutionary War. Elizabeth Craig, daughter of one of them, designed the coiled rattlesnake striking the British Union Jack on this flag, which was



carried in a confrontation at Hannas Town, a nearby historic site. Loyalhanna Lake: RM 13-5: Loyalhanna Dam rises 114

feet above the stream to hold water to reduce flooding in Pittsburgh and other areas down stream. Lake elevation is normally

918 feet, boating is closed at 927 feet, and water rises to 975 feet at flood stage as adja- cent Army Corps of Engineers land floods. The lake has fishing, boating and camping, plus hunting on 3,200 acres leased to the Pennsylvania Game Commission. No alcohol allowed. Speedboats pulling skiers are common, but inlets, coves and backwaters offer quiet to an glers, paddlers and birders. Platforms attract osprey. Many birds migrate through in spring and fall. The lake holds blue gill, largemouth bass, trophy-sized musky, tiger musky, wall eye and a small but established population of northern pike.

Saltsburg: RM 0: This

town produced salt on the Conemaugh River at the Loyalhanna's mouth. Canal Park interprets the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal. The West Penn and Westmoreland Heritage rail-trails, and the Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail all meet here.

PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS, SAFETY, STEWARDSHIP AND RESPECT

- 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.

- 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 handheld 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 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: 80 percent of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people not wearing a life jacket.
- Expect to get wet. Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or swamp their boats. Bring extra clothing in a water-proof 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Stewardship

Care for the land, water and cultural resources along the stream. Respect wildlife, nature and other recreationists. Wash footwear, boats and vehicles to minimize the spread of invasive

species to other waterways. Review the "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics guidelines at www.lnt.org to minimize your impact. These include:

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



Prevent the transport of nuisance species.

Clean <u>all</u> recreational equipment.

Respect Landowners Privacy and Rights

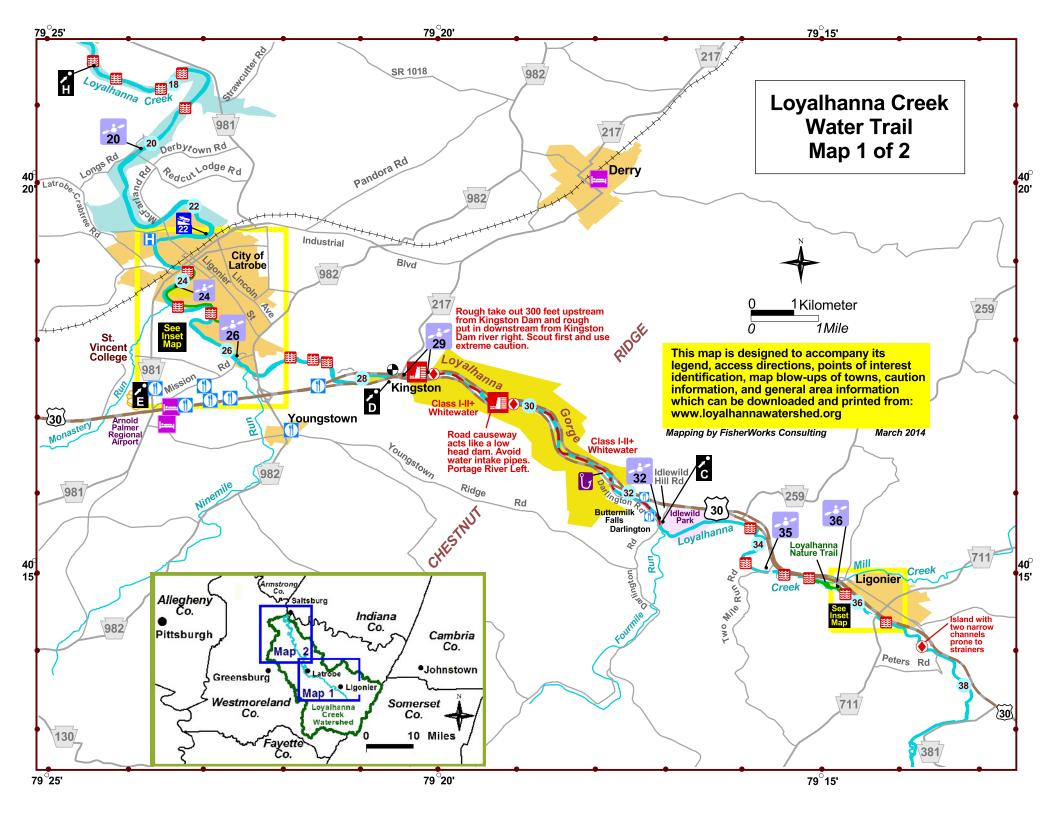
Plan and make stops on shorelines open to the public. From Latrobe to Loyalhanna Lake, most shorelines are owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, but above and below here, all areas are privately owned. Respect the privacy and rights of landowners by obtaining permission before entering any privately owned land. Avoid boisterous behavior and making loud noises. Share the same courtesy that you would want.

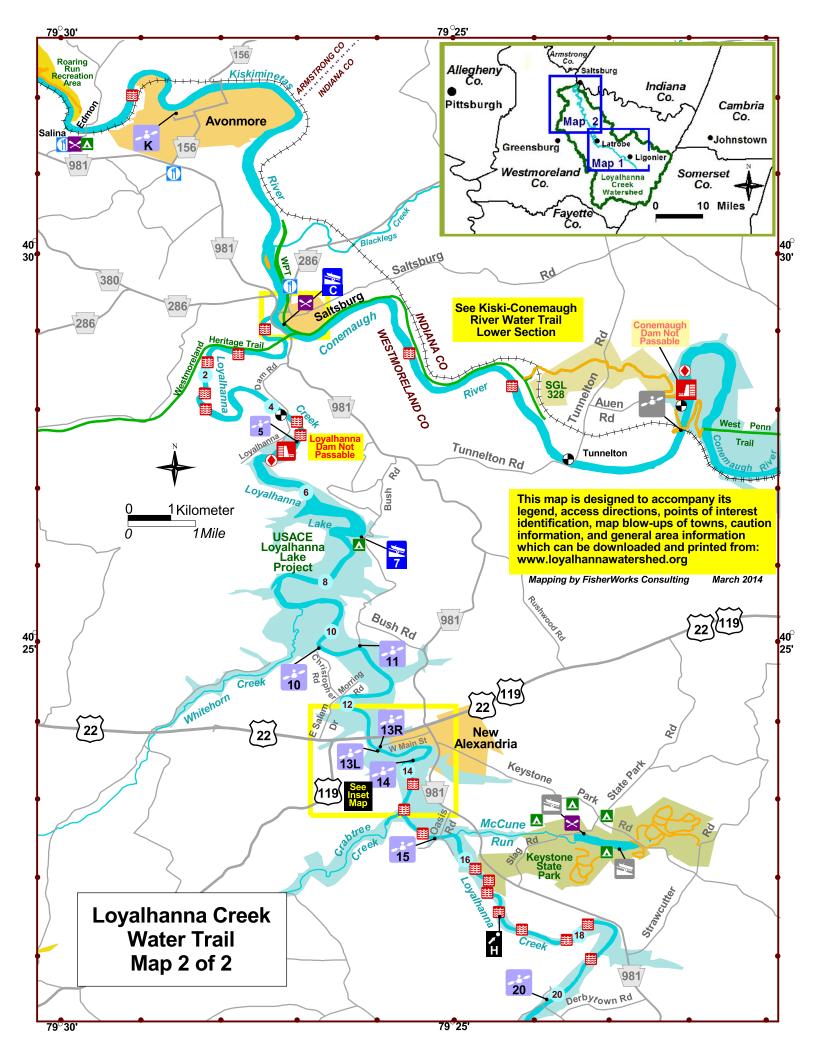


Our Partners and Funders

Loyalhanna Watershed Association is the official trail sponsor. This map & guide was developed by Pennsylvania Environmental Council in partnership with LWA, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The project was supported by grants from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund of PA DCNR, and the Richard King Mellon and Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundations.





Loyalhanna Creek Water Trail Public Access Sites

Access identification number denotes the approximate river mile from the mouth of Loyalhanna Creek near Saltsburg **USACE sites owned by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

Section 1

			Occitor 1								
36	Loyalhanna Nature Trail Path - River Right	Lat 40 14 48 Lon 79 14 51	Located just off US Rt 30 E in Ligonier across US Rt 30 from Giant Eagle supermarket.								
35	Two Mile Run Rd Bridge Path - River Right	Lat 40 15 02 Lon 79 15 48	From the intersection of PA Rt 259 and US Rt 30, take US Rt 30 E approximately 0.8 mile east then turn Right onto Two Mile Run Rd. Follow approximately 0.1 mile to bridge. Access on river right downstream side of the bridge.								
32	Idlewild Hill Rd Path - River Right	Lat 40 15 40 Lon 79 17 09	From the intersection of PA Rt 217 and US Rt 30 in Kingston, take US Rt 30 E approx 3.9 miles east then turn Right onto Idlewild Hill Rd. Follow approx 0.2 mile on right. Access on river right downstream side of the bridge. Whitewater downstream to Kingston.								
29	Kingston Rough Primitive - River Right	Lat 40 17 30 Lon 79 20 19	Located just off US Rt 30 W, 500 feet east (upstream) of the PA Rt 217 bridge. Pull-off area on left side of one-way US Rt 30 W. Take out about 300 feet upstream from the dam spillway. Not easy, but possible to portage and put in on the downstream side of the dam.								
26	Mission Rd Bridge Path - River Right	Lat 40 17 43 Lon 79 22 33	Also known as Murphy's Bridge. From US Rt 30 take PA Rt 982 N about 0.5 mile to the first red light. Turn Left onto Mission Rd. Make first Right turn just before the bridge and park near gate. Follow path to creek. Access on downstream side of bridge.								
24	Legion-Keener Park Primitive - River Right	Lat 40 18 41 Lon 79 22 33	From US Rt 30 take PA Rt 982 N about 0.9 mile then turn Left onto Ligonier St. Proceed 0.9 mile then turn Left onto Irving Ave. 0.3 mile to park.								
22	Cardinal Park - USACE Paved Ramp - River Left	Lat 40 19 19 Lon 79 23 00	From US Rt 30 take PA Rt 982 N about 0.9 mile then turn Left onto Ligonier St. Proceed 1.8 miles, cross the Loyalhanna Creek bridge then immediately turn Right onto E First Ave. to park.								
20	Sanderson - USACE Path - River Left	Lat 40 20 24 Lon 79 23 47	From US Rt 30 take PA Rt 982 N 0.9 mile then turn Left onto Ligonier St. Proceed 1.8 miles, cross the Loyalhanna Creek, turns into N Ligonier St. Then turns into McFarland Rd. Follow this road to T intersection with Longs Rd. Access downstream of the bridge.								
Section 2											
15	Oasis Bridge - USACE Primitive - River Left	Lat 40 22 28 Lon 79 25 10	From US Rt 22, take PA Rt 981 S about 1.2 miles, turn right on Oasis Rd, access on right just across (downstream of) bridge. Parking is a couple hundred yards before the bridge.								
14	Salem Access - USACE Primitive - River Left	Lat 40 25 52 Lon 79 16 11	From US Rt 22, take US Rt 119 S, make immediate Left onto Old William Penn Hwy, take straightest route possible (becomes Galando Rd) for 1 mile to where road makes the second 90-degree Right elbow. Turn Left into field at second elbow.								
13R	New Alexandria-USACE Path - River Right	Lat 40 23 39 Lon 79 25 54	From US Rt 22 / 119 in New Alexandria, take PA Rt 981 South. Make first Right turn onto W Main St. Follow to the creek and access area.								
13L	Inflow Cartop - USACE Path - River Left	Lat 40 23 36 Lon 79 25 56	From US Rt 22, take US Rt 119 S, make immediate Left onto Old William Penn Hwy, take straightest route possible for 0.6 mile to where road makes a 90-degree Right turn beside the creek (at intersection with Galando Rd). Look for grass ramp to the creek.								
11	Mannitto - USACE Path - River Right	Lat 40 24 55 Lon 79 26 09	From US Rt 22, take PA Rt 981 N about 1.1 miles then turn Left onto Bush Rd (sign toward Bush Rec Area). Go about 0.9 mile then turn Left (where Bush Rd turns hard right). Proceed to access area.								
10	Christopher's Rd-USACE Primitive - River Left	Lat 40 24 53 Lon 79 26 40	From the intersection of US Rt 22 and PA Rt 981 in New Alexandria, take US Rt 22 W about 1.2 miles then turn Right onto E Salem Dr. Then stay straight onto Christopher Rd. Follow Christopher Rd to end. Access on right (about 1.4 miles from US Rt 22).								
7	Bush Rec Area - USACE Paved Ramp - River Right	Lat 40 26 20 Lon 79 26 18	From US Rt 22, take PA Rt 981 N about 1.1 miles then turn Left onto Bush Rd (sign toward Bush Rec Area). Go about 2.2 miles to Bush Recreation Area on Left. \$3 launch fee (or \$30 season pass) purchased at the USACE Resource Manager's Office. 724-639-9013								
5	Tailwater Access-USACE Path - River Left	Lat 40 27 27 Lon 79 27 02	From Saltsburg, take PA Rt 981 S about 0.8 mile, turn Right onto Loyalhanna Dam Rd. Go 1.3 miles, turn Left into the Tailwater Area. Access is 700 feet down a path. Advance arrangements to drive closer can be made by calling 724-639-9013 (when staff available).								
F	Relevant Kiski-Conema	ugh River A	Access Sites (See Kiski-Conemaugh River Water Trail - Lower Section for more details)								
≥ C	Saltsburg - Rivers Edge Park Payed Ramp-River Right	Lat 40 29 04	From US 22 take PA 981 N toward Saltsburg. Follow 981 about 8 miles to PA 286, turn Right over bridge and make immediate Right onto Water St. Access is on Right below Rivers Edge deck								

Lat 40 31 45 From US 22 take PA 981 N toward Saltsburg. Go about 10 miles and turn Right onto PA 156 N. Continue to stop sign at

Lon 79 28 31 Westmoreland and 2nd Sts. Turn Left onto gravel drive at Avonmore Municipal Authority Water Collection Area.

Park Paved Ramp-River Right Lon 79 27 11 immediate Right onto Water St. Access is on Right below Rivers Edge deck.

Avonmore Ramp - River Left

Map Legend, Points of Interest, Caution Information, Area Information and General Location

Points of Interest

- A Town Hall Visitors Center (not open weekends)
- **B** Fort Ligonier
- C Ligonier Valley RR Museum
- D Lincoln Highway Experience Visitors Center
- E St. Vincent College Including Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve (with Public Trails), Historic Grist Mill Museum and Monastery Run AMD Treatment Site
- F Historic Active Rail Bridge
- G Latrobe Art Center and Cafe
- H Historic Bridge Pier
- I Rebecca J. Hadden Stone House Museum
- J Saltsburg Canal Park

Monthly Average Information for Latrobe, PA

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High(F)	37°	40°	50°	62°	71°	79°	83°	82°	75°	64°	52°	41°
Avg. Low(F)	19°	22°	28°	38°	47°	56°	60°	59°	52°	41°	33°	24°
Avg. Precip.(in)	3.6	3.3	3.9	4.3	5.0	4.8	5.1	4.2	4.2	3.0	4.2	3.7
Sunrise(AM)	7:38	7:11	7:30	6:40	6:02	5:47	6:00	6:28	6:58	7:28	7:03	7:33
Sunset(PM)	5:16	5:53	7:24	7:56	8:27	8:49	8:46	8:15	7:27	6:38	5:01	4:52
Gauge(CFS)	413	414	623	460	346	209	118	118	154	97	228	396

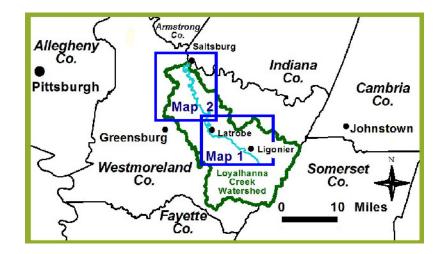
**Sunrise and Sunset are the 15th of each month - including daylight savings time.

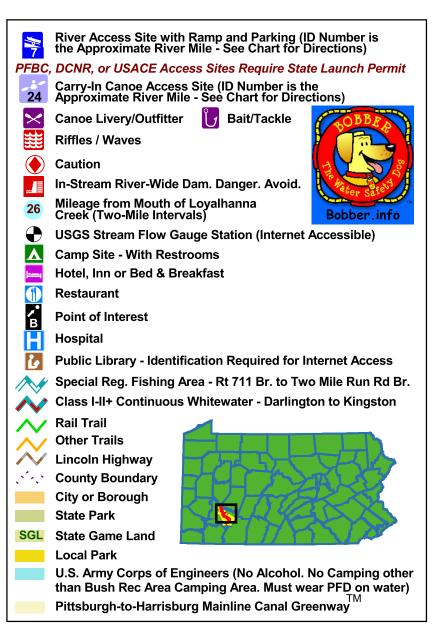
**USGS Gauge at Kingston, PA. http://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/current?type=flow

Recommend a minimum of 250 cfs at USGS Loyalhanna Creek Kingston Gauge.

Mapping by FisherWorks Consulting

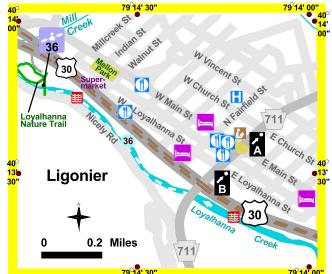
March 2014



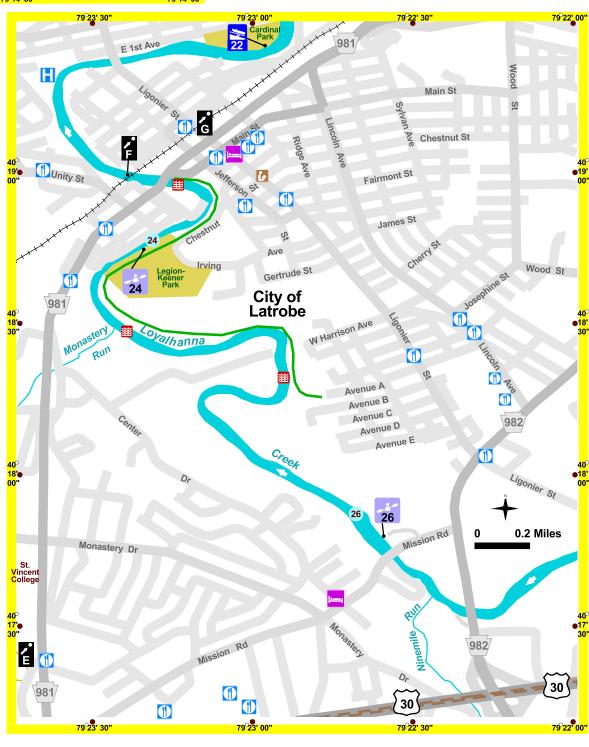




Several riffles are identified that can be navigated with minimal paddling experience. Be aware of Class I-II+ whitewater from Idlewild HIII Rd to Kingston Dam. Watch for strainers particularly in the upper reach. Avoid the upstream side of bridge abutments. Loyalhanna Dam can not be easily portaged. Kingston Dam should be avoided or scouted and portaged. Stream-wide causeway near mile 30 must be portaged river left.



Map Section 1
Town Blow-Ups
(See Legend for Icons
and Points of Interest
Identification)



Map Section 2 Town Blow-Ups (See Legend for Icons and Points of Interest Identification)

