

Mon River Towns Outdoor Recreation Guide



www.monrivertowns.com

River Town Outdoor Recreation Guide

Get outdoors to explore the river you thought you knew...

Historically, the Monongahela River was best known for its role in transportation, carrying barges of coal and other materials to the industries along the Mon. However, in recent years, with improvements in water quality, the Mon has seen an increase in visitors seeking river recreation opportunities.

This outdoor recreation guide highlights the opportunities for canoeing and kayaking, motor boating and waterskiing, fishing, hiking, biking, and sightseeing on the stretch of Monongahela River between California and Point Marion, Pennsylvania.

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Visitor Resources

The following resources are helpful guides to planning a trip and finding great things to do while visiting the region.

Official Tourism Website of Pennsylvania

www.visitpa.com/

Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 4th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225 USA
1-800-847-4872

Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau

www.laurelhighlands.org

120 East Main Street
Ligonier, PA 15658
1-800-333-5661

Greene County Tourism Promotion Agency

www.greenecountytourism.org

19 South Washington Street
Waynesburg, PA 15370
877-280-8687

Visit Washington County

www.visitwashingtoncountypa.com

273 South Main St.
Washington, PA 15301
1-866-927-4969

Parks

Fayette County

Dunlap Creek Park

www.co.fayette.pa.us/ParksandTrails/Pages/Dunlap.aspx
Route 40, New Salem, PA 15468
724-430-1200

Amenities: 74 acres of woods and meadows; 30 acre lake for boating and fishing; pavilions; playgrounds; and a baseball field.

German-Masontown Park

www.co.fayette.pa.us/ParksandTrails/Pages/GermanMasonTown.aspx
Masontown Park Road, Masontown, PA 15461
724-583-7731

Amenities: 125.5 acres; baseball fields; pavilions; an outdoor amphitheater; playground; tennis courts; soccer field; bocce court; horseshoe pits; and a walking path.

Patsy Hillman Community Park

www.southfayette.org/cms/lib03/PA01001917/Centricity/domain/54/directions/Patsy-HillmanPark.htm
Hillman Park Drive, Hiller, PA 15417
724-785-3600

Amenities: 466 acres; four open pavilions; one enclosed pavilion; a fishing pond; soccer and baseball fields; a state of the art playground.

Point Marion Community Park

South Main Street, Point Marion, PA

Amenities: 0.5 mile walking path; play equipment; basketball courts; baseball fields; picnic pavilions; barbeque grills; boat ramp and dock.

Greene County

Mason Dixon Historical Park

www.masondixonhistoricalpark.com

79 Buckeye Road, Core, WV 26541

304-879-4101

Amenities: 295 acres for hiking, camping, and fishing along Dunkard Creek; pavilions with modern restrooms; baseball field; small camper hookups; and a large barn with cooking and dining facilities.

Min Love Park

www.co.greene.pa.us/secured/gc2/depts/rec/parks-pools.htm

Main Street, Rices Landing, PA 15357

724-592-6055

Amenities: gazebo; picnic tables; benches; swings; wooden pirate ship jungle gym; boat docks; restrooms; and barbeque grills.

Mon View Park

www.co.greene.pa.us/secured/gc2/depts/rec/parks-pools.htm

377 Stoney Hill Road, Greensboro, PA 15338

724-943-3201

Amenities: community center; picnic shelters; playground; pool; basketball court; baseball field; volleyball court; and skating rink.

Pumpkin Run Park

www.co.greene.pa.us/secured/gc2/depts/rec/parks-pools.htm

137 Main Street, Rices Landing, PA 15357

724-592-6055

Amenities: 65+ acres; hiking and biking trails; two pavilions; picnic areas with fire pits; boating access; adjacent to the Greene River Trail.

Washington County

David Szalay Community Park

Peach Street, California, PA 15419
724-938-8878

Amenities: Two tennis courts and an open grassy area.

Rotary Park

High Point Drive and 3rd Street, California, PA 15419
724-938-8878

Amenities: 0.5 mile walking track ; handicap accessible; fishing in Pike Run; gazebo.

Ten Mile Creek County Park

www.co.washington.pa.us/DocumentCenter/View/187
County Park Road, East Bethlehem, PA 15322
724-228-6867

Amenities: Three pavilions; grills; playground; restrooms; hiking trails; boat ramp with docks (County permit required).

Wyatt Park

Wood Street, California, PA 15419
724-938-8878

Amenities: Riverside picnic tables.

National Park Service

Friendship Hill National Historic Site

www.nps.gov/frhi/index.htm
223 New Geneva Rd, Point Marion, PA 15474
724-725-9190

Amenities: 661 acre park; 10 miles of nature trails; historic house of Albert Gallatin; exhibits; audio tour; special programs; a picnic area and comfort station.

Trails

Brown's Run Trail

- Location:** Masontown, PA
Length: 1.5 mile
Activities: Walking, biking
Surface: Crushed limestone
Description: A newly established trail that is expected to be 12 miles long when completed
Parking: Lardin House Restaurant, located at 1892 McClellandtown Road on State Route 21 East
Contact: 724-737-5130; www.germantownship.org/recreation.html

Mon River and Caperton Rail-Trails

- Location:** PA-WV state line to Prickett's Fort State Park
Length: 29 miles
Activities: Walking, biking, cross country skiing (in-line skating in city limits)
Surface: Crush limestone, Asphalt in city limits
Description: The trail follows the Monongahela River and has a smooth, crushed limestone surface except in Morgantown and Star City city limits, where it is paved. The trail in city limits is called the Caperton Trail. The trail will link to the Sheepskin Trail (Pennsylvania side) to Point Marion, PA with construction in 2014.
Parking: Pricketts Fort State Park, Wharf District Parking Garage (Morgantown), Edith Barill Riverfront Park (Star City) and other small trailheads
Contact: 304-292-5081; www.montrails.org

Cheat Lake Trail

- Location:** Cheat Lake, WV
Length: 4.5 miles
Activities: Walking, biking
Surface: Crushed limestone
Description: This scenic, wooded trail follows the east bank of Cheat Lake and offers a playground, restrooms, fishing piers, and boat docks.
Parking: Morgan Run Road off of Route 857.
Contact: 304-594-2865; www.cheatlaketoday.com

Deckers Creek Trail

- Location:** Morgantown, WV to Reedsville, WV
Length: 19 miles
Activities: Walking, biking, cross country skiing, in-line skating (on asphalt only)
Surface(s): Asphalt (3 miles), crushed limestone (16 miles)
Description: From the confluence of Monongahela River in Morgantown, the rail-trail follows scenic Deckers Creek upstream with an elevation change of 1,000 feet over 19 miles. The trail is asphalt in Morgantown and is smooth crushed limestone outside the city limits. Once out of Morgantown the landscape becomes very scenic and secluded with hard woods, hemlocks, rhododendrons, and rock outcroppings.
Parking: Hazel Ruby McQuain Riverfront Park or Marilla Park, in Morgantown; Masontown and Reedsville also have trailheads with parking.
Contact: 304-292-5081; www.montrails.org

Friendship Hill National Historic Site Trails

- Location:** Point Marion, PA
Length: 9.6 miles
Activities: Walking, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing
Surface: Dirt
Description: The Main Loop Trail at Friendship Hill is 3.8 miles, and several cut-off loops create the option for many different combinations of trails, making a total of almost 10 miles of available hiking. Albert Gallatin's beautiful former home is the centerpiece of the site, and fantastic views of the Monongahela River are prevalent.
Parking: Gallatin House 3 miles north of Point Marion on PA 166.
Contact: 724-725-9190; www.nps.gov/frhi

Greene River Trail

- Location:** Crucible, PA to Fredericktown-Millsboro, PA
Length: 5.2 miles
Activities: Walking, biking
Surface: Crushed limestone
Description: This trail is partially lined with wood-rail fencing and offers scenic views of the Monongahela River and surrounding wooded areas. Subsequent phases to extend the Greene River Trail are in the planning stages.
Parking: Greene Cove Yacht Club, outside of Fredericktown-Millsboro on Route 88; in Rices Landing on Main Street.
Contact: 724-0852-5323; www.co.greene.pa.us/secured/gc2/depts/rec/trails.htm

Greensboro Borough Hiking and Biking Trail

- Location:** Greensboro, PA
Length: 1.5 miles
Activities: Walking, biking
Surface: Asphalt
Description: The trail extends from Greene County's Mon View Park through Greensboro Borough to the historic Lock Master's House. Amenities include steel benches, bicycle racks, pavement markings, guide rails, and a large 50 foot hexagonal steel gazebo.
Parking: Mon View Park.
Contact: 724-953-3645; www.co.greene.pa.us/secured/gc2/depts/rec/trails.htm

Sheepskin Trail

- Location:** Dunbar, PA
Length: 2 miles
Activities: Walking, biking
Surface: Crushed limestone
Description: This trail will ultimately be expanded to 33 miles of rail-trail, connecting Point Marion, PA to the Great Allegheny Passage, just above Connellsville, PA. Restrooms are available at Dunbar Park a few blocks from the trail. The section of the trail between Point Marion and Morgantown is expected to be completed in 2014, and will connect to the Mon River Trail system in West Virginia.
Parking: Railroad Street in Dunbar
Contact: 724-430-1210; www.co.fayette.pa.us/ParksandTrails/Pages/Sheepskin.aspx

Warrior Trail

- Location:** Greensboro, PA to Moundsville, WV
- Length:** 67 miles
- Activities:** Hiking
- Surface:** Dirt
- Description:** The Warrior Trail was used for over 5,000 years by Native Americans for hunting and trading. It runs from Greensboro, PA on the Monongahela River to the Ohio River in West Virginia. The trail is marked by yellow blazes on trees and posts, as well as both sides of any road crossing. Much of the trail passes through private property, so it is important that trail users respect the rights of property owners. The trail can be accessed from any place it intersects a road.
- Parking:** Glassworks Boat Ramp, outside of Greensboro.
- Contact:** 304-368-2046; www.co.greene.pa.us/secured/gc2/depts/rec/trails.htm

Fishing

A current Pennsylvania fishing license, signed in ink and displayed (attached to a hat or outer garment), is required of persons age 16 and over to fish or angle for any species of fish. A license is also needed to take fish bait or baitfish. 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.

Purchase a fishing license online at:
www.fishandboat.com/license.htm

Or at any of the license issuing agents below.

KJ's Pro Archery

134 Old Route 21 Road, Carmichaels, PA 15320
724-966-9144

Ozie's Sport Shop

1020 North Route 88, Rices Landing, PA 15357
724-592-5009

Point Marion Hardware

126 Penn Street, Point Marion, PA 15474
724-725-5285

True Value Hardware

105 Rices Landing Road, Rices Landing, PA 15357
724-592-6893

Tributaries of the Mon

The tributaries of the Monongahela River offer additional outdoor recreation activities such as fishing and paddling. Please note that some tributaries listed below experience seasonal low water levels, especially in late summer, which will hinder paddling.

	River Mile	Left or Right (Facing Downriver)	Fishing	Paddling
Pike Run	51.3	Left	x	
Redstone Creek	54.9	Right	x	x
Dunlap Creek	56.1	Right	x	
Ten Mile Creek	65.6	Left	x	x
Pumpkin Run	68.5	Left	x	
Muddy Run	72.9	Left	x	
Browns Run	77.1	Right	x	
Whiteley Creek	80.2	Left	x	x
Jacobs Creek	83.1	Right	x	
Georges Creek	84.9	Right	x	x
Dunkard Creek	87.2	Left	x	x
Cheat River	89.6	Right	x	x

Boat Registration and Permits

All motorized boats must be registered with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. Non-motorized boats are not required to be registered, but are required to either have a use permit or registration if using a PA Fish & Boat Commission launch or property, state-owned lakes and waterways, or Army Corps of Engineers properties.

More information is available on the PA Fish & Boat Commission website at:

[Www.fishandboat.com/registration.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/registration.htm)

Or by calling 1-866-262-8734

Boat Launches and Marinas

California

California Boat Club

Location: 102 Water St, Coal Center

Description: Private, fee required. Open to motor boats only.

Contact: 724-938-9913

California Boat Launch

Location: Where Union Street goes under railroad tracks after intersection with First Street

Description: Public, no fee. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks.

Coal Center Public Docks

- Location:** In front of the Coal Center Borough Building near Dowler Park
- Description:** Public, no fee. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. Docks can be used for fishing; no overnight docking.

Brownsville

Brownsville Riverside Wharf Park

- Location:** Off of Water Street
- Description:** Public, no fee. Open to small and medium motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. Boat ramp is steep and should be inspected prior to put-in; very large boats may have problems.

Fredericktown

East Bethlehem Township Docks

- Location:** Behind the East Bethlehem Township Building on Front Street
- Description:** Public, no fee. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. Boats of all sizes can dock here with walking access to the business district. No boat launch; difficult to take canoes and kayaks in and out.

Greene Cove Marina

- Location:** On State Route 88 in Millsboro
- Description:** Public, fee required. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. Full service marina with bar and restaurant; offers use of its boat launch for a \$5 fee.
- Contact:** 724-377-0358.

Ten Mile Creek County Park

- Location:** In Ten Mile Creek County Park
- Description:** Public, fee required. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. Requires a \$7.50 permit that allows use of all Washington County launches for the season.
- Contact:** 724-228-6867

Rices Landing

Rices Landing Borough Boat Ramp

- Location:** Where Pumpkin Run and the Monongahela River meet off of Main Street in Min Love Park
- Description:** Public, no fee. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. PA Fish & Boat Commission cement boat ramp; boat registration or a use permit is required.

Greensboro

Canoe/Kayak Launch

- Location:** Behind the Volunteer Fire Department on Front Street
- Description:** Public, no fee. Open to canoes and kayaks only.

Glassworks Boat Ramp

- Location:** Across from the Ice Plant restaurant at 342 Stoney Hill Road
- Description:** Public, no fee. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. PA Fish & Boat Commission boat ramp; provides ample parking; boat registration or a use permit is required; docks and piers provide a pleasant spot to fish.

Old Ferry Landing

- Location:** At the old ferry landing at the bottom of County Street near the Captain's Watch
- Description:** Public, no fee. Open to canoes and kayaks only.

Point Marion

Point Marion Park Boat Launch

- Location:** In Point Marion Park off of South Main Street
- Description:** Public, no fee. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. PA Fish & Boat Commission boat ramp; public docks; boat registration or a use permit is required; public docks offer a pleasant place to fish.

Point Marion Marina

- Location:** Near the corner of Water and Penn
- Description:** Private Marina, seasonal rates available. Public access is available for customers of nearby restaurants (Brass Rail, Subway and Dollar General) Electricity available, easy access to parking, secured and lighted facility
- Contact:** 724-998-5407

Two Rivers Marina and Campground

- Location:** Just outside of Point Marion on Route 88
- Description:** Public, fee required. Open to motor boats, canoes, and kayaks. Full-service restaurant and bar, as well as camping spots.

Locks and Dams

The section of the river from California to Point Marion is controlled by several locks and dams that are operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The following dams are located on this section of river:

- Maxwell Dam, located at mile 61, between Brownsville and Fredericktown.
- Grey's Landing Dam, located at mile 80, between Greensboro and Rices Landing.
- Point Marion Dam, located at mile 90.8, between Point Marion and the WV border.

The Army Corps of Engineers provides guidance on using the locks at:

www.lrp.usace.army.mil/pubs/celrpp_1130_1_10.pdf

If planning to go through locks, check the schedule at:

www.lrp.usace.army.mil/nav/locksched.html

You can also contact the Pittsburgh District at:

412-395-7500

Hunting

Hunting remains a popular outdoor activity in the state of Pennsylvania. All hunters must have the proper license. Hunting is only allowed on private property with permission of the landowner.

However, the Game Commission maintains public lands that are open to any licensed hunter. There are several public Game Lands in the Mon River Town region.

The closest are state Game Lands 223 in Greene County and state Game Lands 238 in Fayette County.

A map of all state Game Lands can be found at:

www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_game_lands/11363

Or by calling the regional office for more information at:

724-238-9523

To learn more about purchasing a license, seasons, and limits, visit the Game Commission website at:

www.pgc.state.pa.us.

The River Town Program is a project of



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www.pecpa.org