

# OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

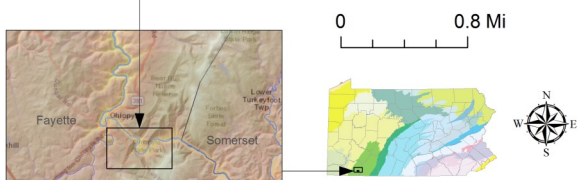
## VICTORIA BEND, FAYETTE COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



### Location

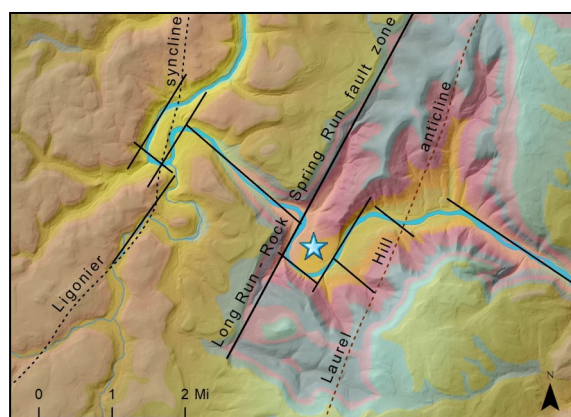
Youghiogheny River, Ohiopyle State Park, Fayette Co., Stewart Twp., lat: 39.8428, lon: -79.4617; Ohiopyle 7.5-minute quadrangle



### Geology

Victoria Bend is a large scenic meander in the Youghiogheny River, approximately 2 miles upstream from [Ohiopyle Falls](#) in Ohiopyle State Park. The river's horseshoe configuration around the town of Victoria was influenced by regional northeast- and northwest-trending fractures in the bedrock. As the Youghiogheny flowed generally to the west, it followed these paths of least resistance. The western meander arm of Victoria Bend, for example, follows part of the fracture formed by the Long Run-Rock Spring Run reverse thrust fault.

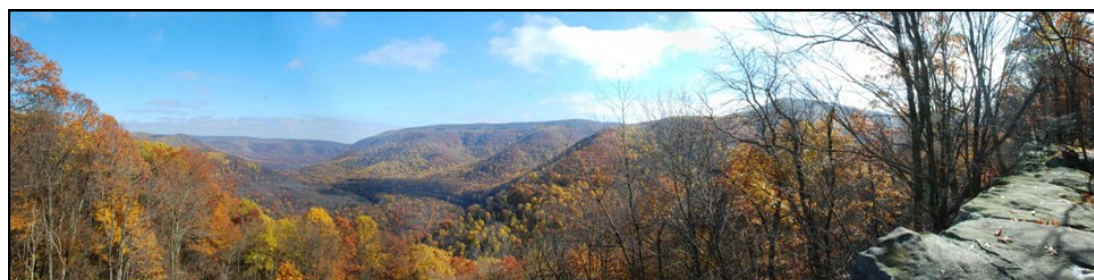
The bedrock fractures are, in general, perpendicular or parallel to the axes of folds that formed during the Alleghanian mountain-building event that ended about 270 million years ago. The horseshoe shape extends upward and outward, suggesting that the river has been entrenched for many millions of years, perhaps even as the structure was rising. Over 60 million years of geologic history are exposed in this cut, with rocks ranging from Upper Devonian to Lower Pennsylvanian in age.



Right: Aerial photograph looking west over Victoria Bend. Photograph by Bill Metzger, Confluence, Pa.



Left: Map of the Victoria Bend area showing lines that represent regional fracture patterns in the bedrock.



Left: Fall view from Baughman Rock Overlook in Ohiopyle State Park, looking east. Victoria Bend is in the center of the photograph. Photograph by Jim Shaulis, Pennsylvania Geological Survey.

### Recommended Reading

Bushnell, Kent, 1971, Ohiopyle State Park—Geologic features of interest: Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Trail of Geology 16-007.0](#), 3 p.

[Ohiopyle State Park](#) web page of DCNR.

Published by the [Pennsylvania Geological Survey](#).  
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