

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.

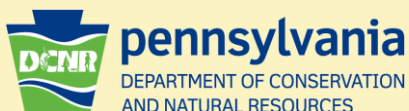
Program Webpage:

The Rivers Program webpage provides information on the diverse initiatives managed by BRC that connect Pennsylvanians to their water resources. Visit the webpage to learn more about BRC's developing Rivers Program, including most of the topics herein:

www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiversConservation/Pages/default.aspx

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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.

2021 River the Year: Shenango River

Winding through Northwestern Pennsylvania, connecting Pymatuning and Shenango lakes with the Beaver River via 82 miles of scenic, peaceful river, the Shenango River was voted the state's 2021 River of the Year. The Shenango River Watchers received a \$10,000 Leadership Grant to help fund a slate of year-long



2021 River of the Year activities. Shenango River Watchers host over 20 annual events including two successful sojourns attracting up to 400 paddlers per event; an outdoor environmental education day with over 250 local students; and a 5k race that attracts over 1,200 runners plus spectators. They also partner with other groups to host free recreational workshops such as a fly-casting clinics and introduction to kayaking courses, as well as community hikes, volunteer work days and cleanups. For 20 years the Shenango River Watchers has demonstrated commitment and ability to plan and implement a wide range of events for the benefit of the community and the Shenango River.

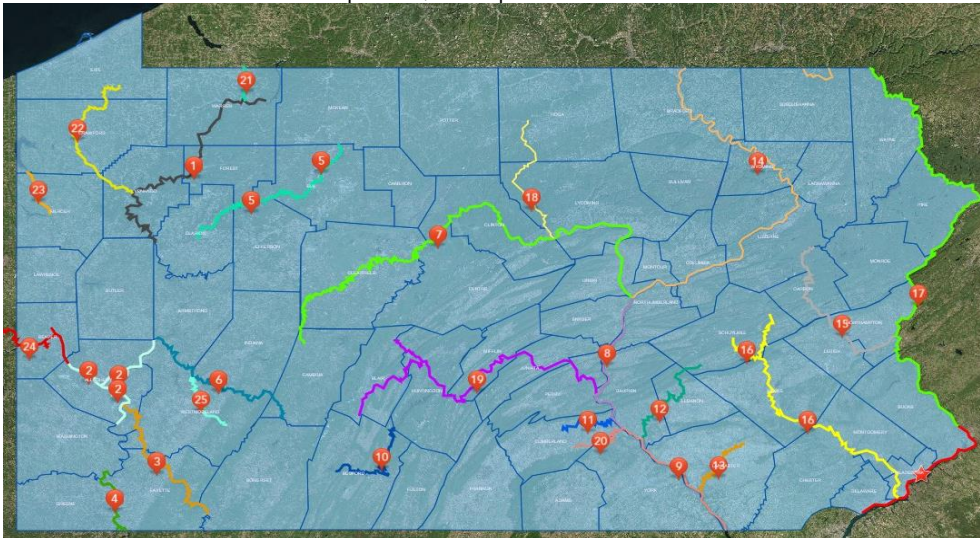
To learn more about the River of the Year program, including other 2021 nominees and past winners, please visit <http://www.pariveroftheyear.org>.

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.

Pennsylvania Water Trails

There are 28 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 to Pennsylvania's



unique history, ecology, geology, heritage, and wildlife. The Water Trails Partnership is active in promoting the roughly 2,300 river trail miles through a comprehensive signage program, river sojourns, the River of the Year contest, and other programs and events. Water trails information can be found at:

www.fishandboat.com/Boat/WaterTrails

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 (2020-2024)

Among many of the recommendations in this [Recreation Plan](#), is an interest in evaluating water-based recreation access and filling identified needs through a variety of approaches, partnerships, and physical improvements. As such, **the C2P2 program will prioritize improvements to or development of new water recreation access areas**. If your community has a need for new or improved water recreation access, please contact us!

Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program

DCNR's Riparian Forest Buffer Program provides reimbursable grants to organizations to establish riparian forest buffers. Funding can support both conventional riparian forest buffers and multifunctional (revenue-generating) buffers. Grant requests must be at least \$50,000 and require a 50/50 match (cash or non-cash). More details about the grant program requirements are available on the forest buffer program webpage located at

www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/Pages/default.aspx

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

Foundation for PA 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 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 at: www.coldwaterheritage.org

