

Schuylkill River Water Trail

Little Schuylkill

BACKGROUND: Three and a half centuries ago, Dutch explorers named it the “Schuylkill”, meaning “hidden river.” Today the Schuylkill River is being rediscovered as a recreational destination for boaters of all experience levels. The Schuylkill River Water Trail runs the 147-mile length of the Schuylkill River from its headwaters in Schuylkill County to its confluence with the Delaware River in Philadelphia.



INFORMATION: Access Points at Tamaqua Senior Center with approximately 10 parking spaces (*Experienced paddlers only from here to Tamaqua Dam*); Tamaqua Dam (SR 443),

owned by DEP with parking available; New Ringgold with parking available at the SR 895 bridge. The best time to run the Little Schuylkill is early summer. In late summer, the river becomes shallow and boat bottoms can drag on the streambed in this upper reach. The walking path is paved and is relatively flat and easy with benches along the way. At the park pavilion, there is water, a playground, quoit pits, and picnic areas.

CONTACT: For more information, go to www.schuylkillriver.org; www.schuylkill.org; http://www.fish.state.pa.us/watertrails/schuylkill/upper_schu/schuylkill_upper_guide_map.pdf; and http://www.fish.state.pa.us/watertrails/schuylkill/lower_schu/schuylkill_lower_guide_map.pdf.

AREA ATTRACTIONS: Several restaurants, gas stations, mini-markets, and a restored 1874 railroad station can be found in Tamaqua. New Ringgold has a mini-market and fly fishing shop. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, a 2,600 acre raptor sanctuary, is about 3 miles south of the Village of Dreherstown. Nearby is the Appalachian Trail, Heisler’s Dairy Bar, and Rosemont Camping Resort.

EVENTS: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary holds a schedule of conservation programs at www.hawkmountain.org. Tamaqua has a calendar of community events at www.tamaquaarea.com. Miniature golf and driving range are available at Heisler’s Dairy Bar.

GPS COORDINATES:

Lat 40°48’08.90” N Lon 75°58’37.60” W

RECOMMENDED GEAR: Always wear a life jacket, obtain proper instruction in boating, know fishing and boating regulations, be prepared for river hazards, and carry proper equipment.

