



Part VI

RECREATION COMPONENTS

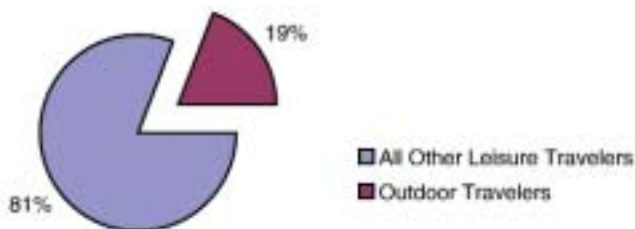
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A. Outdoor Recreation

1. ECONOMIC VALUE AND VISITOR PROFILE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

In 1997, 15.89 million visitors traveled in Pennsylvania for outdoor recreational vacations (Figure 6-1). This amount accounts for nearly one-fifth of the total leisure travel with Pennsylvania as the destination. Fifty-nine percent of outdoor recreation travelers visited state lands including the five state parks in the Lehigh River watershed. Forty-four percent of the total outdoor visitors are residents of Pennsylvania. Residents from New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia comprised another thirty-nine percent of the visitors. A survey conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources indicated that forty-one percent of these travelers chose Pennsylvania for its beautiful landscape and scenery.

FIGURE 6-1. 1997 VOLUME OF PENNSYLVANIA OUTDOOR RECREATION VACATION TRAVEL: PERSON-TRIPS (Pa. DCNR, 1999)



Those traveling for an outdoor recreation experience spent one-third of the total direct expenditures by leisure travelers. The amount spent for this specific purpose totaled close to \$4.03 billion. In total, \$7.92 billion was generated both directly and indirectly from these travelers (Pa. DCNR, 1999).

The Lehigh River watershed is home to many outdoor recreation experiences. Interested individuals visiting the watershed can enjoy whitewater boating on the longest section

(26 miles) of continuous whitewater on the East Coast. They can enjoy fishing throughout the watershed including many special regulation fishing areas or guided fishing experiences on the Lehigh River. Skiing is available at four locations throughout the watershed. Several premiere mountain biking destinations are within the watershed and there are numerous trails and recreation areas in the form of local, county, neighborhood, community parks/centers, and open spaces listed in Appendix C-1.

2. STATE PARKS

Pennsylvania’s state parks feature an array of recreational opportunities, provide a forum for multiple environmental education programs, and conserve thousands of acres of unique natural areas, among many other features. There is a state park within 25 miles of nearly every Pennsylvanian. The 116 state parks in Pennsylvania cover roughly 283,000 acres. (Pa. DCNR web site, 2003).

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks is the state agency and bureau responsible for management of state parks within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The bureau’s mission is “To provide opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation and to serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education. In meeting these purposes, the conservation of the natural, scenic, aesthetic, and historical values of the parks should be given first consideration. Stewardship responsibilities should be carried out in a way that protects the natural outdoor experience for the enjoyment of current and future generations.” (Pa. DCNR web site, 2003).

A total of five of the 116 state parks in Pennsylvania are located within the Lehigh River watershed. These state parks include Beltzville, Gouldsboro, Hickory Run, Lehigh Gorge, and Tobyhanna. The parks occupy a total of approximately 31,460 acres of land within Carbon, Monroe, Luzerne, and Wayne counties. A description of the overnight facilities, day-use facilities, and recreational activities available within these parks is provided Appendix C-2.

A map depicting the spatial distribution of state parks within the Lehigh River watershed can be found in Map 6-1. Detailed maps of individual state parks and continually updated information regarding overnight facilities, day-use facilities, and recreational activities available at these parks can be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks.

3. STATE FORESTS

Pennsylvania's state forests provide an almost endless list of outdoor activities including hiking, biking, ATV and snowmobile riding, fishing and hunting. State forests also provide natural habitats for thousands of plant and animal species. State forestlands comprise 2.1 million acres of "Penn's Woods." (Pa. DCNR web site, 2003).

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Bureau of Forestry is the state agency and bureau responsible for management of state forests within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The bureau's mission is "To ensure the long-term health, viability, and productivity of the Commonwealth's forests and to conserve native wild plants." (Pa. DCNR web site 2003)

Portions of two of Pennsylvania's total of 20 state forests are located within the Lehigh River watershed. These state forests include Weiser State Forest (19,200 acres) in Dauphin, Carbon, Schuylkill and Berks Counties, and Lackawanna State Forest (8,400 acres) in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. A description of the recreational activities available within each of these state forests is provided below in Table 6-1.



The state's park at Beltzville covers nearly 3,000 acres, and surrounds the U. S. Army Corps of Engineer's 970-acre flood-control dam and lake.

TABLE 6-1. STATE FOREST RECREATIONAL INFORMATION
Source: Pennsylvania Recreational Guide and Highway Map. Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. 2003.

Recreational Information	Weiser State Forest	Lackawanna State Forest
District Number	18	11
District Office Telephone Number	570-385-7800	570-963-4561
Acres of State Forest	19,200	8,400
Natural and Wild Areas	N	N
Fishing (C-Cold Water), (W-Warm Water)	C	C
Hunting	YES	YES
Primitive Camping	YES	YES
National and State Hiking Trails (miles)	4	23
Cross Country Ski Trails (miles)	0	24
Mountain Biking	YES	YES
State Forest Picnic Areas	2	1
Snowmobile Trails (miles)	40	24
Horseback Riding	YES	YES
ATV Trails	0	0



This remarkable boulder field was left when rock-bearing glaciers melted 20,000 years ago. Today, it is a National Natural Landmark.

A map depicting the spatial distribution of state forests within the Lehigh River watershed can be found in Map 6-1. Detailed maps of individual state forests and continually updated information regarding trails and other recreational activities available at these forests can be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry.

4. STATE GAME LANDS

Hunters, anglers, hikers, birdwatchers and other wildlife and outdoor recreation enthusiasts are welcome on State Game Lands. The Pennsylvania Game

Commission is the state agency responsible for managing all of Pennsylvania's State Game Lands, in addition to the management of game and other wildlife populations. To ensure wild animals always have food and shelter, the agency, since 1920, has been purchasing lands for inclusion in its State Game Lands system, which currently contains about 300 separate tracts comprising a total of about 1.4 million acres. (Pa. Game Commission web site, 2003.)

Access to 16 of Pennsylvania's state game lands can be found within the Lehigh River watershed. These game lands occupy a total of approximately 127,230 acres of land within Berks,

Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Schuylkill and Wayne counties. A listing of these individual State Game Lands, the counties in which they are located, and each individual Game Lands' total acreage is provided in Table 6-2.

A map depicting the spatial distribution of state game lands within the Lehigh River Watershed can be found in Map 6-1. Detailed maps of individual state game lands and continually updated information regarding hunting and trapping regulations, wildlife management information and other information can be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

5. DELAWARE AND LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Lehigh Gorge State Park is in the Audubon's Lehigh Reach of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The Corridor stretches more than 150 miles from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol, in eastern Pennsylvania, and follows the historic routes of the Lehigh &

TABLE 6-2. STATE GAME LANDS INFORMATION
Source: Pennsylvania Game Commission web site 2003.

State Game Lands #	County/Counties	Total Acres
38	Monroe	5,488.61
40	Carbon	6,118.51
91	Lackawanna/Luzerne	16,659.20
119	Luzerne	7,967.29
127	Monroe	25,518.95
129	Carbon/Monroe	3,518.40
135	Lackawanna	3,430.54
141	Carbon	17,047.91
149	Luzerne	1,989.69
168	Northampton/Carbon/Monroe	5,802.85
205	Lehigh	1,302.80
217	Lehigh/Carbon/Schuylkill	7,122.30
257	Schuylkill	3,448.47
312	Lackawanna/Monroe/Wayne	3,912.12

Susquehanna Railroad, the Lehigh Navigation, and the Delaware Canal. The Corridor highlights the extraordinary natural, cultural, and recreational resources and works in partnership to conserve the heritage and enhance the quality of life for its many residents. Visitor centers are available throughout the region to direct visitors to many opportunities that tell the stories that make the region so nationally significant.

Lehigh Gorge State Park and Hickory Run State Park are featured in a unique "Auto Tour" entitled "Exploring Audubon's Lehigh." The tour focuses on famed naturalist John James Audubon's 1829 visit to the Rockport area of the Lehigh River Valley and looks at the valley's natural and historical landscapes. Brochures and cassette tapes are available at several locations along the 53-mile route. Signs mark the route and identify tour stops. The tour begins at Jim Thorpe at the Old Mauch Chunk Landing or at White Haven at the Lehigh Canal Depot.

6. TRAILS IN THE LEHIGH RIVER WATERSHED

Trails provide places for cyclists, hikers, walkers, runners, inline skaters, cross-country skiers, and physically challenged individuals to exercise. Trails not only serve as independent community amenities, they also enhance existing recreational resources by linking neighborhoods and schools to parks, waterfronts, recreational centers, and other facilities. Trail users also experience and are educated about the many natural and cultural wonders of the region's urban, suburban, and rural environments. Additionally, trails can greatly help to improve public health.

Trails create healthy recreation and transportation opportunities by providing people of all ages with attractive, safe, accessible places to cycle, walk, hike, jog, or skate. Trails help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them with places they want or need to go.

In a recent report on physical activity and health, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) concluded: "approximately 300,000 U.S. deaths a year are associated with obesity and overweight (compared with 400,000 deaths a year associated with cigarette smoking)."

Environmentally, trails can support the health of watersheds in various and numerous ways. Foremost, the health of the watershed will be enhanced by preserving trails and greenways, and thus avoiding developing these areas. This allows intact natural systems to act as erosion controls, flood controls and pollution filters, as well as important sources of food and habitat for wildlife. These natural systems, enhanced by trails constructed of permeable materials, slow down rainfall and storm water runoff to allow for ground infiltration and ground water recharge. Greenways along trails can reduce public expenditures by lowering flood and other natural hazard costs. Additionally, trails and greenways improve air quality by protecting the plants that naturally create oxygen and filter out air pollutants such as ozone, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and airborne particles of heavy metals, and by providing enjoyable and safe options for transportation, which reduces air pollution.

The scenic trails located in the Lehigh River watershed are shown in Map 6-2. Many trails are still waiting to be established.

a. Appalachian National Scenic Trail

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is a 2,167-mile (3,488 km) footpath along the ridge crests and across the major valleys of the Appalachian Mountains from Katahdin in Maine to Springer



When there is an abundance of ground and surface water, waterfalls can be found throughout the Lehigh Gorge.

Mountain in north Georgia. The trail traverses Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Georgia. Day, weekend and other short-term hikers, section hikers and thru-hikers use the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). Thru-hikers hike the entire length of the Trail in one season. (United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service web site. 2003).

The A.T. began as a vision of forester Benton MacKaye, and was developed by volunteers and opened as a continuous trail in 1937. The National Trails System Act of 1968 designated it as the first National

Scenic Trail. The trail is currently protected along more than 99 % of its course by federal or state ownership of the land or by rights-of-way. Annually, more than 4,000 volunteers contribute over 175,000 hours of effort on the Appalachian Trail. (United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service web site 2003.)

As shown in Map 6-2, approximately 32 miles of the 229.4 total miles of the Appalachian Trail crossing through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania cross through the Lehigh River watershed. The Lehigh River watershed segment of the Appalachian Trail is located on the ridge top of Blue Mountain, crossing through Schuylkill, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Monroe County boundaries. Elevations within this segment of the trail range from approximately 400 to 1,600 feet.

There are opportunities for the public to enjoy several short "day hikes" through scenic portions of the Appalachian Trail that cross through the Lehigh River watershed. Brief descriptions of these trail segments are provided below.

HAWK MOUNTAIN TO PA. RT. 309

This moderately difficult segment of the trail is approximately 13.3 miles in length. Hike duration is approximately seven and one-half hours. An overnight backpacking hike is optional. Camping shelters are provided at Eckville and Allentown. Natural History features include Hawk Mountain and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Social History features include Dan's Pulpit and Tri-County Corner. (Glenn Scherer and Don Hopey, 1998).

THE CLIFFS AND BEAR'S ROCKS

This moderately difficult segment of the trail is approximately 4.9 miles in length. Hike duration is approximately three hours. Camping shelters are provided at New Tripoli. Natural History features include The Cliffs and Bear's Rocks. (Glenn Scherer and Don Hopey, 1998).

BAKE OVEN KNOB TO LEHIGH GAP

This moderately difficult segment of the trail is approximately 9.5 miles in length. Hike duration is approximately five hours. Natural History features include Bake Oven Knob.

Social History features include Lehigh Furnace and Lehigh Gap Superfund Site. (Glenn Scherer and Don Hopey, 1998).

Detailed maps of these and all segments of the Appalachian Trail can be obtained by contacting the Appalachian Trail Conference. The Appalachian Trail Conference is a volunteer-based organization dedicated to the preservation and management of the natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources associated with the Appalachian Trail, in order to provide primitive outdoor-recreation and educational opportunities for trail visitors. (Appalachian Trail Conference web site 2003)



The world-famous, 2,160-mile Appalachian Trail slices through the eastern portion of the state on the Blue Mountain from the Delaware Water Gap to the Maryland line, and provides access to some of the commonwealth's most beautiful vistas.

b. Rail-Trails

Abandoned railroad corridors give people the opportunity to enjoy such things as hiking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, and snowmobiling. Over the past few years interest in improving these abandoned railroad corridors has grown. In 1990, the Pennsylvania Rails-to-Trails Program was established in order to protect and preserve these abandoned railways for public recreational use. This program converts abandoned railroad corridors into hiking, biking, and jogging trails. The Rails-to-Trails program has already converted many miles of abandoned railroad corridors into public trails.

There are several existing Rail-Trails within the Lehigh River watershed. Additional Rail-trails are currently under construction or have recently been proposed. Brief descriptions of these trails are provided below:

LEHIGH GORGE STATE PARK RAIL-TRAIL (26 MILES)

This beautiful nature trail includes small waterfalls, dense hemlock stands, and continuous views of the Lehigh River. The main path is 21 miles and extends to 26 miles when the extensions above White Haven and below Glen Onoko are included. Trail endpoints are Jim Thorpe and White Haven.

THE SWITCHBACK RAILROAD RAIL-TRAIL (16 MILES)

The world's first Gravity Railroad is now a mountain bike trail. The path is approximately 18 miles in length when both the upper and lower tracks are combined. This is a very interesting trail, with a unique history and wonderful scenery. There are two trails, the upper and lower trails. Endpoints of the trail are Jim Thorpe and Summit Hill.

IRONTON RAIL-TRAIL (9 MILE LOOP)

This trail begins in North Whitehall Township, and within one and one-half miles the trail branches off into a northern and a southern loop within the Whitehall Parkway. The Parkway includes ten historic sites including the remains of the limestone and cement

Converting an abandoned rail corridor into a trail is not always an easy task, but it is one whose rewards to your community and region will continue far into the future.

*—Peter Harnick,
Converting Rails to
Trails, 1989*



Among a growing number of rail-trail conversions in the country, the Ironton Rail-Trail is popular, accessible, and well-maintained.

Rail-trails are a perfect means of telling community stories. Their long and colorful history make perfect greenways. They combine that history with a respect for the environment, and recreation, and allow us to live life on a human scale, maintaining contact with each other and with nature.

—David Burwell, President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 1998

industry that first brought wealth to the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas. The path winds past quarry and kiln ruins.

THE CANAL TRAIL (9 MILES)

The Canal Trail is part of the huge network of trails called the Delaware and Lehigh Canal Heritage Trail. This trail will encompass 165 miles when completed. With the Lehigh River on the south side and the canal on the north side there is much variety and scenery on this winding trail. Pick up the trail in Canal Park off the Hamilton Street Bridge in Allentown.

NOR-BATH TRAIL (5.2 MILES)

This trail is located in an entirely rural setting with farm fields, woods, and wild apple trees. It is a newly constructed trail with a wide berth and an extremely

smooth surface. There are a few historical markers showing the area of the walking purchase, one of the earliest Scotch-Irish settlements, and the Indian defense called Fort Franklin. The trails endpoints are Weaversville and Jacksonville. For 77 years, the Northampton Bath Railroad traveled the seven miles between the two towns sending out cement and bringing in limestone, gypsum, and coal to the area. There are currently plans to extend the trail into both the Boroughs of Northampton and Bath.

TOWPATH BIKE TRAIL (5 MILES)

This trail begins at South 25th Street in Palmer Township, runs north to William Penn Highway, West to Bethlehem, and back down to Palmer Township. The trail follows the Eastern Northern Rail Bed. The trail surface is paved. Three additional miles of trail are currently being planned. This trail is open for public use.

BUCKWA CREEK TRAIL (2.5 MILES UNDER CONSTRUCTION)

The trail is located in Carbon and Monroe Counties. All non-motorized uses will be permitted. The trail surface will be crushed limestone.

NORTHERN LEHIGH SLATE TRAIL (3.3 MILES PROPOSED)

Slatington and Washington Townships have pursued the acquisition and planning of the Northern Lehigh Slate Trail along the former Lehigh Valley Railroad right-of-way from the site of the old train depot in lower Slatington (adjacent to the Lehigh River) to the Slatedale Fire Company's ball fields. This proposed trail will offer opportunities to hike, walk, jog, bicycle, fish, ride horse-back, bird watch and explore the slate history along the scenic Trout Creek.

A map depicting the spatial distribution of existing rail-trails within the Lehigh River watershed can be found in Map 6-2. Detailed and continually updated information regarding the status of existing, currently under construction, and proposed rail-trails projects can be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

In addition to the above-mentioned rail-trails, several abandoned railroad lines exist in the watershed. These abandoned rail lines, shown in Map 6 – 2, provide great opportunities for potential recreational corridors.

c. Lehigh River Water Trail

“Water trails are boat routes suitable for canoes, kayaks and small, motorized watercraft. Like conventional trails, water trails are recreational corridors between specific locations. Water trails are comprised of access points, boat launches, day-use sites, and in some cases, overnight camping areas. Each water trail is unique, a reflection of Pennsylvania's diverse geology, ecology and communities. Water trail guides show "trail heads" (boat launch and take-out points) and provide background about the scenic, historic and geologic points of interest along the way.” (Pa Fish & Boat Commission Pennsylvania Water Trail's web site 2003) The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is the agency responsible for designating Official Pennsylvania Water Trails. However, individual trails and trail corridors are conceived and maintained by a network of volunteers, property owners, civic groups, and associations.

Wildlands Conservancy has worked with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to develop an Official Pennsylvania Water Trail for a 75-mile portion of the Lehigh River from Francis E. Walter Reservoir to Easton (see Map 6-3). The web-based version of the Lehigh River Water Trail can be accessed at www.wildlandspa.org. Water trail maps and continually updated information regarding the status of existing and proposed Water trail projects can be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

d. Other Trails

There are several additional recreational trails found within the Lehigh River watershed, in addition to those previously discussed. These trails are located within several of the county, neighborhood and community parks/centers and open spaces within the Lehigh River watershed. Information regarding these recreation opportunities is located in Appendix C-3.

7. OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WATERSHED

a. Fishing

The Lehigh River and its tributaries offer year-round opportunities for public fishing for several species of warm-water, cool-water and cold-water fish. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is the primary state agency responsible for managing fisheries and for developing and enforcing fishing and boating regulations within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The agency's goals are to protect, conserve and enhance aquatic resources, provide for the protection of aquatic resource users, address the expectations of anglers and boaters, and advocate the wise, safe use of Pennsylvania's aquatic resources. Popular game fish found within the Lehigh River watershed are listed in Table 6 – 3.



People come from other states to join locals who fish the Lehigh and its tributaries for prize-winning wild trout.

American shad, brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout are among the most popular game fish species sought by anglers within the Lehigh River watershed. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission have documented portions of the Lehigh River and several of its tributaries to contain naturally reproducing populations of trout.

TABLE 6-3. POPULAR GAME FISH WITHIN THE LEHIGH RIVER WATERSHED

Scientific or Latin Name	Common Name
<i>Alosa sapidissima</i>	American shad
<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	channel catfish
<i>Esox masquinongy</i>	muskellunge
<i>Esox niger</i>	chain pickerel
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	rainbow trout
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	brown trout
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	brook trout
<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	smallmouth bass
<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	largemouth bass
<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	black crappie
<i>Stizostedion vitreum vitreum</i>	walleye

“Class A” wild trout populations represent the most productive of Pennsylvania’s naturally reproducing trout fisheries. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s policy is to manage self-sustaining “Class A” wild trout populations as a renewable natural resource, in order to conserve that resource and the angling opportunities that it provides. Criteria developed for “Class A” wild trout fisheries are species specific. The commission manages these stream segments solely for the perpetuation of a wild trout fishery with no stocking.

Table 6-4 includes a listing of stream segments within the Lehigh River watershed that have been classified by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as “Class A” Wild Trout Waters. More detailed information regarding specific limits and ownership status of “Class A” Wild Trout Waters is located within Appendix C-4. Continually updated information regarding “Class A” Wild Trout Waters can be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

TABLE 6-4. “CLASS A” WILD TROUT WATERS WITHIN THE LEHIGH RIVER WATERSHED
Source: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission 2003 List of Class A Wild Trout Waters

County	Stream Name	Designation	Section Length (miles)	Nearest Town
Carbon	Aquashicola Creek	Mixed Wild Brook/ Brown Trout	2.4	Wind Gap
Carbon	Little Bear Creek	Wild Brook Trout	1.9	Jim Thorpe
Carbon	Black Creek	Wild Brown Trout	3	White Haven
Carbon	Hickory Run	Wild Brown Trout	1.6	White Haven
Lackawanna	Ash Creek	Wild Brook Trout	1.9	Clifton
Lehigh	Cedar Creek	Wild Brown Trout	1.1	Emmaus
Lehigh	Little Lehigh Creek	Wild Brown Trout	1.6	Breinigsville
Lehigh	Trout Creek	Wild Brown Trout	1.6	Allentown
Monroe	Pohopoco Creek	Wild Brown Trout	8	Brodheads ville
Monroe	Singer Run	Wild Brook Trout	1	Tobyhanna
Northampton	Monocacy Creek	Wild Brown Trout	1.9	Bethlehem
Northampton	Monocacy Creek	Wild Brown Trout	1.9	Bethlehem
Northampton	Nancy Run	Wild Brown Trout	1.6	Freemansburg
Northampton	Saucon Creek	Wild Brown Trout	2.1	Hellertown
Total number of miles of "Class-A" Wild Trout Waters:			31.6	

Certain waters that do not meet the species specific “Class A” wild trout fisheries criteria have been classified by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission as “Approved Trout Waters.” These waters meet specific water quality and habitat related criteria to be stocked with trout so that they may support a “put-and-take” fishery, in order to provide public fishing opportunities.

Table 6 – 5 provides a listing of Approved Trout Waters within the Lehigh River watershed. Additional

TABLE 6-5. APPROVED TROUT WATERS WITHIN THE LEHIGH RIVER WATERSHED**Source: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission 2003 Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws and Personal Communication, 2003.**

County	Stream	County	Stream
Berks/Lehigh	Little Lehigh Creek	Lehigh	Big Trout Creek
Carbon	Aquashicola Creek	Lehigh	Cedar Creek
Carbon	Buckwa Creek	Lehigh	Coplay Creek
Carbon	Drakes Creek	Lehigh	Jordan Creek
Carbon	Francis E. Walter Reservoir	Lehigh	Saucon Creek-South Branch
Carbon	Hickory Run	Lehigh	Swabia Creek
Carbon/Northampton	Lehigh Canal	Lehigh	Switzer Creek
Carbon/Lackawanna/Monroe	Lehigh River	Luzerne	Wrights Creek
Carbon/Schuylkill	Lizard Creek	Monroe	Tobyhanna Creek
Carbon/Schuylkill	Mahoning Creek	Monroe	Tobyhanna Lake
Carbon	Mauch Chunk Creek	Northampton	Hokendauqua Creek
Carbon	Mud Run	Northampton	Monocacy Creek
Carbon/Monroe	Pohopoco Creek	Northampton	Saucon Creek
Carbon	Sand Spring Run		

up-to-date information concerning Approved Trout Waters can be obtained within the Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws, which is published annually and updated regularly by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, or by contacting that agency.

In addition to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, sever-

al private stocking associations such as Lehigh River Stocking Association (LRSA) and Northampton-Lehigh-Carbon Outdoor Sportsmen Association (NLC) stock tens of thousands of trout into the river each year to help maintain a thriving sport fishing recreational outlet on the Lehigh River.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has developed a series of Special Regulation Areas, which are designed to allow that agency to achieve its fisheries management objectives and to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources. Table 6-6 includes a listing of Special Regulation Areas within the Lehigh River Watershed. More detailed information regarding specific Special Regulation Area boundaries is located within Appendix C-5. A description of Special Regulations and additional up-to-date information about Special Regulation Areas can be obtained within the Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws or by contacting the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

TABLE 6-6. SPECIAL REGULATION AREAS WITHIN THE LEHIGH RIVER WATERSHED
Source: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission 2003 Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws.

County	Stream Name	Special Regulation Category	Special Regulation Area Length (miles)
Carbon	Hickory Run	Catch and Release	2.88
Carbon	Mud Run	Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only	2.5
Lehigh	Little Lehigh Creek	Heritage Trout Angling	1.0
Lehigh	Little Lehigh Creek	Delayed Harvest Fly Fishing Only	1.8
Monroe	Tobyhanna Creek	Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only	1.0
Northampton	Monocacy Creek	Trophy Trout	1.9
Northampton	Saucon Creek	Selective Harvest	2.1
Total number of miles of Special Regulation Waters:			13.18

TABLE 6-7. FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES WITHIN THE LEHIGH RIVER WATERSHED
Source: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission 2003 Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws.

County	Waterway	Area Under Advisory	Contaminant
Carbon	Beltzville Lake	Entire Lake	Mercury
Carbon, Monroe	Tobyhanna Creek	Pocono Lake Dam to mouth	Mercury
Northampton	Lehigh River	Conf. of Saucon Creek to mouth	Mercury

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has established Fish Consumption Advisories that are designed to provide guidance to individuals or segments of the population at risk

from exposure to contaminants in fish. Advisories are not regulatory standards, but are recommendations intended to provide information of particular interest to high-risk groups such as pregnant women and young children.

Listed in Table 6-7 are the Fish Consumption Advisories within the Lehigh River watershed. More detailed information regarding specific species and suggested meal frequencies is located within Appendix C-6. Additional up-to-date information regarding Fish Consumption Advisories can be obtained within the Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws or by contacting the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

b. Skiing

Downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowboarding are among popular forms of winter outdoor recreation available in the Lehigh River watershed. Ski recreation areas provide opportunities for the public to pursue these and other forms of winter outdoor recreation including, but not limited to, snow mobiling, snow tubing, and snow shoeing.

Four ski areas are located within the watershed. These areas include Jack Frost and Big Boulder Ski Areas in Blakeslee, Blue Mountain Ski Area in Palmerton, and Bear Creek Ski and Recreation Area in Macungie. These ski areas provide a total of approximately 341 acres of terrain for novice, intermediate and expert skiers, and snowboarders of all ages. The vertical drops (differences in summit elevations and base elevations) of these ski areas range from 475 to 1,065 feet. Each ski area is equipped with 100% snowmaking capabilities, and several of the ski areas provide lighted trails over 100% of their terrain for night skiing and snowboarding. Detailed maps of individual ski recreation areas and additional continually updated information regarding ski and snowboarding programs and packages, season specials, ski area services, accommodations, hours of operation, and other information can be obtained by contacting the individual ski areas. (Jack Frost Ski Area Web site. 2003, Big Boulder Ski Area Web site. 2003, Blue Mountain Ski Area Web site. 2003, Bear Creek Ski & Recreation Area Web site. 2003).

c. Non-motorized boating

The Lehigh River watershed provides an array of recreational opportunities for the non-motorized boater. The Lehigh River, especially, is a popular destination for non-motorized boaters interested in pursuing whitewater rafting, kayaking, and canoeing.

The section of the Lehigh River between Francis E. Walter Dam near White Haven and the mouth in Easton is a popular section of the river that is enjoyed by various types of non-motorized boaters with varying levels of experience. This section of the Lehigh River is approximately 75 miles in length and ranges from Class I (easy) waters with small riffles and

waves and courses that are easy to find, to Class III (difficult) waters that include high irregular waves, courses that are not easy to recognize, and waters that may require complex maneuvering.

Six whitewater outfitters are located in the watershed. These outfitters include Lehigh Rafting Rentals in White Haven, Lehigh Gorge Outfitters in White Haven, Whitewater Challengers in White Haven, Whitewater Rafting Adventures in Nesquehoning, Jim Thorpe River Adventures in Jim Thorpe and Pocono Whitewater Adventures in Jim Thorpe. Continually updated information regarding rafting, kayaking, and canoeing trips, rentals and instruction, whitewater conditions and other information can be obtained by contacting the individual outfitters.



The Lehigh River's changeable character provides thrills, as well as tranquility. Some of the best white-water rafting in the East can be found on the upper Lehigh River.

In addition, several local companies provide guided fishing trips on the Lehigh River using drift boats. This is a relatively new recreational activity on the Lehigh River. The increase in the guiding fishing opportunities on the Lehigh River speaks to the return of the river as a recreational resource and to the efforts of groups who stock trout in the river. Information regarding guided fishing trips can be obtained at the Lehigh River Stocking Associations web site at LRSA.org.

d. Bicycling

The Lehigh River watershed offers opportunities for the different types of bicycling be it touring, cross country, road, mountain, freeride, marathon, tandem, etc. Additionally, the Velodrome in Trexlertown, Lehigh County, annually attracts thousands of cycling enthusiasts.

There are six major bike routes for touring cyclists. Called BicyclePA routes, they were designed by experienced bicyclists to provide bicycling members of the traveling public who wish to traverse the state with a guide to some of the Commonwealth's highways and rail-trails. Few of these routes contain bike lanes or other facilities designed specifically for bicyclists traveling within the four corners of the Commonwealth.

Every bicyclist is responsible for his or her personal safety, and for remaining alert and mindful of conditions on the roads or trails. BicyclePA users are expected to be licensed drivers or persons at least sixteen years of age who have several years of road bicycling experience.

To tour the heart of the Lehigh River watershed, cyclist can use Route L. This route extends 225 miles from Susquehanna County in the north (just south of Binghamton, NY) to Chester County in the south (just north of Wilmington, DE), and basically parallels Rt. 476. It manages to pass close to the major metropolitan areas of Scranton, Allentown, and Philadelphia, while retaining all of the rural charm that characterizes Pennsylvania. (www.bikepa.com/).

A velodrome is a bicycle-racing track where the fastest events in cycling are held. The tracks are oval shaped with banked turns that allow spectators an incredible view of the speed and color

of the sport. Races on a velodrome require special bikes that are single speed, direct drive, and have no brakes. The bicycles are strong and built for speed. At one point velodrome racing was one of the most popular sports in the U.S. Top professional cyclists at the turn of the century were better paid than the professional baseball players of the day. Today there are 20 permanent velodromes located around the United States.

The Lehigh Valley Velodrome is the premier bicycle-racing track in North America. Located at 1151 Mosser Road, Trexlertown, Pennsylvania, it is a 333.3 meter concrete oval with 28 degree banked turns. It has complete facilities for athletes and spectators. Originally built in 1975, "T-town" as it's known, underwent major improvements and additions in preparation for the 1996 U.S. Olympic Trials-Cycling. In addition to the trials, the Lehigh Valley Velodrome has been host to numerous national championships, world cup events, and world championship events. (Lehigh Valley Velodrome web site, 2004).

Mountain bike trails and facilities are also readily available in the Lehigh River watershed. For example, the existing mountain bike trails near Jim Thorpe, Carbon County Pocono Mountains are outlined in Table 6-8.

e. Off-Road Recreational Vehicles

Pennsylvania has a beautiful and challenging landscape for snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riding. Many trails have been established on public and private lands to accommodate these recreation pursuits. The Pa. DCNR web site contains valuable information on off-road recreational vehicles and should be consulted for detailed information about where to ride, registration, and other rules and regulations.

Every effort should be made to minimize the impact of snowmobiles and ATVs on designated trails and the surrounding environment.

TABLE 6-8. MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS NEAR JIM THORPE, CARBON COUNTY
Source: <http://www.mountainbikepa.com/jimthorpe/#trails>

Name of Trail	Length	Level of Ability
Switchback Trail	11-18 miles	Beginner to Intermediate
The Lehigh Canal	8-13 miles	Beginner
Flagstaff Mountain		Energetic Beginner
Mount Pisgah		Intermediate
Mauch Chunk Ridge		Advanced Singletrack
Twin Peaks		Advanced
Lehigh Gorge Rail Trail	21-26 miles	Beginner to Advanced
The Coal Cracker		Beginner to Intermediate
The Uranium Road		Advanced Singletrack
The Broad Mountain Loop		Intermediate
The Deer Path		Advanced Singletrack
Buzzard's Point		Energetic Beginner
Weiser State Forest		Intermediate
Drake's Creek		Advanced

B. Cultural Recreation

The Lehigh River watershed offers more than just outdoor recreation. Between its rich history and its proximity to the major metropolitan centers of Philadelphia and New York, the watershed offers a vast array of cultural opportunities as well.

1. HISTORIC CITY TOURS

a. Jim Thorpe

NEW JERSEY CENTRAL RAILROAD STATION

This was once a former major rail station used by many people. Now the rail station has been converted into a tourist-welcoming center, where you can find information on everything to do with Jim Thorpe. Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau operates the facility.

LEHIGH COAL AND NAVIGATION COMPANY

You can visit the building that held the famous Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. This company built and ran the Lehigh Canal, mined the coal in Jim Thorpe and was the main reason Jim Thorpe was turned into a thriving town.

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The people of Jim Thorpe built this beautiful church in 1869. It is the oldest church in Jim Thorpe and is listed as one of the state's more unique buildings in Harold Dickson's A Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings.

OPERA HOUSE

The town opera house called the Capitol Theatre was built in 1882. It was used as an opera house, borough hall, and market place. Today it is owned by the Mauch Chunk Historical Society and is used to host events such as concerts, art shows, and children's theater.

ASA PACKER MANSION

Probably one of the more famous landmarks located in Jim Thorpe, this mansion was the home to Asa Packer. Asa Packer was one of the most influential people in the area and he founded Lehigh University. Touring the mansion one can see a chair belonging to Robert E. Lee, a solid ebony Steinway piano, and a center table given by the Queen of England.

HARRY PACKER MANSION

Harry Packer was the eldest son of Asa Packer. Asa gave his son this mansion as a wedding gift. It is now open to the public as a bed and breakfast.

CARBON COUNTY JAIL

Built in 1869, this jail was the sight of many public hangings. One of the more famous ones was the hanging of the Molly Maguires, forerunners of the present day labor unions, who used murder as their means to right wrongs done to coal workers. The last man hung, Tom Fisher, claimed his innocence, and left his handprint on the wall of his cell. Legend claims his handprint can still be seen today.

MAUCH CHUNK LAKE PARK

This is a park, located in Jim Thorpe, which offers swimming, boating, camping, fishing, and hiking.

LEHIGH GORGE STATE PARK

This is a state park, located in Jim Thorpe, which offers many hiking trails, biking trails, and offers many whitewater-rafting trips down the Lehigh.

GLEN ONOKO

This is a famous and beautiful waterfall found on the west side of Jim Thorpe, in Lehigh Gorge State Park.

b. Allentown

OLD COURT HOUSE COUNTY MUSEUM

Located at the corner of Fifth and Hamilton Streets, this museum exhibit provides background to the history of Lehigh County.

ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY HALL

Located on Sixth Street, this is the home of the famous Allentown Symphony Orchestra.

CENTER SQUARE

Located at Seventh and Hamilton Streets the square contains many stores and shops. It also has the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, which stands 99 feet high and recognizes the Lehigh Valley's largest Civil War Unit.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PLAQUE

Located on North Eighth Street, this large plaque marks the site of a hospital used for wounded Revolutionary War soldiers.

OLD ALLENTOWN CEMETERY

Located on Linden Street, one can visit one of the oldest cemeteries, built in 1846, in Allentown.

c. Bethlehem

BRETHREN'S HOUSE

Located on Main Street, this house is now a part of Moravian College's South Campus. It was first used as a Continental Hospital in the Revolutionary War. George Washington himself once toured this house. The house is now open to the public.

GEMEIN HAUS

This building located in Bethlehem was declared a National Historic Landmark. It is a five story log building, which is now the oldest building located in Bethlehem. The house is open to the public.

d. Easton**STATE THEATER**

Located in downtown Easton, the historical State Theater is a place where many different events take place ranging from concerts to ballet programs.

CENTER SQUARE

Located in the middle of Easton, its center square held many historical events. One of three public readings of the Declaration of Independence happened here on July 5, 1776. The square also holds many shops and restaurants.

D&L LANDING AND NATIONAL CANAL MUSEUM

Easton's downtown is host to the distinguished Two Rivers Landing and home of the National Canal Museum.

2. VINEYARDS

There are eight award-winning vineyards and wineries in the Lehigh River watershed (Map 6-2). Fertile farmland and shale and limestone geology, rolling hills and valleys, along with a moderate climate, provide an excellent growing environment for vineyards. The Lehigh Valley Wine Trail is a non-profit organization formed by the wineries to promote regional tourism and agriculture.

BIG CREEK VINEYARD

Keller Road, R 5 Box 5270
Kresgeville, Pennsylvania 18333
610-681-3959

BLUE MOUNTAIN VINEYARDS

7627 Grape Vine Drive, PO Box 492
New Tripoli, Pennsylvania 18066
610-298-3068

CLOVER HILL VINEYARD AND WINERY

9580 Newton Road
Breinigsville, Pennsylvania 18031
610-395-2468

GALEN GLEN VINEYARD AND WINERY

Winter Mountain Drive, R1, Box 82-1
Andreas, Pennsylvania 18211
570-386-3682

VYNECREST VINEYARDS AND WINERY

172 Arrowhead Lane
Breinigsville, Pennsylvania 18031
610-398-7525

3. GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

The arts community of the Lehigh River watershed encompasses a wide variety of music and theater, film and dance, visual arts, festivals and museums. Dozens of organizations offer performances, exhibits, and events throughout the region. Some of these organizations are described here.

LEHIGH VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL

1633 Allen Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102
610-437-5915

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is a non-profit organization that serves as a regional advocate and ambassador for the Lehigh Valley arts community. Their mission is to promote the arts; to encourage and support artists and their development; to assist arts organizations; and to facilitate communication and cooperation among artists, arts groups and the community. The Council's services include informational publications, professional development, workshops, artist residencies and arts-in-education programming, and cooperative regional marketing initiatives.

BANANA FACTORY

25 W. Third Street
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015
610-332-1300

The Banana Factory, located in the heart of Bethlehem's revitalized South Side, is a gateway to the visual arts. The non-profit arts center, which opened in 1998, is home to two stunning galleries, 24 artists' studios, a quaint Gallery Shoppe, and art classes and programs for children and adults throughout the year.

THE DISCOVERY CENTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

511 East Third Street
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015
610-865-5010

The Discovery Center of Science and Technology offers programs that promote hands-on, inquiry-based learning while helping students meet new state science standards. Discovery Center science education professionals train teachers and conduct laboratory programs in area schools-bringing specialized expertise and equipment into classrooms. At the center, students explore over 100 interactive exhibits demonstrating real world applications of science and technology.

MUSEUM OF INDIAN CULTURE

Fish Hatchery Road
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18103
610-797-2121

Native American culture and history are displayed in an eighteenth-century farmhouse. The museum holds many exhibits of Native American crafts and holds seasonal outdoor Native American ceremonies.

ALLENTOWN ART MUSEUM

Fifth and Court Streets
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18105

610-432-4333

The museum contains a large collection of European paintings and sculpture from the collection of Samuel Kress, Pennsylvania-born dime-store entrepreneur. The museum has changing exhibits, concerts, films, lectures, and demonstrations.

LEHIGH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**Old Courthouse**

Hamilton and Fifth Streets
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101

610-435-4664

A showcase of the history of Lehigh County, and particularly its industrial heritage, the courthouse also hosts special exhibits on geology, Lenape Indians, immigration, and urban growth.

HISTORIC BETHLEHEM INC.

459 Old York Road
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

610-691-5300

The Historic Bethlehem Partnership operates the unique properties of the Burnside Plantation, the Colonial Industrial Quarter, 1810 Goundie House, HistoryWorks!, the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, and the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem to interpret the cultural, religious, and industrial heritage of Bethlehem through quality programs and activities that reflect the community's diversity. A collection of restored industrial structures including the 1762 Waterworks, the 1761 Tannery, and the 1869 Luckenbach Mill where traditional Moravian crafts are on display. Important buildings and sites, irreplaceable artifacts, and written documents are preserved and maintained to help explain the changes that occurred in Bethlehem's first 250 years.

ANNIE S. KEMERER MUSEUM

427 North New Street
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

610-868-6868

Decorative arts of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries in a fashionable townhouse. Other displays are oriental rugs, landscape paintings, Bohemian and other glass, silver, ceramics, and tall case clocks.

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY ART GALLERIES**Ralph Wilson Gallery at Alumni Memorial Building****DuBois Gallery at Maginnes Hall**

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015

610-758-3615

The gallery houses a broad collection of the arts of the world, has regularly changing exhibits, and contains numerous sculpture gardens.

CANAL MUSEUM AND HUGH MOORE PARK

200 S. Delaware Drive
Easton, Pennsylvania 18044

610-250-6700

The museum features the history and artifacts of the canal era. The park offers a seasonal canal boat ride, going through a lock near the site of the Glendon Iron Works. Hugh Moore was the founder of the Dixie Cup Company in Easton.

THE BAUM SCHOOL OF ART

510 Linden Street
P.O. Box 653
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18105

610-433-0032

The Baum School of Art is a non-profit community art school located in center city Allentown. It has enriched the lives of thousands of adults and children throughout the Lehigh Valley for the past 76 years. The school contains nine classrooms, a black and white photography darkroom, computer lab, metalsmithing studio, ceramics studio, gallery, and the Charles C. Dent Sculpture Garden.

4. THEATERS AND PERFORMING ARTS

The performing arts community in the region draws from its proximity to Philadelphia and New York and is enhanced by its concentration of colleges and universities, all of which offer excellent artistic galleries, performances, and education.

ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

420 East Packer Avenue
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015

Phone: 610-758-2787

Voted Best Performing Arts Center in the Lehigh Valley, Zoellner Arts Center at Lehigh University presents vibrant opera, musical theater, dance, jazz, orchestral and choral music, drama and art exhibitions to capture everyone's imagination.

STATE THEATER

453 Northampton Street
Easton, Pennsylvania 18040

610-252-3132

This Beaux-Arts theatre, a former vaudeville palace built in 1926, was designed by Philadelphia architect William H. Lee. The State Theatre is a 501(c) (3) non-profit center for the arts and hosts both local and international talents in the performing arts.

PENNSYLVANIA PLAYHOUSE

Illicks Mill Road
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18002-0122

610-865-6665

The Pennsylvania Playhouse is a non-profit organization where patrons can enjoy the atmosphere of an intimate theater. No seat is more than nine rows from the stage and one can see enthusiastic performances by volunteers who enjoy the thrill of creating an excellent show.

TOUCHSTONE THEATER

321 E. Fourth Street
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18015
610-867-1689

Touchstone is a nationally recognized homegrown Lehigh Valley tradition: a professional ensemble theatre creating original work, presenting outstanding artists and companies from around the world working with schools and community groups in innovative partnerships

CIVIC THEATRE OF ALLENTOWN

527 N. Nineteenth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104
610- 433-8903

Civic Theatre of Allentown is the Lehigh Valley's oldest community theatre. Residing in Allentown's historic 19th Street Theatre, a 1928 art deco vaudeville house, Civic presents five professionally directed stage productions each year. Between plays, Civic hosts the 19th Street Film Series, the Lehigh Valley's exclusive source for independent and international films.

REPERTORY DANCE THEATRE

1402 Linden Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102
610-433-680

Since its inception in 1987, Repertory Dance Theater has brought superb dance performances to the Lehigh Valley, and high quality professional training to young people interested in dance. Its focus is the youth of the Lehigh Valley. One of the company's purposes is to prepare gifted and dedicated young dancers for entry into the ranks of professional dance. Another goal is to expose area youth to dance to encourage their interest.

THE BALLET GUILD OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY / PENNSYLVANIA YOUTH BALLET

556 Main Street
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018
610-865-0353

The Ballet Guild of the Lehigh Valley / Pennsylvania Youth Ballet is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering the art of theatre dance, primarily classical ballet, through education and performances. The school takes a serious approach to the study of ballet and is directed by internationally known teachers and choreographers. A variety of yearlong outreach and performance activities is highlighted by The Nutcracker each December.

THE PENNSYLVANIA SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival is a professional theatre in residence at DeSales University, and is dedicated to presenting passionate and imaginative productions of Shakespeare and other great writers. The summer season consists of at least two works by Shakespeare, two other works by major playwrights, a production for youth and families in

the mornings, and a free Green Show presented on the lawn in front of the Labuda Center before each evening performance. During the rest of the year, PSF sends its Will Power educational outreach tour across Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware and works with school districts in the Lehigh Valley to enhance their curriculum on language arts, history, and drama.

LEHIGH VALLEY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

P.O. Box 20641
Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania 18002-0641
610-266-8555

The Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra (LVCO) is known for its spirited performances of great music, both from the traditional repertoire as well as works from contemporary composers. Founded in 1979, the orchestra was established as a classical ensemble composed of about 35 professional musicians from the Lehigh Valley, New York and Philadelphia. Educational programs ("Educational Encores") for students and adults also play an important part in the orchestra's activities. To that end, the LVCO performs school concerts in Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and Nazareth and provides "Open Rehearsals," a pre-concert lecture series and Sunday Brunch Lectures.

ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

23 North Sixth Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101
610-432-6715

Founded in 1951, the Allentown Symphony Orchestra remains one of the leading cultural institutions in the Lehigh Valley. The orchestra helps develop the audiences of tomorrow through the Symphony's Youth Concert Series each spring and through a wide variety of outreach programs involving the entire Lehigh Valley community. Overall, the Allentown Symphony's mission is to provide a first class symphony orchestra and hall, quality performing arts and cultural education in partnership with the community. Symphony Hall, once known as the Lyric Theatre, serves as a community asset, presenting concerts by the Allentown Symphony, other community music groups, as well as special events and touring productions. Designed by J.B. McElfatrick, Symphony Hall first opened in 1899 and, over the years, has featured many operas, plays, and music performances.

PENNSYLVANIA SINFONIA ORCHESTRA

1524 West Linden Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18102
610-434-7811

This all-professional ensemble offers an appealing diversity of repertoire, combined with outstanding soloists. Popular year-round programs include the summer Valley Vivaldi Series, an annual all-Mozart concert, and the dynamic Choral Masterpiece Series with the Camerata Singers. Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra, as the preeminent orchestral ensemble in the Lehigh Valley, has set the regional standard since its inception in 1982. Frequently praised for its innovative and interesting programs, the orchestra features many of its own first-chair virtuosos in solo performances as well as guest soloists recognized for their ability to communicate with the audience.

BACH CHOIR OF BETHLEHEM

423 Heckewelder Place
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018

610-866-4382

The Bach Choir of Bethlehem is the oldest Bach choir in America. Founded in 1898, The Bach Choir gave the first complete performances in the United States of The Mass in B Minor and The Christmas Oratorio. The 95 volunteer members sing with the dedication and enthusiasm of The Bach Choir of a century ago, but today's performances, featuring the finely honed vocal ensemble, a fully professional orchestra, and world-renowned soloists, reveal a new level of musicianship and understanding of Bach's choral universe. During the past decade, The Choir has received critical acclaim for performances at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, the Herkulesaal at Munich's Royal Residence, The Kennedy Center in Washington, and Carnegie Hall in New York, as well as for its recordings on the Dorian label. The choir has presented its outstanding "Bach to School" program to nearly 50,000 children. Other educational programs include the annual Family Concert, a Choral Scholars program for gifted high-school seniors who sing with The Choir for one year, and a Philadelphia High School Bach Weekend.

5. SPECIAL EVENTS

There is always something to do in the Lehigh River watershed. There are events on nearly every weekend all year round. The varying array of things to do will keep any visiting person busy during their stay. Some of the traditional events that take place every year in the watershed are listed in Table 6-9.

C. Review of Lehigh River Watershed Recreational Components

There are a total of five state parks located within the Lehigh River watershed, occupying a land area of approximately 45 square miles. Lehigh Gorge State Park is in the Audubon's Lehigh Reach of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor. The Corridor stretches more than 150 miles from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol, in eastern Pennsylvania, and follows the historic routes of the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad, the Lehigh Navigation, and the Delaware Canal. There are many scenic trails located in the Lehigh River watershed and many trails are still waiting to be established. Abandoned railroad rights-of-way provide opportunities to enjoy recreational pursuits such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, fishing, skiing, and snowmobiling. Interest in obtaining and improving these abandoned railroad rights-of-way has grown over the past few years. In 1990, the Pennsylvania Rails-to-Trails Program was established in order to protect and preserve these abandoned railways for public recreational use. The goal of this program is to convert abandoned railroad right-of-ways into multi or designated use trails. Several ski resorts are located within the Pocono Mountain area within the watershed, which provide opportunities for several forms of summer and winter recreation. Whitewater rafting, kayaking, and canoeing opportunities are all available in the Lehigh River watershed. The Lehigh River contains several whitewater classifications, ranging from Class I whitewater for novice boaters to Class III whitewater for the more advanced boaters. Wildlands Conservancy's Lehigh River Sojourn and Bike and Boat Program are family and group oriented educational adventures

TABLE 6-9. SPECIAL EVENTS WITHIN THE LEHIGH RIVER WATERSHED

Event	Month(s)	Location	City/Town	Phone # for General Info.
Banff Mountain Film Festival	March	Contact Wildlands Conservancy for information.	Contact Wildlands Conservancy for information.	(610) 965-4397
Greater Lehigh Valley Auto Show	March	Stabler Arena & Rauch Field house – Lehigh University	Bethlehem	(610) 758-9691 or (877) 606-8998
The Bach Festival	May	Packer Church, Lehigh University	Bethlehem	(610) 866-4382
Mayfair Festival of the Arts	May	Allentown Parks	Allentown	(610) 437-6900
Schnecksville Community Fair	June		Schnecksville	(610) 767-5026
Lehigh River Sojourn	June	Lehigh River	Stoddartsville to Walnutport	(610) 965-4397
Allentown Sports Fest	July	Allentown Parks	Allentown	(610) 439-8978
Easton Heritage Day	July	Downtown Area	Easton	(610) 250-0745
Blueberry Festival	July	Burnside Plantation	Bethlehem	(610) 882-0450
Drum Corps International Eastern Regional Championships	July	J. Birney Crum Stadium	Allentown	(800) 495-7469
Philadelphia Eagles Summer Training Camp	July-August	Goodman Campus, Lehigh University	Bethlehem	(610) 758-6868
Das Awkscht Fescht	August	Macungie Memorial Park	Macungie	(610) 967-2317
Musikfest	August	Downtown Area	Bethlehem	(610) 861-0678
Glass Visions Stained Glass Expo			Allentown	(610) 264-1100
The Great Allentown Fair	August-September		Allentown	(610) 435-SHOW or (610) 433-7541
Shad Fishing Festival	April-June		Easton	(610) 597-7423
Great Lehigh Valley Soccer Festival	September	Lehigh County Soccer Complex	Allentown	(800) 747-0561
Grim's Fall Festival, Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch	September-October	9941 Schantz Rd.	Breinigsville	(610) 395-5655
Celtic Classic Highland Games and Festival	September-October	Historic Downtown Area	Bethlehem	(610) 868-9599
Leonardo's Imagination			Allentown	(610) 433-9200
HalloWeekends at Dorney Park			Allentown	(610) 395-3724
Lights in the Parkway	December-January	Little Lehigh Parkway	Allentown	(610) 439-5959
The Crayola FACTORY Gingerbread Festival	November-December	30 Center Square	Easton	(610) 515-8000
Christkindlmarkt	November-December	25 West Third Street	Bethlehem	(610) 861-0678
First Night	December-January	Historic Downtown Area	Bethlehem	(610) 332-1050

designed to promote awareness and stewardship of the Lehigh River and its watershed and to promote the use of the river as a valuable recreational and educational resource.

The Lehigh River watershed offers more than just outdoor recreation. The arts community of the Lehigh River watershed is alive and well and encompasses a wide variety of opportunities. Between its rich history and its proximity to the major metropolitan centers of Philadelphia and New York, the watershed offers a vast array of cultural possibilities as well as historic city tours, vineyards, music and theater, film and dance, visual arts, festivals and museums. Dozens of organizations offer performances, exhibits, and events throughout the region.

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