

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 41 Segments for the State of Delaware

Reference Source: <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/nri/> Note: Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) Definitions at List Bottom

For More Information Contact: **Chuck Barszcz**, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance, 200 Chestnut Street, Rm. 260, Philadelphia, PA 19106, (215) 597-6482

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	Description	ORVs	Other States
Brandywine Creek	New Castle	Rockland to Chadds Ford Junction.	6	1982		See Brandywine Creek Comments	R,H,C	PA

Brandywine Creek Comments: **Historic**-(Segment includes a National Historic Register District in Rockland.) **Recreation**-(Unique proximity to urban populations in Wilmington, Newark, and Philadelphia.) **Cultural**-(Creek and area renowned as the stream valley home of artists in the Wyeth family).

Choptank River	Caroline	Greensboro to headwaters of Tidy Island Creek at Marydel	16	1982		See Choptank River comments.	H,O	MD
----------------	----------	--	----	------	--	------------------------------	-----	----

Choptank River Comments: **Botanic**-(76% of the segment is an extensive undeveloped freshwater river swamp in a predominantly agricultural region.) **Archeological**-(Within corridor is the site of a buried forest estimated at 9,000 to 10,000 years of age which is believed to be the earliest appearance of Pleistocene oak forest in this region.) **Historic**-(Willow Grove, in the vicinity of Greensboro is on the National Register of Historic Places.)

Cow Marsh Creek	Kent	Confluence with Choptank River to northeast of Petersburg	4	1982		See Cow Marsh Creek comments.	H,O	MD
-----------------	------	---	---	------	--	-------------------------------	-----	----

Cow Marsh Creek Comments: **Botanic**-(76% of the segment is an extensive undeveloped freshwater river swamp in a predominantly agricultural region.) **Archeological**-(Within corridor is the site of a buried forest estimated at 9,000 to 10,000 years of age which is believed to be the earliest appearance of Pleistocene oak forest in this region.) **Historic**-(Willow Grove, in the vicinity of Greensboro is on the National Register of Historic Places.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	Description	ORVs	Other States
Delaware River	New Castle, Salem	Delaware Bay to Salem Nuclear Power Plant.	4	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F W,H,C,O	NJ
Appoquinimink River	New Castle	Mouth to headwaters.	15	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F, W,H,C,O	
Augustine Creek	New Castle	Confluence with the Delaware River to headwaters.	4	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F, W,H,C,O	
Blackbird Creek	New Castle	Mouth to headwaters.	15	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G, F,W,H,C,O	
Broadkill River	Sussex	Mouth of Milton.	10	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F W,H,C,O	
Cedar Creek	Sussex	Mouth to headwaters.	7	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F W,H,C,O	
Cedar Swamp	New Castle	Confluence with the Delaware River to Headwaters.	5	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F, W,H,C,O	
Little River	Kent	Confluence with the Delaware Bay to Dover.	5	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F, W,H,C,O	
Misphillion River	Sussex	Mouth to Silver Lake in Milford.	9	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F W,H,C,O	

Murderkill River	Kent	Delaware Bay to Coursey Pond.	21	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F, W,H,C,O	
Smyrna River	New Castle, Kent	Mouth to Duck Creek Pond	11	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F, W,H,C,O	
St. Georges Creek	New Castle	Confluence with the Delaware River to Thousand Acre Marsh.	3	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F, W,H,C,O	
St. Jones River	Kent	Delaware Bay to Route 13 Bridge in Dover.	13	1982		See Delaware River comments.	S,R,G,F, W,H,C,O	

Delaware River Comments: General-(The Delaware River-Bay System represents an example of undeveloped rivers in an estuarine area. The area in total is composed of several distinct sub-areas which in combination form a highly exemplary, productive and important river mouth estuarine system. The area is the least developed of 16 similar identified areas in the northwest.) **Geologic-**(The main segment of the Delaware River is an outstanding example of a high order drowned river mouth.) **Cultural-**(Rivers and river segments include remnants of the once productive Middle Atlantic fishing industry.) **Historic-**(Segments include numerous National Historic Register Sites.) **Wild-**(System includes almost totally undeveloped river segments, dominated by tidal marsh, in a largely agricultural area.) **Recreation-**(System is accessible to high concentrations of urban populations in Wilmington, Del., Philadelphia, Pa., and Camden, N.J.) **Hydrologic-**(The Delaware River segment is a sparsely developed high order tidal river area.) **Wildlife-**(Areas within and adjacent to river corridors are important nesting, feeding, migrating and wintering sites for waterfowl along the Atlantic flyway.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	Description	ORVs	Other States
Leipsic River	Kent	Delaware Bay to DuPont Blvd.	19	1982		See Leipsic River comments.	W,H,O	
Herr Branch	Kent	Confluence with the Simons River to headwaters above Rte. 9.	3	1982		See Leipsic River comments.	W,H,O	
Duck Creek	Kent	Leipsic River to the Woodland Beach Area.	12	1982		See Leipsic River comments.	W,H,O	

Mahon River	Kent	Confluence with the Delaware Bay to the confluence with the Herr Branch.	3	1982		See Leipsic River comments.	W,H,O	
Muddy Branch	Kent	Confluence with the Leipsic River to headwaters above DE Rte. 9.	4	1982		See Leipsic River comments.	W,H,O	
Simons River and Green Creek	Kent	Delaware Bay to Boat Gut Bay.	5	1982		See Leipsic River comments.	W,H,O	

Leipsic River Comments: **Historic**-(3 National Historic Register sites in Leipsic.) **Wild**-(Almost totally undeveloped section of tidal marsh in a predominantly agricultural area. National Wildlife Refuge proposed Wilderness area.) **Botanic**-(63% of the segment flows through ecologically significant tidal wetlands which are significant contributors to the Delaware Bay estuarine system and possess excellent examples of a northern cordgrass prairie.) **Wildlife**-(A nationally recognized sanctuary for migratory waterfowl, birds of prey, and passerine species.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	Description	ORVs	Other States
Nanticoke River	Dorchester, Sussex	Tangier Sound to Seaford.	35	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	MD
Nanticoke River	Sussex	Route 13 to Bridgeville.	10	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Baker Mill Branch	Sussex	Concord Pond to Black Savannah Ditch.	2	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Broad Creek	Sussex	Confluence with the Nanticoke River to near Laurel.	6	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Deep Creek	Sussex	Confluence with Nanticoke near Route 13 to headwaters.	12	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Gravelly Branch	Sussex	Confluence with Nanticoke to headwaters in Redden State Forest.	12	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	

Gum Branch	Sussex	Confluence with Nanticoke to Rye Hole.	3	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
James Branch	Sussex	Records Pond to Trussum Pond to Trap Pond.	3	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	W,H,O	
Layton-Vaughn Ditch	Sussex	Confluence with New Ditch to Route 28.	5	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Marshy Hope Creek	Sussex	Confluence with the Nanticoke River to South of Federalsburg.	15	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Mifflin Ditch	Sussex	Confluence with Deep Creek to headwaters in Redden State Forest.	5	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
New Ditch	Sussex	Confluence with Deep Creek to Route 28.	4	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Rum Bridge Branch	Sussex	Confluence with Deep Creek to headwaters.	3	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Toms Dam Branch	Sussex	Confluence with Gum Branch to headwaters.	7	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Tubbs Branch	Sussex	Confluence with Deep Creek to headwaters.	4	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	
Tyndall Branch	Sussex	Confluence/Deep Creek to Fleetwood Pond.	2	1982		See Nanticoke River comments.	H,O	

Nanticoke River Comments: **Archeological**-(Rare site which contains features of primarily Late Woodland Period occupation A.D. 900 to 1600))
Botanic-(Rare and endangered Box Huckleberry Shrub, which is possibly the oldest living plant present.) **Botanic**-(Segment includes one of the few remaining remnants of Cypress Gum forests in this region.) **Historic**-(Segment includes a river-related National Historic Register district at Bethel, a ship building and trading community. Also the site of the invention of the traditional Chesapeake Bay sailing vessel.)

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	Description	ORVs	Other States
White Clay Creek	New Castle, Chester	Northern boundary of the City of Newark to the confluence with Egypt Run.	10	1982		See White Clay Creek comments.	R,O	PA
White Clay Creek, Middle Branch	Chester	Confluence with the West Branch to Rt. 841 Cridge.	3	1982		See White Clay Creek comments.	R,O	
White Clay Creek, West Branch	Chester	Confluence with the main branch to the headwaters.	10	1982		See White Clay Creek comments.	R,O	

White Clay Creed Comments: **Botanic**-(Area includes the rare and endangered purple fringeless orchid. Segment is also recognized for the diversity of habitats and biota within such a small area at the edge of suburban and urban development.) **Recreation**-(Proximity to urban populations in Wilmington, Newark and Philadelphia.)

Outstanding Resource Values (ORV) Definitions:

Scenery (S): The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors -- such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed -- may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

Recreation (R): Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing and boating.

- Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison.
- The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
-

Geology (G): The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

Fish (F): Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

- *Populations:* The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

Wildlife (W): Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.

- *Populations:* The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique, and/or populations of federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river, or area within the river corridor, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

Prehistory (P): The river, or area within the river corridor, contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the NPS.

History (H): The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site(s) and/or features(s) is 50 years old or older in most cases.

Cultural (C): The river or area within the river corridor contains archaeological sites or areas significant to traditional cultures. Examples might be American Indian burial grounds, petroglyphs, the oldest known human use site in a region, or streams that support traditional agriculture, subsistence fishing, or religious ceremonies.

Other Values (O): While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the "other similar values" category, assessments of additional river-related values consistent with the foregoing guidance may be developed -- including, but not limited to, hydrology, paleontology and botany resources.