



# Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail

## Map & Guide

The Yellow Breeches Creek originates on South Mountain, in Michaux State Forest, Cumberland County, near Walnut Bottom. From there the Yellow Breeches flows through the limestone-rich Cumberland Valley and joins the Susquehanna River near New Cumberland.

The mainstem of the Yellow Breeches is some 49 miles long and drains 219 square miles of forested areas, farmland and suburbs. Most of the developed land is currently congregated in the lower watershed, with forested areas in the headwaters and on the hilltops. Agriculture dominates the fertile valley areas, lending a pastoral setting to the middle reach of the stream. In 1992, the Yellow Breeches was designated a "Pennsylvania Scenic River." The portion of the mainstem encompassed by this water trail is characterized mainly by long, shady pools with occasional dams and riffle areas.

This article is an abbreviated version of the full publication, currently in production. For more information on water trails, visit the Commission's web site, [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us).

### Access

The Yellow Breeches Creek Water Trail Map & Guide provides boating and recreation information for some 13

miles of the Yellow Breeches Creek. This guide outlines three float trips: Trip A – Lower stretch (~1.8 miles), Trip B - Middle stretch (~9.6 miles) and Trip C – Upper stretch (~1.5 miles). The guide is divided into three trips because of the existence of several hazardous dams and the lack of approved access and/or portage. Camping is prohibited at all access points with the exception of Lower Allen Community Park (B4). Trail use is limited to daylight hours.

### Trip A Fishing Opportunities

This section is small and about 20 feet wide in most areas. The water temperatures tend to stay cool most of the year, compared to the rest of the stream, except for downstream, where springs empty cold water from Boiling Springs Lake into the Yellow Breeches. The water is characterized by little rapids and pools. The Yellow Breeches is world-renowned for its exceptional trout fishing.

### Trip B Fishing Opportunities

Small rapids, pools and smooth water characterize this section. Upstream of this section is where feeder streams add cold water and flow that benefit the fish species in the stream, such as trout, smallmouth bass and rock bass. The stream is narrow in some areas and then widens in others places because of the small feeder streams. Mayfly hatches include the white fly that occurs in late summer. Baits that work well include minnows, waxworms and nightcrawlers.

### Trip C Fishing Opportunities

This section offers water that's overlooked by many anglers. Throughout this section there are fewer anglers than on any other stretch. There will also be fewer fish than in the more productive upstream sections. In addition to trout, anglers will also find fish species like rock bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and brown bullheads.

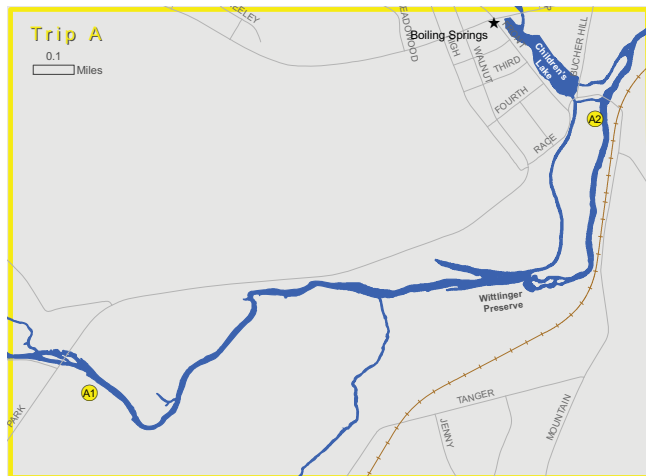


## TRIP A

**A1 - South Middleton Township Park.** This 40-acre park, located on Park Drive, is owned by South Middleton Township. The site provides creek access for boating and fishing with ample parking. Other amenities at this park include nature trails, picnicking, restrooms, benches, baseball/softball, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball and playground equipment.

**Wittlinger Nature Preserve.** The Donald L. Wittlinger Nature Preserve is a 50-acre nature preserve owned by South Middleton Township that features creek access, opportunities for nature exploration and hiking trails.

**A2 - Boiling Springs. TAKE-OUT ONLY.** Boiling Springs is the end point of Trip A. All boaters should exit the creek on the left before the stone bridge near the swimming pool. Parking is available behind the Boiling Springs swimming pool at Race Street. Additional parking is available at Children's Lake (Front Street) and the Historic Iron Works Park (Bucher Hill Road).



## TRIP B

**B1 - Messiah College.** Messiah College is a privately owned educational facility in Grantham. The public may access the creek at the historic covered bridge on campus. Parking is available at Starry Field.

**B2 - Simpson Park.** Simpson Park is a 20-acre park owned by Upper Allen Township and located on Route 114 near Bowmansdale. The park features creek access, walking trails, picnic facilities, grills and restrooms.

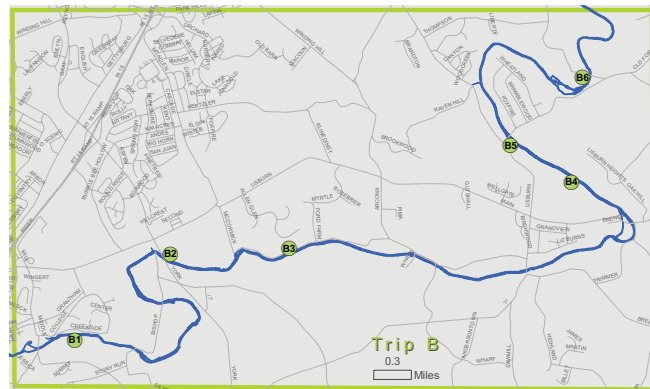
**B3 - McCormick Park.** McCormick Park is a linear park owned by Upper Allen Township on McCormick Road. The site provides creek access for fishing, canoeing and tubing. Informal parking is available along the road.

**B4 - Lower Allen Community Park.** Lower Allen Community Park is a 110-acre park owned by Lower Allen Township. This facility is located at 4075 Lisburn Road. The park provides creek access for boating and fishing with ample parking and restrooms. The park also features nature trails, biking trails, picnic tables/pavilions, baseball/softball, soc-

cer, basketball, tennis, playground equipment, volleyball and a driving range. Camping is available by reservation.

**B5 - Liberty Forge.** Liberty Forge is a resort located at 3804 Lisburn Road in Lower Allen Township that features an 18-hole public golf course, lighted golf practice range, miniature golf course, fly and pond fishing, river trips, and a nationally registered arboretum. The public may access the creek for boating and fishing at the bridge at Old Forge Road.

**B6 - Yellow Breeches Park.** Yellow Breeches Park is the end point of Trip B. The site, located on Sheepford Road, is a 14-acre undeveloped park owned by Lower Allen Township. The park provides creek access for boating and fishing. Informal parking is available along the road.



## TRIP C

**C1 - Creekwood Park.** Creekwood Park is a 12-acre undeveloped park owned by Lower Allen Township. The site is located at the terminus of Creekwood Drive. The location provides creek access for boating and fishing, limited parking and several picnic tables.

**C2 - Lower Allen Township Authority.** The Lower Allen Township Authority on Limekiln Road permits public creek access for fishing and boating opportunities. Entrance to the facility is via Beacon Hill Boulevard. Limited roadside parking is available along the driveway, outside the facility fence.

**Beacon Hill. EMERGENCY TAKE-OUT.** Beacon Hill is a 7-acre undeveloped park owned by Lower Allen Township. The site is located on Beacon Hill Road. Because of the lack of facilities, the site should be used only as an emergency take-out point. Access is available on a walk-in basis only and parking at this location is limited to the street.

**C3 - New Cumberland Borough Park & DAM. TAKE OUT ONLY.** New Cumberland Borough Park is the end point of Trip C. Do not attempt to navigate over the dam! All boaters should exit the creek on the left immediately on entering the park. This 29-acre park is owned by New Cumberland Borough. The entrance to the site is located on Front Street. Amenities at the park include creek access for fishing and take-out only, baseball/softball, playground equipment, restrooms, picnic tables/pavilions, benches

and a drinking fountain. Camping and boat mooring are strictly prohibited.



## Paddling safety tips

- Wear your life jacket.
- Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or swamp their boats. Bring extra clothing in a waterproof bag.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don't go paddling.
- If you capsize, hold on to your boat, unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.
- Scout ahead whenever possible. Avoid surprises.
- Be prepared for the weather.
- Wear wading shoes or tennis shoes with wool, polypropylene, pile or neoprene socks.
- Never take your boat near, or go over, a low-head dam. Dams are drowning machines and are dangerous to approach from upstream and downstream.
- Portage (carry) your boat around any section of water about which you feel uncertain.
- Never boat alone.
- Keep painter lines (ropes tied to the bow) and any other ropes coiled and secured.
- Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler, especially a child.
- Kneel to increase your stability before entering rougher water, like a rapid.
- If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it. This will usually prevent your capsizing or flooding the boat.
- File a float plan with a reliable person, indicating where you are going and when you will return.

## Hazards on the water

**Dams:** Water going over a dam creates a back current, or undertow, that can pull a boat and capsize it.

**Strainers:** Trees are typical strainers that can trap and flood boats. Water flows through these obstructions, but solid objects do not. Strainers can pin victims underwater.

**Current:** Never underestimate the power of moving water. Boaters who are not sure that their boat or their ability is up to the prevailing conditions should stay off the water.

**Cold water:** Sudden immersion in cold water can lead to cardiac arrest or can cause a person to inhale water.

**Hypothermia:** Hypothermia is the lowering of the body's core temperature. It begins with shivering. Judgment then becomes clouded and unconsciousness sets in. Death can occur if hypothermia is not treated.

**Heat exhaustion/sunburn:** When it is hot, wear sunglasses, a hat, and lightweight, light-colored clothing. Apply sunblock with a high SPF rating and drink lots of fluids.

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Fire, Police & Medical Assistance

### Emergency Dial 911

Non-Emergency Calls: Carlisle Area (717) 243-4121; West Shore Area (717) 238-9676.

Carlisle Regional Medical Center, 361 Alexander Spring Road, Carlisle, PA (717) 249-1212.

Seidle Hospital, 120 South Filbert Street, Mechanicsburg, PA (717) 782-3131.

Holy Spirit Hospital, 503 North 21st Street, Camp Hill, PA (717) 763-2100.

## Stream conditions

The Yellow Breeches Creek is designated a Class I-II stream on the International Whitewater Rating System. To check water levels on the Yellow Breeches near Camp Hill, visit the USGS online for real-time data at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/pa/nwis/uv?01571500>. You can also contact the Central PA Forecast Office in State College at (814) 234-3861 for stream conditions. Refer to station #01571500, Yellow Breeches Creek near Camp Hill.

The USGS gauge height near Camp Hill should read at least 1.4 feet to navigate the stream successfully. Flood stage on the Yellow Breeches near Camp Hill is 7 feet.

## Acknowledgements

This guide was a collaborative effort of the following partners: Cumberland County, Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, Lower Allen Township, New Cumberland Borough, South Middleton Township, Upper Allen Township, and the York County Planning Commission. ☐

