



In the mid seventeenth century, the Delaware River was named after Sir Thomas West (Lord de la Warr), an English nobleman and the Virginia colony's first governor. The Delaware River's main stem begins near Hancock, NY and continues south to the Atlantic Ocean between Cape May, NJ and Cape Henlopen, DE.

The Delaware River's history is a success story of how a river that was



"once of the most polluted rivers in the world" became a thriving ecosystem. By the 1950's the river's water below Trenton was so polluted it would peel and discolor the paint on WWII ships. Oxygen depletion prevented fish migration that had occurred for thousands of years prior. Government regulations, non-profit organizations and grassroots involvement were instrumental in reviving the river. Shad, striped bass and sturgeon can once again travel their ancestral routes while bald eagles hunt for them overhead. Monitoring and improvement of water quality is on-going.

The Delaware River, along with 7 of its tributaries, has been designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River program by the National Park Service. This honor has been given to fewer than 1/4 of 1% of all the rivers in the United States and provides additional protection to the river ecosystem.

## DRGP Programs



### Delaware River Scenic Byway

32.8 miles along Rte. 29 between Frenchtown and Trenton, NJ - part of America's Byway Program, a U.S. Dept. of Transportation designation for promoting our nation's beauty, culture and history.

[delawareriverscenicbyway.org](http://delawareriverscenicbyway.org)



### Delaware River Water Trail

A 220 mile-long designated water route between Hancock, NY and Trenton, NJ - water enthusiasts can take advantage of signage, interpretation and a comprehensive water trail guide.

[delawareriverwatertrail.org](http://delawareriverwatertrail.org)

## Partnership Programs



### Lower Delaware River Wild & Scenic

67 miles of river segments and tributaries along the border of eastern PA and western NJ between Easton, PA and Washington Crossing, NJ/PA - designated in 2000 as a Wild & Scenic River for its outstanding recreational, cultural, scenic, geological and ecological values :

[lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org](http://lowerdelawarewildandscenic.org)



### Delaware River Heritage Trail

A planned 60-mile-long multi-use interpretive trail linking 24 communities in NJ from Trenton to Palmyra and in PA from Morrisville to Philadelphia's Tacony neighborhood.

[delawareriverheritagetrail.org](http://delawareriverheritagetrail.org)

## Protecting and Promoting the Delaware River Region



The Delaware River provides life and enjoyment to all in its reach.

We believe in protecting its high water quality, wildlife habitats, scenic beauty, recreational opportunities and historic and cultural venues.

[www.DelawareRiverGP.org](http://www.DelawareRiverGP.org)