

Fewer than ¼ of 1% of all river miles in the Unites States are "Wild and Scenic." In 2006, three sections of the Musconetcong River were designated by Congress as eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River system, pending local community agreement. Designation means that our local river is nationally significant for its scenery and recreation.

The Musconetcong was determined to have "Outstandingly Remarkable Values" for its:

- Recreation, such as fishing, boating, hiking, and birding, and amount of public access provided on public lands;
- Culture, including nine Historic Districts, historic bridges, and Native American sites;
- Scenery, including views along the river and vista points like Point Mountain; and
- Wildlife habitat.

Because the Musconetcong River lies mostly in private lands, the National Park Service does not acquire any private property, no public access is granted across private lands, nor does the federal government directly manage the river. Instead, the river is managed through local Partnerships via the Musconetcong River Management Council.

The Musconetcong River Management Council includes representatives from 14 river municipalities and 4 counties – Warren, Sussex, Morris, and Hunterdon. Also, there is a representative from Trout Unlimited, the Musconetcong Watershed Association, and North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development, a farm conservation organization. The River Management Council shares information on river issues, organizes events, and has developed a number of historical markers along the river.

Three Segments of the Musconetcong were identified as eligible for Wild and Scenic (map on next page):

- Segment A Scenic & Recreational, from Saxton Falls to the Rt. 46 Bridge in Hackettstown
- Segment B Recreational, from Kings Highway Bridge (Mansfield) to the railroad tunnels at Musconetcong Gorge (south of Bloomsbury)
- Segment C Recreational, from the Hughesville Mill to the Delaware River Confluence

Prior to Congress designating the river as eligible for Wild & Scenic status, local river municipalities passed municipal resolutions supporting the designation. All riverside municipalities must agree for a segment to become a Wild and Scenic River, and Segments A and B are currently part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.



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