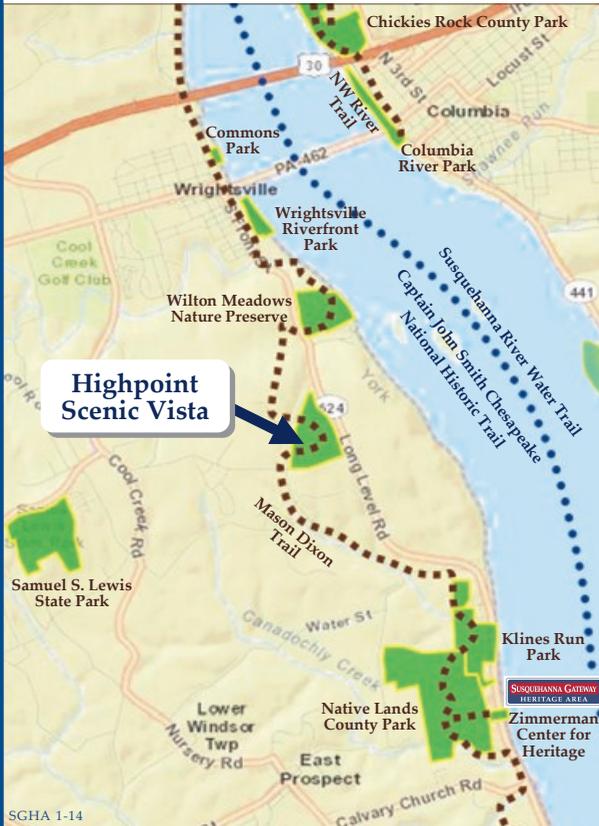


HIGHPOINT SCENIC VISTA VISITOR INFORMATION

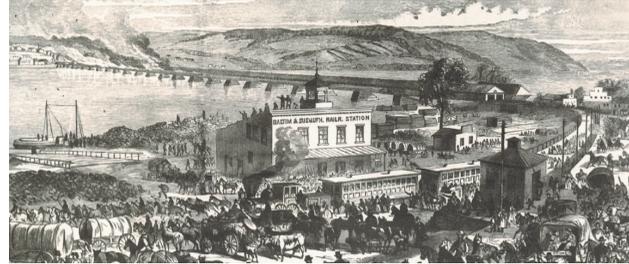
Highpoint Scenic Vista—one of eleven York County Parks—is part of the Susquehanna Heritage Park system of recreation areas and open space along the river managed by a coalition of public and non-profit partners. The Susquehanna Heritage Park network also includes the Wilton Meadows Nature Preserve, Native Lands County Park, Klines Run Park, and the Zimmerman Center for Heritage. These sites are showcase attractions within the Susquehanna Riverlands—the ribbon of scenic landscapes, parks, preserves and historic river towns located at the heart of the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area.



This guide is published by the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area. Explore more of the Susquehanna River's rich cultural and natural heritage at: www.SusquehannaHeritage.org Visit us at The Zimmerman Center for Heritage 1706 Long Level Rd. Wrightsville, PA 717-252-0229

WAYSTOP 4 (continued from reverse side)

The Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal was completed in 1840 from Wrightsville to Havre de Grace, MD. The 1832 covered bridge connected the canals on each side with a two-tiered towpath and a low dam raised the water level for easier towing of canal boats across the river. By the 1850s rail lines along the river were replacing the canals.



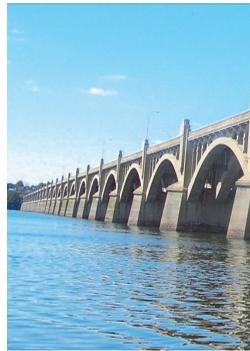
The covered bridge at this site played a pivotal role in the Civil War—it was burned by Union militia on June 28, 1863 in a desperate but successful effort to stop Confederate troops from advancing to the east. Instead, they returned to Gettysburg where a defining battle of the war was fought.

The river crossing was also an important 20th century transportation route, including development of the Lincoln Highway in 1913, America's first transcontinental roadway. The highway's impressive 6657-foot long, multiple arch concrete bridge across the Susquehanna—the longest in the world at the time—was dedicated on Armistice Day 1930. The bridge was designated as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1984 and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

WAYSTOP 5

The view down the Susquehanna River Gorge appears here in all of its majestic beauty. Lake Clarke, to the south, was created in the 1930s with construction of the Safe Harbor hydroelectric dam, just around the bend in the river. The islands are the Conejohela Flats Natural Area, a major stopover for migratory birds.

Turkey Point rises above the water along the Lancaster side of the river, topped with the 262-foot high wind turbines of the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority. The turbines generate 25% of the annual electricity needs for the nearby Turkey Hill Dairy complex.



The area known as Long Level, named for a lock-free section of the old Susquehanna & Tidewater Canal, stretches below along the York County shoreline. This scenic riverside community has been enjoyed for over a century by residents and visitors as a place for power boating, paddling, fishing and other water recreation.

The long ridge of pasture to the left is part of historic Lauxmont Farms, the early 20th century country estate of S. Forry Laucks, a York industrialist and civic leader who owned the York Safe and Lock Company. Laucks began purchasing local farms in 1918 and eventually acquired over 2500 acres, including Highpoint. He engaged Delano & Aldrich, a nationally known New York architectural firm, for the design of his French style mansion, partly visible to the north. The farm's innovative, art deco style dairy complex—the long white building in the near distance—was designed by the same firm in 1933.



The dairy featured a round "lounge" where visitors were served ice cream and light meals while enjoying scenic river views to the south.

In recent years, significant portions of the original farm were sold for housing development, although the main estate and its historic buildings remain largely intact.

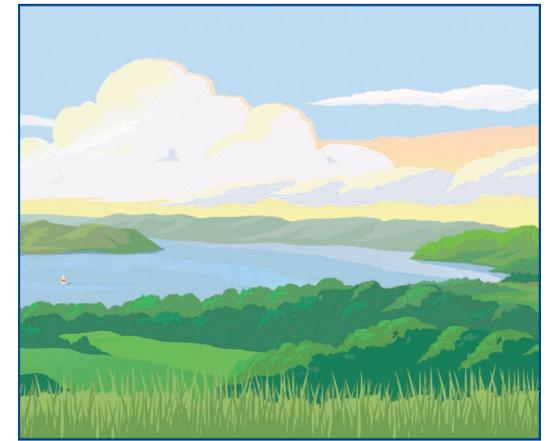
WAYSTOP 6

You've reached the summit! The circle of seating, carved from indigenous rock by a local stonemason, provides an ideal setting for enjoying this scenic panorama. Few have captured the Susquehanna's essence as well as Robert Louis Stevenson, who wrote the words now carved in stone here as he travelled by train along the river in 1879:

"And when I had asked the name of a river from the brakeman, and heard that it was called the Susquehanna, the beauty of the name seemed to be part and parcel of the beauty of the land.

As when Adam with divine fitness named the creatures, so this word Susquehanna was at once accepted by the fancy.

That was the name, as no other could be, for that shining river and desirable valley."



SUSQUEHANNA HERITAGE PARK

HIGHPOINT SCENIC VISTA & RECREATION AREA HERITAGE TRAIL GUIDE

"The Susquehanna...that was the name, as no other could be, for that shining river and desirable valley."

Robert Louis Stevenson

SUSQUEHANNA GATEWAY
HERITAGE AREA



HIGHPOINT SCENIC VISTA & RECREATION AREA

York County Department of Parks & Recreation

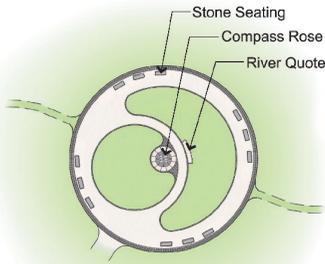
Heritage Trail

Hiking Trail

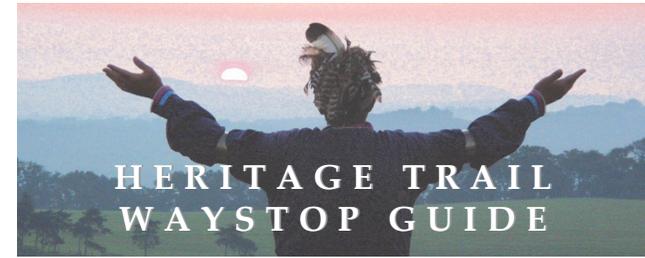
1 Heritage Trail Waystop

VISITOR NOTES

1. The Heritage Trail is accessible to persons with disabilities.
2. The Mason Dixon Trail is marked with blue blazes.



SCENIC VISTA DETAIL



WAYSTOP 1

Welcome to Highpoint Heritage Trail, a 1/2 mile walking path rising 110 vertical feet on its way to the summit. Along the way are six waystops for resting and absorbing the beauty and history of the river.

This 80-acre park was established by the County of York and state and regional partners as a scenic gateway to the Susquehanna Riverlands. When acquisition of Highpoint's land for a public park began in 2004, the site was being readied for a luxury home subdivision. Evidence of this development history remains in places, though most of the land's natural features have been restored.

Creating the park inspired a lively community dialogue about land stewardship, property rights, public financing, and preservation of the river landscape. Preserving Highpoint as a heritage and outdoor recreation attraction helps balance economic growth and development through tourism with conservation and environmental protection.

WAYSTOP 2



Artwork by Barbara Passeri Warfel

This landscape has hosted many centuries of human history, with settlements of the region's first inhabitants reaching back 12,000 years. Over this time, as many as 50,000 Native Americans have lived their lives on the landscape visible from Highpoint.

One of the earliest documented contacts between Europeans and Native peoples of the region was in 1608 when Captain John Smith met the Susquehannocks on the river to the south during his exploration of the upper Chesapeake Bay. They were the last Native American tribe to occupy this area. Two of the last Susquehannock village sites, dating to the 1670s, are now preserved as part of the nearby Upper Leibhart Archaeological Preserve and Native Lands County Park.

WAYSTOP 3

The Wrightsville-Columbia river crossing, visible to the north, was a strategic transportation route early in America's history and the scene of key historical events: 1730—John Wright established a ferry across the river.

1775—York militia crossed the river here on their way to join General Washington after the battle of Bunker Hill.

1777—After the British invaded Philadelphia, the Second Continental Congress fled across the river to convene in York for nine months.



1778—Prisoners captured during the American victory at Saratoga crossed here bound for a Virginia prison camp and later returned to nearby Camp Security.

1789—Thomas Hartley, York's first Congressman, crossed here on his way to the first Congress in New York and later proposed this site for the nation's capital.

1791—Citizens escorted President Washington to the river on his way to Philadelphia. Washington crossed here several times, reportedly once getting stuck on river rocks while returning from the Whiskey Rebellion.

WAYSTOP 4

The river crossing to the north is still a major feature of the landscape at this waystop. The first bridge was built here in 1814, the world's longest covered bridge at the time. That span was destroyed by ice and replaced with a second covered bridge in 1832 (to be followed by four more bridges over time.) The 1800s saw log rafts floating timber downriver and launch of the first iron steamboat at nearby Accomac. A portion of the Pennsylvania Canal was extended south to Columbia in the 1830s, linking to the state-wide canal system and delivering anthracite coal to iron furnaces along the river south of Marietta.



(continued on reverse side)

Special thanks to Dr. June Evans for her generous contributions to the historical information included in this guide.

Funding for development of park and trail visitor materials is provided in part by:

