



Fishing Facts

1. Is fishing permitted in the park and if so, where?

Fishing is permitted along the entire length of Valley Creek except between Rt. 23 and the Schuylkill River in front of Washington's Headquarters.

Fishing is permitted on the Schuylkill River except from the Betzwood launch ramp or within the designated harbor area.

On all waterways within the park fishing by the use of drugs, poisons, explosives, or electricity is prohibited.

2. What kind of license is required to fish within the park?

A current Pennsylvania fishing license, signed in ink and displayed (attach to a hat or outer garment), is required of persons age 16 and over to fish or angle for any species of fish. Casting and/or retrieving whether by rod, reel and line, or by handline, for oneself or another person, requires a current license unless specifically exempted by state law. For additional information on obtaining a valid Pennsylvania fishing license please visit <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/>.

3. Can bait be used within the park?

The use of any live bait in the waterways of Valley Creek is prohibited. Use of some types of bait (e.g. worms) is permitted in other park waterways (e.g. Schuylkill River), however chumming or placing preserved or fresh fish eggs, fish roe, food, fish parts, chemicals or other foreign substances in fresh waters for the purposes of feeding or attracting fish in order that they may be taken is prohibited.

4. Can we keep the fish we catch?

Valley Creek is a "catch and release" or no harvest fishery only. *Removal of fish from Valley Creek is prohibited* by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania due to potentially unsafe levels of PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) contamination in the stream biota, including fish.

In the Schuylkill River within Valley Forge National Historical Park, limits on season, size, and catch limits for fish species are provided by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and can be found at <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/>.

5. Can we eat the fish we catch?

Pennsylvania has issued a general state-wide health advisory for recreationally caught sport fish (e.g. trout, bass). That advice is that you consume no more than one meal (1/2 pound) per week of sport fish caught in the state's waterways. Valley Creek is a "catch and release" or no harvest fishery due to the presence of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination.

Consumption advisories also have been issued due to potentially unsafe levels of PCB contamination in the Schuylkill River. Currently consumption advisories exist for the American eel, carp, white sucker, channel catfish, flathead catfish:

American eel and Carp:	Do Not Eat advisory
Channel and Flathead Catfish:	Do not consume more than six-meals-per-year
All suckers (e.g. white sucker):	Do not consume more than one-meal-per-month

Please refer to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission website at <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/> for additional information on fishing regulations (e.g. size and catch limits) and updated fish advisory information for the Schuylkill River.

For additional information on fishing within Valley Forge National Historical Park, please contact our Natural Resource Management staff at 610-783-1041.