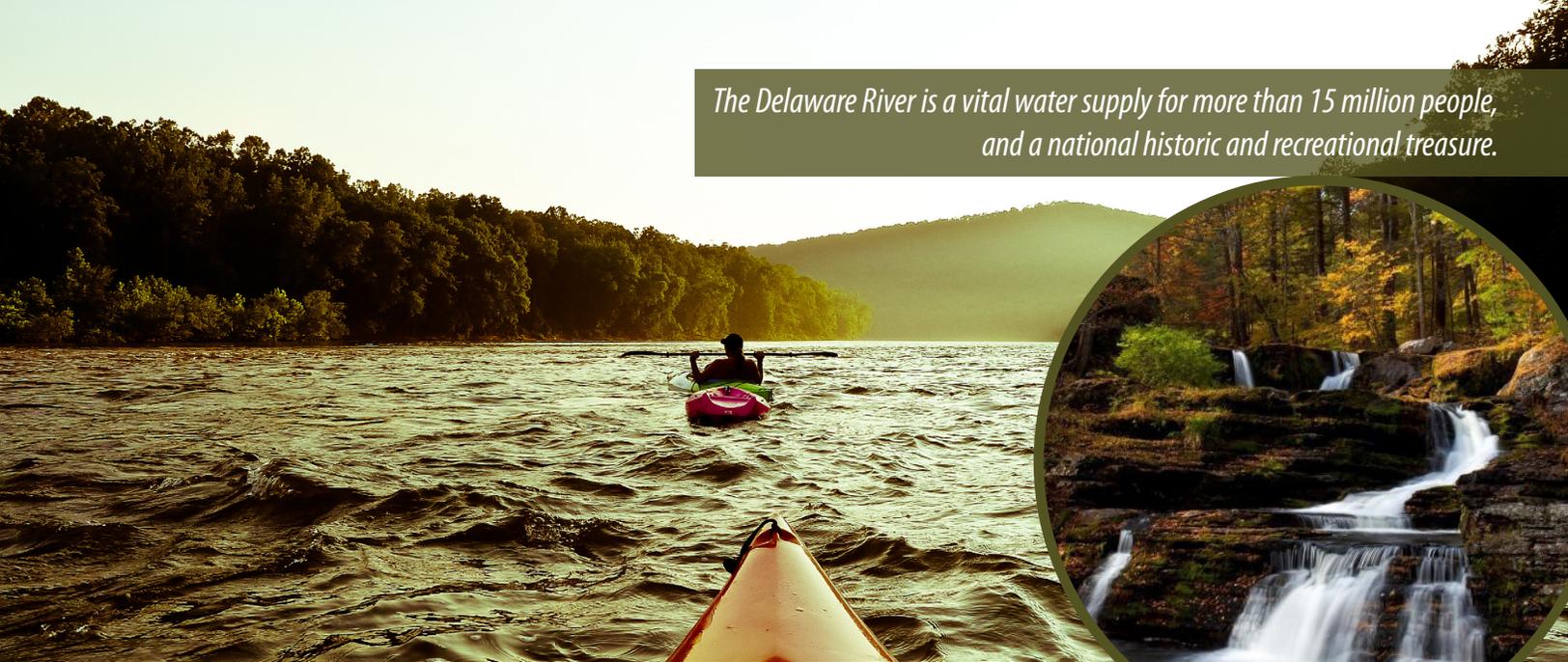


The Delaware River is a vital water supply for more than 15 million people, and a national historic and recreational treasure.



Rough Waters Ahead

The Impact of the Trump Administration's EPA Budget Cuts on the Delaware River Basin

The Delaware River Basin supplies millions of Americans with drinking water and recreation opportunities, but intense human activity has polluted the basin. The Environmental Protection Agency has been vital to restoring and protecting the Delaware River Basin, holding polluters accountable and supporting research for stronger protections. That work is in jeopardy because the Trump administration has proposed cutting the EPA's budget by 31 percent.

Clean Water in the Delaware River Basin Requires a Strong EPA

The Delaware River Basin is being protected and restored to health with funding and effort from the EPA. For example, the EPA has worked to:

- **Keep pollution out of our waterways:** Since the 1980s, fish caught in many sections of the Delaware River have been unsafe to eat due to contamination by cancer-causing PCBs. To address the problem, the EPA and state agencies established standards for PCB discharges to the river and cleaned up former industrial sites. As a result, the 10 largest polluters reduced PCB pollution by 71 percent between 2005 and 2013. Fish may be consumed in moderation in many areas, but additional cleanup and stronger protections are needed.

- **Conduct research and educate the public:** An EPA-funded research team at Drexel University is developing a web-based tool that would provide water utilities and facility managers with information to predict and prevent water contamination and keep drinking water safe.

- **Hold polluters accountable:** A DuPont facility near Wilmington, DE, that processed titanium ore generated a 500,000-ton pile of dioxin-laced waste, and committed numerous Clean Water Act violations. The EPA and Delaware state agencies reached an agreement with DuPont that included a \$500,000 penalty and an agreement to seal the waste pile, reducing the chances that harmful pollution will reach the waterway. The EPA is assisting Delaware state agencies as they oversee the pile's cleanup.

- **Restore waterways to health:** The Christina River supplies drinking water to 60 percent of Delawareans. In 2003, the EPA granted \$1 million to the Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership to restore the river system to fishable, swimmable and drinkable status. For every federal dollar, the Partnership leveraged more than two dollars from local sources, and surpassed its original restoration goals, such as reforesting 9,000 feet of streambanks instead of the planned 6,000 feet.

More Restoration Work Needed

The Delaware River Basin is being restored to health with funding and effort from the Environmental Protection Agency. Water quality in the Delaware River Basin has greatly improved since the middle of the 20th century, but the job is not done. Pollution from industrial facilities, sewage pipes, and urban and farm runoff continues to require comprehensive efforts to address, while new synthetic chemicals may add to the region's water quality problems. Now is not the time to hobble the EPA's essential work or to cut the funding it provides for state and local efforts to protect the Delaware River Basin.



Drainage from the former Silver Creek Mine was polluting Silver Creek and the Schuylkill River with heavy metals and acid (above). The EPA helped fund the installation of a passive treatment system by the Schuylkill Action Network (below).



The Trump Administration's Proposed Budget Cuts Would Reduce State Grants for Clean Water Work

	Estimated Losses for:		
State	Water Pollution Control Grants	Nonpoint Pollution Control Grants	Drinking Water Protection and Enforcement Grants
Delaware	\$391,800	\$1,119,000	\$164,400
New Jersey	\$1,104,600	\$2,495,500	\$581,100
New York	\$2,271,300	\$5,799,513	\$1,320,600
Pennsylvania	\$1,795,200	\$4,653,006	\$1,226,100
TOTAL	\$5,562,900	\$14,067,019	\$3,292,200

Full Funding for the EPA

To build on the progress of recent decades, funding for the EPA and the state and local efforts it supports should be increased, not cut. For example, aging drinking water and sewage infrastructure nationally are in need of replacement, at a cost of \$600 billion over the next 20 years. The agency needs resources to establish pollution limits that protect human health, and to make sure that polluters abide by those pollution standards. The EPA also needs money to continue its critical role in supporting cleanup of past pollution and restoring damaged rivers and streams so that they can provide clean water. Ensuring that people who live in the Delaware River Basin region have continued access to clean water requires full funding for the EPA.

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*For more information and the full report,
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