

Neshaminy Creek -York Road to Tyler State Park

Hidden in special corners of Bucks County are natural gems that are unique and irreplaceable. Traveling down the main stem of the Neshaminy Creek south of Route 263, with Warwick Township on your right and Buckingham Township on your left, the first striking feature is the historic Eight Arch Bridge, last remaining eight arch bridge in Pennsylvania. A hand laid stone and mortar 218 foot long structure with distinctive and graceful arches, the bridge was built in 1803. As you follow the tree-lined stream south you enter a quiet, meandering stream that seems separate from present day space and time.

You pass under the iron Mill Road Bridge, a rock escarpment rises on your left, the creek narrows, rushing a little faster over rocky riffles. Brooks join the creek as you go; back channels, flooded in high flows, break off and come back again. Closing in from the right, remarkable overhanging rock cliffs, known as the Neshaminy Palisades, decorated in moss, ferns, and lichens create the heart of Dark Hollow--shady, quiet, and cool. An impressive rock ledge cuts all the way across the creek, and just below, another part way across, making small waterfalls. The stream slows, changing course from northeast to southeast, as this remarkable right angle causes the stream to almost double back on itself. Some say this is the origin of the Neshaminy's Indian name--place where we drink twice

A mature stand of hardwoods border the floodplain that abuts historic Worthington Farm on the right. Historically known as Indian Neck Farm, it is said that a Native American Village once covered the plateau--it is mentioned on an 1682 deed for William Penn's first land purchase from the Lenni Lenape's. Early in this century, bathers and picnickers flocked here to enjoy the Neshaminy waters and the large pool that was formed by a mill dam.

You round the next curve and ahead is the Dark Hollow Bridge (closed) , standing strong and angular, like a vision from the past. As you leave this secluded world, you feel as though you've been transported, experiencing one of the region's secret treasures.

The Bucks County Commissioners dedicated Dark Hollow Park in 1989 when they cancelled the Dark Hollow Dam proposal. The 610 acre maximum flood pool of the dam project includes acreage or flood easements that were bought by the County over two decades. Some of these parcels were sold after 1989, but the bulk of the land was put under the Bucks County Parks Department.

The Rushland Road Bridge is next (a Grist Mill and Blacksmith Shop stood near where the Mill Creek joins.), followed by the Old Sacketts Ford Trestle. A large quarry may be seen as we round a bend in the river --the Quarry started after Italian immigrants built a Railroad line thru a Rocky cliff in the last decade of the 19 th. Century and continues til today. They founded the community named Little Italy. Shortly after, the Rt. 232 (Second Street Pike Bridge) appears followed quickly by the Worthington Mill Road Bridge. The Historic Schofield Ford Covered Bridge appears at Tyler State Park. Destroyed in 1991 rebuilt 1997 original plans plus window each side added , original 1873 .170 feet-longest in Bucks County also known as Twining Ford Bridge .

*Rushland originally called Rush Valley- Believe named for rushes used to clean pots.	Segment Miles	Running Miles
York Rd. Access		0
Mill Road Bridge	0.7	0.7
Dark Hollow Bridge	2.4	3.1
Rushland Bridge	1.8	4.9
Sacketts Trestle	0.4	5.3
2 nd. Street Bridge	1.5	6.8
Worthington Mill Road Bridge	1.0	7.8
Schofield ForgeCovered Bridge	1.4	9.2
Tyler Park Access	1.4	10.6

Note: A Pennsylvania permit is required to use the Tyler State Park Take-out. Please obtain permit in advance of the trip by mail or Monday thru Friday only a permit can be obtained at the Park Office. At present time \$10 for 1 Year and \$18 for 2 years for each canoe/kayak.