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Beaver River (Pennsylvania)

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Coordinates: 40°53′19″N 80°20′14″W﻿ / ﻿40.88861°N 80.33722°W﻿ / 40.88861; -80.33722

The Beaver River is a **tributary** of the **Ohio River** in **Western Pennsylvania** in the **United States** with a length of approximately 21 mi (34 km). It flows through a historically important **coal**-producing region north of **Pittsburgh**. The Beaver River is formed in **Lawrence County** by the confluence of the **Mahoning** and **Shenango** rivers at a point approximately 3 mi (5 km) southwest of **New Castle**. It flows generally south, past **West Pittsburg** and **Homewood**, roughly parallel to the border with the state of **Ohio**. It receives **Connoquenessing Creek** west of **Ellwood City** and flows past **Beaver Falls** and **New Brighton**. It joins the Ohio at **Beaver** and **Rochester** (flowing between these two cities) at the downstream end of a sharp bend in the Ohio approximately 20 mi (32 km) northwest of (and downstream from) Pittsburgh. In the lower reaches near the Ohio River, the Beaver cuts through a gorge of underlying **sandstone**.

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The General vs. the river [\[edit\]](#)

Samuel Holden Parsons, (1737–1789) a former brigadier general in the Continental Army, died from unknown causes on the Beaver River on November 17, 1789 as he was visiting the Connecticut Western Reserve lands.

A letter written by Richard Butler, dated November 25, 1789, relates the circumstances of Parsons' death:

“I am sorry to inform you that I have every reason to fear that our old friend, General Parsons, is no more. He left this place [Pittsburgh] in company with Captain Heart, (who is sent to explore the communication by way of

Beaver River
River



Looking northward along the Beaver River at Beaver Falls.

Country	 United States of America
State	 Pennsylvania

Tributaries	 Connoquenessing Creek
 - left	 Beaver Falls, PA , Rochester, PA , Bridgewater, PA
Cities	

Source	 Mahoning River
Secondary source	 Shenango River
Mouth	 Ohio River
 - location	 Bridgewater, Beaver County, Pennsylvania

Length	21 mi (34 km)
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the Beaver to Cuyahoga and the Lake), on the 5th instant, he had sent a man with his horses from the place where he had encamped the night before, and directed him to tell Lieut. McDowell, who commanded the Block House below the falls of Beaver, that he (General Parsons) would be there to dinner. A snow had fallen in the night which had retarded the progress of the man with the horses. At one place on the Beaver shore he saw where a canoe had landed, and a person got out to warm his feet by walking about, as he saw he had kicked against the trees and his tracks to the canoe again. The man did not get down till evening, but about noon the canoe, broken in pieces, came by the Block House, and some articles known to belong to General Parsons were taken up and others seen to pass. Lieut. McDowell has diligent search made for the body of the General, but made no discovery.”

His body was recovered the next May, then temporarily buried on the banks of the river. But through a series of mishaps the site of the grave was lost. It has never been found.

Communities along the river

[[edit](#)]

Cities and towns along its watercourse include:

- [West Pittsburg, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Wampum, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Koppel, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Homewood, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Eastvale, Pennsylvania](#)
- [New Brighton, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Fallston, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Rochester, Pennsylvania](#)
- [Bridgewater, Pennsylvania](#)

See also

[[edit](#)]

- [List of crossings of the Beaver River](#)
- [List of Pennsylvania rivers](#)

External links

[[edit](#)]

- [U.S. Geological Survey: PA stream gaging stations](#)
- [Penn State Univ.:Geography of Beaver County Pennsylvania](#)

Categories: [Beaver County, Pennsylvania](#) | [Lawrence County, Pennsylvania](#) | [Rivers of Pennsylvania](#) | [Tributaries of the Ohio River](#)

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