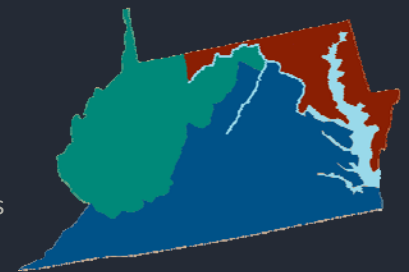




The Nation's River

From its headwaters in the Allegheny highlands to the tidewater of the Chesapeake Bay, the Potomac River connects people to nature. Its vibrant rivers and streams flow through a landscape of forests and natural areas, safeguarded by the communities they sustain.

Small streams pass through forests and farms, towns and rural communities, and come together to form the Potomac River. Our actions on the land affect the health of our streams and the rivers they become. Often called "the Nation's River," the Potomac flows through Washington, D.C. and continues south to meet the Chesapeake Bay at Point Lookout, Maryland.



The Path to a Clean Potomac

As the region's leading clean water advocate, Potomac Conservancy fights to ensure the Potomac boasts clean drinking water, healthy lands and vibrant communities. Founded in 1993, we drive a clean water movement by combining the grassroots power of 10,000 members and online activists with land conservation, policy and citizen engagement initiatives to improve water quality in the Potomac. Visit www.potomac.org to learn how you can take an action for clean water.

Potomac River Watershed Facts

River Length:	Potomac River: 383 miles; Main stem plus major tributaries: 12,878.8 miles
Land Mass:	14,670 square miles across Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, DC (Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin - ICPRB)
Land Use:	57.6% forest, 31.8% agriculture, 5% water and wetlands, 4.8% developed (ICPRB)
Geologic Regions:	Appalachian Plateau, Ridge & Valley, Blue Ridge, Piedmont Plateau, Coastal Plain
Major Tributaries:	Anacostia River, Antietam Creek, Cacapon River, Catoctin Creek, Conococheague Creek, Monocacy River, North Branch, South Branch, Occoquan River, Savage River, Seneca Creek, and Shenandoah River
Population:	6.1 million in watershed (2010 estimated Census); 415.8 persons per square mile
Water Use:	The Potomac River supplies almost 90% of DC metro area drinking water. 486 million gallons withdrawn per day from Washington, D.C. area and 100 million gallons per day from rural areas (ICPRB, 2011).