

## Upper Ohio River

### Ohio River Mainstem

The Ohio River forms at the convergence of the Allegheny River and the Monongahela River near Pittsburgh, PA. The river flows south through the western portion of West Virginia forming the state's boundary between West Virginia and Ohio.

#### Fast facts:

Drainage area: The Ohio River drains approximately 75 percent (18,217 square miles) of the total area of West Virginia.

Length in West Virginia: 277 miles.

West Virginia owns the Ohio River to the low-water mark on Ohio's shore.

The Ohio River is the largest tributary, by volume, of the Mississippi River.



### The Little Kanawha River Watershed

The Little Kanawha River starts in southern Upshur County and flows west-by-northwest to its confluence with the Ohio River at Parkersburg.

#### Fast facts:

Drainage area: 2,312 square miles - approximately 10 percent of the state.

Length: 169 miles

#### Landmarks to show on the map:

Burnsville Lake is formed by Burnsville Lake Dam on the Little Kanawha River in Braxton County and is used for flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife protection. It is an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake property.

#### Inset graphics or text:

- The Little Kanawha River watershed is home to the snuffbox. The Snuffbox mussel, *Epioblasma triquetra*, is on the verge of becoming a federally endangered species.
- Oil and gas development in the watershed : The watershed contains one of the oldest oil fields in the country and the oldest in West Virginia.
- The Little Kanawha River is known for its high-quality warm-water fishery. Warm water fish include Muskie (Muskellunge) and Small Mouth Bass.

**History:** The river served as an important commercial water route in the early history of West Virginia, particularly in the logging and petroleum industries. In the late nineteenth century, a series of locks were built in Wood and Wirt Counties, creating "slack water" for steamboat traffic up the river as far as Creston. But, with the decreased depth of the river above that point, the only alternative was to haul freight via a bateau or "push boat," which was propelled by using long "push poles."